

CLERMONT COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN 2025 UPDATE
STAKEHOLDER MEETING #3 – NEW MITIGATION PROJECTS
MINUTES

Date: June 26, 2025
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Duration: Approximately 150 minutes
Location: Clermont County Emergency Management Agency
2279 Clermont Center Drive, Batavia, OH 45103
Virtual via MS Teams
Attendees: 37 representatives (12 municipal, 15 county, 3 state/federal, 7 other participants)

On June 26, 2025, the Clermont County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) convened a group of stakeholders to discuss and develop new mitigation projects for inclusion into the county’s hazard mitigation plan update. This was a hybrid-style meeting providing both in-person and virtual options. The in-person meeting was held at the EMA office in Batavia; several stakeholders also attended the meeting virtually via MS Teams. The meeting began at 2:00 p.m. (and lasted approximately 150 minutes).

Following a welcome message from EMA Director Pam Haverkos, the consultant (Doug Britvec with JH Consulting, LLC) provided a brief recap of the hazard mitigation planning process, briefly presented Ohio EMA and FEMA requirements pertaining to hazard mitigation plan updates, defined what hazard mitigation is, and provided an overview of FEMA’s four hazard mitigation action categories. Those categories are as follows:

1. Local Plans and Regulations,
2. Structure and Infrastructure Projects,
3. Natural Systems Protection, and
4. Education and Awareness Programs.

The discussion amongst the stakeholders regarding new mitigation projects to include in this update was thorough. Stakeholders reviewed the on-going mitigation projects and worked collectively to identify new mitigation projects to be included in the plan update. As a result, new or ongoing mitigation projects have been developed to mitigate each of the 16 hazards included

in this plan. Stakeholders spent considerable time discussing possible mitigation projects to address cyber incidents and public health emergencies as these two hazards were added to the plan during this update. See new mitigation projects that were discussed by hazard below.

Cyber incident (New Hazard for 2025)

- Identify appropriate agencies/organizations to conduct a gap analysis to detect and prioritize cyber security needs across county owned critical assets.
- Coordinate with Ohio Cyber Integration Center to disseminate information to improve cyber security. Clermont County Information Systems Department (ISD) contracts with KnowBe4 to provide cyber security training to county employees. Continue to educate personnel on cyber hygiene.
- Determine feasibility of conducting penetration tests (i.e., simulated cyber-attacks attempting to gain access into a domain or vulnerability scanning of computer applications) on high priority computer systems to identify existing cyber security gaps.
- Encourage county and municipal stakeholders to participate in the Infragard Program.
- Increase the use of Multifactor Authentication (MFA), requiring users to provide multiple forms of identification to verify their identity beyond username and password before gaining access to an account or system.

Dam Failure

- No new projects identified

Drought

- Continue to evaluate potential impacts of AI generating plants on available water sources, as they draw a considerable amount of water from neighboring areas.

Earthquake

- No new projects identified

Extreme Temperatures

- Continue to identify publicly available spaces that the public can access during extreme heat/cold events.

Flooding

- Continue to evaluate stormwater management systems and identify funding opportunities to mitigate the effects of stormwater runoff (i.e., undersized storm sewers, failing storm sewers, lack of or undersized culverts).
- Continue roadway ditch cleaning efforts along publicly owned rights-of-way to remove obstructions which cause flooding along roadways.

Hazardous Materials Release

- Conduct a county-specific commodity flow study which analyzes all pertinent modes of transportation (i.e., highway, railway, waterway, pipeline) to identify the types, quantities, and locations of hazardous materials.

Invasive Species

- Alge bloom severity varies from year to year.
- Remove live invasive plants as well as those that are dead and dying.
- Continue to coordinate with greenhouse owners and conduct inspections of greenhouses to identify possible invasive species that could be sold and planted throughout the county.
- Continue to disseminate public education materials regarding invasive species.
- Increase surveillance efforts to identify what areas of the region the Box tree moth is inhabiting and where it is traveling.

Landslides

- No new project identified.

Public Health Emergencies (New Hazard for 2025)

- Undertake a periodic all hazard outreach program with all participating jurisdictions to provide information on public health emergencies.
- Increase availability of Naloxone and detox capabilities.
- Increase opioid recovery resources and prevention programs.
- Coordinate with Clermont County Public Health's Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHA / CHIP).

Severe Summer Weather

- No new projects identified

Severe Winter Weather

- No new projects identified

Terrorism

- No new projects identified

Tornado

- Coordinate with local communities to conduct an assessment of the outdoor warning system. The County EMA / LEPC establish the policy on when the siren system is activated. The County Department of Public Safety Services (DPSS) activates the sirens, and the individual jurisdictions are own and maintain the sirens.

Utility Failure (non-storm related)

- Encourage critical facilities to develop a continuity of operations plan.

Wildfire

- No new projects identified.

Pam and Doug also discussed the importance continuing to encourage the public to complete the public survey throughout the planning process. Pam asked stakeholders to take photos of areas where public survey flyer or hardcopies have been posted and to email her those photos.

Attachments

- Slide Deck

CLERMONT COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE



Meeting #3 – New Mitigation Projects
June 26, 2025 ~ 2:00 p.m.

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AGENDA



1. Mitigation Planning Overview
2. New Mitigation Projects
3. Q&A

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HAZARD MITIGATION 101



Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – Region 5

- Oversees the hazard mitigation process at the local, regional, state, and national levels
- Defines mitigation as, “the effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters” (FEMA.gov, 2016)



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HAZARD MITIGATION 101



Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA)

- Oversees the hazard mitigation process at the state levels
- Ensure jurisdictional participation
- Ensure alignment with state projects and funding strategies



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Mitigation Projects

Hazard Mitigation

Any sustained actions taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risks to people and property from hazards and their effects.

Mitigation Project Types

- Local Plans & Regulations
- Structure & Infrastructure Projects
- Natural Systems Protection
- Education & Awareness Programs

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2025 HAZARD LIST

Natural Hazards

- Drought
- Earthquake
- Extreme Temperatures
- Flood
- Invasive Species
- Landslide
- Public Health Emergencies¹
- Severe Storms
- Tornado
- Wildfire
- Winter Storm

Technological Hazards

- Cyber Incident¹
- Dam & Levee Failure
- Hazmat Release
- Utility / Power Failure

Human-Caused Hazards

- Terrorism

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Cyber Incident (New)

- A cyber-attack targets an organization's use of cyberspace for the purpose of disrupting, disabling, destroying or controlling their computing infrastructure
- Cyber incident impacts can range from insignificant to catastrophic.
- In late 2023, West Clermont Local School District experienced a sophisticated cyberattack resulting in \$1.7 million in losses

Sample Mitigation Projects

- Conduct a gap analysis to identify and prioritize cyber security needs across county owned critical assets.
- Increase cyber security training opportunities for county employees
- Distribute educational material in print and via social media regarding cyber security measures.
- Work with County IT to increase notification and warning capability regarding cyber threats.

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Dam & Levee Failure

County Mitigation Projects – 5 ongoing

- Coordinate with ODNR to implement Dam Safety Program.
- Encourage dam owners to develop or update dam safety plans (EAPs).
- Encourage dam owners to be prepared to respond to a dam failure, including a notification plan to appropriate response agencies.
- Coordinate with local communities to ensure they understand dam failure risks and impacts.
- Coordinate with dam owners to rehabilitate High Hazard Potential Dams (HHPDs).

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Drought

County Mitigation Projects – 2 ongoing

- Develop water storage plans, water use ordinances, contingency plans, and water delivery systems in water utility operating plans.
- Encourage farmers to purchase crop and drought insurance.

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Earthquake

County Mitigation Projects – 1 ongoing

- Use outreach to foster earthquake awareness and mitigation in homes, schools, and businesses.

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Extreme Temperatures

County Mitigation Projects – 2 ongoing

- Provide guidance and resources for vulnerable populations during extreme temperature events.
- Provide guidance and resources on utility assistance programs.

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Flooding

County Mitigation Projects – 5 ongoing

- Improve stormwater management system.
- Identify and study poor draining areas to control flooding.
- Repair or replace ditching and culverts to control flooding.
- Continue to identify and study riverbank stabilization opportunities
- Encourage residents in flood-prone areas to purchase flood insurance.

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Hazardous Materials Release

County Mitigation Projects – 4 ongoing

- Organize an annual emergency drill to prepare for a disaster involving hazardous materials.
- Report amounts of hazardous materials stored on-site in accordance with regulations.
- Update Commodity Flow Study to identify types and volumes of hazmat transported via river, pipeline, truck, rail, and plane.
- Disseminate public outreach regarding disposal of household hazardous waste.

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Invasive Species

County Mitigation Projects – 5 ongoing

- Implement an invasive species education program to include hazards, identification, behavior, and quarantine procedures.
- Distribute information explaining the importance of not importing or exporting firewood.
- Work with agricultural producers to monitor and minimize nutrient runoff to prevent Algal Blooms.
- Distribute public education regarding property owner's responsibility to remove dead/dying vegetation affected by invasive species.
- Increase protection efforts for public infrastructure affected by dead/dying vegetation due to invasive species.

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Landslide

County Mitigation Projects – 11 ongoing

- Develop a map of landslide prone areas.
- Enforce slide-prone area ordinance to limit fill or dumping. Address drainage and other landslide related problems.
- Enforce drainage control regulations to reduce risk of landslides resulting from saturated soils.
- Develop grading ordinances requiring developers and landowners to obtain permits prior to filling or regrading.
- Implement Sanitary System Codes to reduce the effect of drainage on landslides by limiting the type and location of sanitary systems.
- Provide mitigation guidance to property owners on site stabilization, energy dissipation, and flow control measures.

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Landslide Continued

County Mitigation Projects – 11 ongoing

- Consider the installation of retaining walls to hold soil in place.
- Implement Debris-Flow Measures (i.e., stabilization, energy dissipation, flow control measures) to reduce damage in sloping areas.
- Implement grading to increase slope stability.
- Consider vegetation placement and management plans to increase soil stability.
- Place future utilities outside of landslide prone areas to decrease service disruptions.

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Public Health Emergency (New)

- A public health emergency is any adverse event (natural or human-caused) that compromises the health of the population and has the potential to cause widespread illness.

Sample Mitigation Projects

- Undertake a periodic all hazard outreach program with all participating jurisdictions to provide information on public health emergencies.
- Identify additional addiction recovery/sheltering centers and increase recovery capability.
- Increase broadband capabilities to bolster telehealth.
- Increase opioid recovery resources and prevention programs.

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Severe Summer Weather

County Mitigation Projects – 3 ongoing

- Develop a public education campaign providing multiple means of disseminating severe weather notifications, (i.e., weather radios, smart phone apps, social media feeds, registration to a mass notification system).
- Create an SOG for the timely clearing of storm debris from roadways.
- Maintain StormReady certification.

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Severe Winter Weather

County Mitigation Projects – 1 ongoing

- Provide public education on winter weather safety, to include family and traveler emergency preparedness, driver safety, and animal protection.

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Terrorism

County Mitigation Projects – 3 ongoing

- Encourage critical infrastructure to implement protective measures at their facilities.
- Coordinate with law enforcement to ensure safety at mass gathering events.
- Provide guidance to schools, churches, government agencies, health care facilities, and other critical facilities regarding active assailant threats.

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Tornado

County Mitigation Projects – 1 ongoing

- Promote the Ohio Safe Room Rebate Program for the construction and installation of residential safe rooms.

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Utility Failure (non-storm related)

County Mitigation Projects – 1 ongoing

- Tree trimming of township roads in right-of-ways along utility lines.

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Wildfire

County Mitigation Projects – 2 ongoing

- Promote public education on smoking hazards and risks of recreational fires.
- Provide public education on extreme fire danger and red flag warnings.

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