



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – July 17, 2019 Agenda Item 3

Work Session

Discussion of Hazard Mitigation Plan

Recommended Council Action

Discuss resolution approving of Montgomery County Hazard Mitigation Plan

Context with Key Issues

The Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security has prepared a Hazard Mitigation Plan for the County with input from all jurisdictions within Montgomery County.

The purpose of the plan is to provide mitigation strategies to reduce effects of a disaster before one occurs in a vulnerable area or after a disaster to focus on a long-term measure to lessen future disaster impacts.

Adopting the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan allows for jurisdictions within Montgomery County to apply to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for funding for mitigation projects.

Council Priority

Engaged, Responsive & Service-Oriented Government

Environmental Considerations

Weather related disasters are most likely to cause flooding, damage to buildings and trees, and damage to infrastructure. Mitigation plans help to lessen impacts that can cause damage.

Fiscal Considerations

Depends upon the mitigation project. For those projects that receive grant money from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, there will be a saving in City expenses.

Racial Equity Considerations

The plan is intended to ensure that, before or after a disaster, strategies are in place to reduce future disasters and the effects on all residents in the city. It is important all City departments know the threats and hazards which could affect city services and protection measures for all residents of the City of Takoma Park. Such an all-City approach helps residents who have fewer resources to prepare for and weather an emergency.

Attachments and Links

- Summary of the Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Hazard Mitigation Plan

[FEMA Hazard Mitigation Planning](#)

MEMORANDUM

To: Takoma Park Mayor & City Council
From: Ron Hardy, Emergency Preparedness Manager
SUBJECT: Montgomery County - 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan
DATE: May 22, 2019

This information is provided to inform the Mayor and City Council regarding the key points within the Montgomery County 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) which is submitted for your adoption by Resolution. In addition to this document, the entire 227 page HMP has been made available electronically for your review, as necessary.

Under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Public Law 93-288), as amended, State, Tribal, and local governments are required to develop a HMP as a condition for receiving certain types of non-emergency disaster assistance, including funding for mitigation projects.

The Montgomery County HMP was first approved by the County Council in June 2000 and formally adopted by the City Council in 2005 with Resolution 2005-87. The county plan was updated as a Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2007. The 2013 HMP updated all previous county mitigation plans and was adopted by the city in 2014 with Resolution 2014-1. The 2018 HMP has been reviewed by the City Administration and Department Directors with no recommended corrections.

The purpose of mitigation planning is to identify policies and actions that can be implemented over the long term to reduce risk and future losses. In order to accomplish this, plans must first:

1. identify and organize a multidisciplinary team,
2. assess risks faced by the jurisdiction,
3. develop a mitigation plan and
4. Implement the plan and measure progress.

In the 2018 update, the following identifies the significant changes or updates to the previous mitigation plan:

Planning Team

The planning team for this project included representatives from the county's Emergency Management Group, Pepco, WSSC, M-NCPCC, MCPS, American Red Cross, as well as all 19 Municipalities in Montgomery County. This provided for a wide variety of input throughout the planning process, which was very helpful. I represented the City and was present at Planning Team meetings. A separate meeting was held in Takoma Park with the City Administration and some Department Directors for input.

Public input

In addition to the inclusion of all municipalities, public participation points were created during the planning process. Several public meetings were held throughout the county and information and minutes were made available on Montgomery County web site for the Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security as well as several social media sites.

Risk Assessment

Hazard Mitigation Plans typically assess only those Natural Hazards that jurisdictions face. This is due to the fact that the grant funds awarded are restricted to those projects or activities that mitigate risks caused by natural hazards. The 2018 HMP renames Wildfire to just Fire and combines Thunderstorm and wind into Severe Storm since the hazards are usually combined within the storm. Hazardous Material and Dams were removed from the 2018 HMD and are now a separate profile included in addendum. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has clearly recognized the need to bundle all of these risks together for each jurisdiction. This is now a requirement in the newly developed, Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment plans (THIRA).

Based on historical data, extent of impact, probability and duration, these hazards were then ranked as per the below table.

RANKING RESULTS

#	NATURAL HAZARDS	PROBABILITY	IMPACT	SPATIAL EXTENT	WARNING TIME	DURATION	RF RATING	RF RATING 2013
1	Severe Weather	1.14	0.66	0.62	0.24	0.31	2.97	3.2
2	Winter Storm	0.99	0.69	0.78	0.1	0.31	2.86	3.1
3	Extreme Heat	1.11	0.42	0.8	0.1	0.32	2.75	3.0
4	Flooding	0.93	0.54	0.44	0.24	0.26	2.41	2.4
5	Hurricane/Tropical Storm	0.75	0.54	0.74	0.1	0.32	2.60	2.4
6	Fire	0.72	0.39	0.38	0.4	0.16	2.05	2.4
7	Water Shortage/Drought	0.75	0.53	0.68	0.1	0.4	2.47	2.2
8	Tornado	0.74	0.63	0.42	0.4	0.23	2.43	1.9
9	Earthquake	0.63	0.39	0.78	0.4	0.12	1.73	1.8
10	Land Subsidence/Karst	0.45	0.39	0.32	0.37	0.02	1.73	1.3

The HMP describes these natural hazards in detail, along with their frequency and the extent of collateral damage within the County. You will notice a decrease in Risk Factor for most hazards.

Mitigation Strategy

The intent of the Mitigation Strategy is to provide Montgomery County and participating municipalities with the goals that will serve as the guiding principles for future mitigation policy and project administration, along with a list of proposed actions deemed necessary to meet those goals and reduce the impact of natural hazards. It is designed to be comprehensive and strategic in nature. The development of the strategy included a thorough review of natural hazards and identified policies and projects intended to not only reduce the future impacts of hazards, but also to help Montgomery County and participating municipalities achieve compatible economic, environmental, and social goals. The development of this section is also intended to be strategic, in that all policies and projects are linked to establish priorities assigned to specific departments or individuals responsible for their implementation and assigned target completion deadlines. Funding sources are identified that can be used to assist in project implementation.

- *Mitigation goals* are general guidelines that explain what the County wants to achieve. Goals are usually expressed as broad policy statements representing desired long-term results.
- *Mitigation objectives* describe strategies or implementation steps to attain the identified goals. Objectives are more specific statements than goals; the described steps are usually measurable and can have a defined completion date.
- *Mitigation Actions* provide more detailed descriptions of specific work tasks to help the County and its municipalities achieve prescribed goals and objectives.

The table shows the major changes in Goals and Objectives for HMD 2018.

Table 4-1; 2012-2017 Goals and Objectives	
To minimize the losses of life and property due to thunderstorms in Montgomery County. Takoma Park 1.1.6 ability to purchase generators for critical facilities.	Objective 1.1: To minimize the effects of electrical storms to public and private property in Montgomery County Objective 1.2: To minimize the effects of high winds on public and private property in Montgomery County
To minimize the losses of life and property due to winter storms in Montgomery County. Takoma Park 2.1.1 Research methods to warn vulnerable population of storms.	Objective 2.1: To minimize the impact of winter storm events on life and property to include buildings, infrastructure, critical facilities, and critical infrastructure

To minimize the losses of life and property due to extreme heat in Montgomery County.	Objective 3.1: To minimize the impact of extreme heat on life and property to include buildings, infrastructure, critical facilities, and critical infrastructure
To minimize the losses of life and property due to fire in Montgomery County.	Objective 4.1: To protect both people and property against the devastating effects of wildfire
To minimize the losses of life and property due to flooding in Montgomery County. All Jurisdictions. Takoma Park 5.3.11 update existing plan.	Objective 5.1: To minimize the impact of flooding on life and property to include buildings, infrastructure, critical facilities, and critical infrastructure Objective 5.2: To reduce the impact of flooding through education and outreach of flood mitigation techniques Objective 5.3: Pursue flood mitigation projects in repetitive flood areas to improve storm water management
To minimize the losses of life and property due to hurricanes and tropical storms in Montgomery County.	Objective 6.1: To minimize the wind and flooding effects of hurricanes and tropical storms on life and property to include buildings, infrastructure, critical facilities, and critical infrastructure
To minimize the losses of life and property due to water shortage and drought in Montgomery County.	Objective 7.1: To educate the citizens of Montgomery County on methods to reduce the effects of drought Objective 7.2: Minimize the effects of drought through education and outreach on water saving techniques
To minimize the losses of life and property due to tornadoes in Montgomery County.	Objective 8.1: To minimize the effects of high winds on life and property to include buildings, infrastructure, critical facilities, and critical infrastructure
Table 4-1; 2012-2017 goals and Objectives	
To minimize the losses of life and property due to earthquake in Montgomery County. All jurisdictions.	Objective 9.1: To minimize the effects of seismic activity on life and property to include buildings, infrastructure, critical facilities, and critical infrastructure
To minimize the losses of life and property due to land subsidence and karst in Montgomery County. All jurisdictions.	Objective 10.1: To minimize the effects of land subsidence and karst to include buildings, infrastructure, critical facilities, and critical infrastructure
To minimize the losses of life and property due to hazardous materials in Montgomery County	Objective 11.1: To continue to provide enhanced trainings, equipment, and plans for hazardous materials emergency response and mitigation in Montgomery County
To minimize the losses of life and property	Objective 12.1: To minimize the impact of dam

due to dam failure in Montgomery County	failure on life and property to include buildings, infrastructure, critical facilities, and critical infrastructure Objective 12.2: To continue to provide education and outreach to Montgomery County citizens and business owners on dam failure inundation areas
To minimize the losses of life and property due to natural, technological, and/or threat induced hazards to include buildings, infrastructure, critical facilities, and critical infrastructure. All jurisdictions.	Objective 13.1: To minimize the impact of natural, technological, and/or threat-induced hazards to include buildings, infrastructure, critical facilities, and critical infrastructure

HMP Approval Process

In October 2018, Montgomery County submitted the initial draft of the HMP to the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) for review and incorporated all suggested revisions. In January 2019, the draft of the HMP was submitted to FEMA for review and approval. In May 2019, the County received official notice from FEMA that the 2018 HMP was approved. On April 08, 2019, the Montgomery County Council approved by resolution the 2018 HMP.

The Montgomery County 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) is submitted for your review and adoption.