

CLERMONT COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN 2025 UPDATE
STAKEHOLDER MEETING #1
MINUTES

Date: March 5, 2025
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Duration: Approximately 90 minutes
Location: Clermont County Emergency Management Agency
2279 Clermont Center Drive, Batavia, OH 45103
Attendees: 45 representing 30 agencies/organizations
(13 local, 11 county, 3 state/federal, and 3 other).

On March 5, 2025, the Clermont County Emergency Management Agency (CCEMA) convened a group of stakeholders to begin the formal update to the county's hazard mitigation plan, which was last adopted in 2020. The meeting was held at the CCEMA's office in Batavia, and it began promptly at 1:30 p.m. (lasting approximately 90 minutes).

Following a welcome message from CCEMA Director Pam Haverkos, the county's consultant (Doug Britvec with JH Consulting, LLC) provided an overview of the hazard mitigation planning process, including the role of stakeholders as well as OEMA and FEMA requirements. Doug also discussed the development and use of a public survey to bolster public input throughout the planning process. During the overview, stakeholders discussed the plan scope as well as participating jurisdictions.

The discussion about the hazards to include in this update was thorough. Stakeholders discussed the number of occurrences of each hazard, and whether the frequency and severity of each hazard has increased or decreased over the past five years, as well as certain areas of the county where the hazards are more prevalent. Generally, stakeholders elected to keep the hazards that appeared in the previous version and added two new hazards bringing the total hazards included in this plan update to 16 (see below).

Existing Hazards – Included in 2025 Plan Update

- Dam and levee failure
- Earthquake
- Flooding
- Invasive species
- Severe summer weather
- Terrorism
- Utility Failure (Dry Day)
- Drought
- Extreme temperatures
- Hazardous materials incident
- Landslide
- Severe winter weather
- Tornado
- Wildfire

New Hazards – Included in 2025 Plan Update

- Cyber Incident
- Public Health Emergencies

Director Haverkos mentioned that the Board of County Commissioners will be the first jurisdiction to adopt the plan once it is Approved Pending Adoption (APA), and that there are three enhanced townships referred to as “Home Rule Townships” within the county that will need to adopt the plan (i.e., Batavia, Miami, and Union) as well as all cities and villages.

Stakeholders indicated that the county experienced a moderate to significant drought within the past year. It was stressed that the county has a significant agricultural sector which increases the impacts from drought conditions. During discussions regarding the hazard of earthquake, stakeholders indicated that the only damages they were aware of resulted from earthquakes in the 1800s, (i.e., minor cracking to exterior and interior walls of residential homes). There was a discussion whether to include extreme heat in the severe summer storms profile and extreme cold in the severe winter storms profile. It was decided to leave them in the existing extreme temperatures profile as instance of both have occurred irrespective of summer or winter weather. Stakeholders discussed common areas and roadways that typically flood following heavy rains. It was mentioned that there are areas of the county where existing stormwater systems are inadequate especially with more intense rainfall events.

Several stakeholders indicated that tornados have become more frequent and more intense over the past 10 years, and there has been an increase in enhanced fire danger events. Director Haverkos mentioned that several residents have been selected by the State to get tornado shelters. Stakeholders noted that cyber incidents are quickly becoming priority concerns amongst local government entities, businesses, medical facilities, schools, etc. These entities work on plans and other protective measures regularly. As a result, attacks are more and more sophisticated. Stakeholders agreed and asked the consultant to add cyber incidents as a hazard to be considered in this plan update. Planning stakeholders indicated that a large portion of the county’s Tier II facilities (i.e., those that store larger quantities of hazardous materials) are

located in South Afton and Williamsburg Township, and that most hazardous materials release occur during transit.

Following a discussion regarding the “Utility Failure” hazard it was determined that the focus should be utility failures that are not the result of a cascading effect of other hazards but are “dry day” failures that occur due to aging infrastructure and overloading issues. Stakeholders indicated that the Villages of Batavia, Bethel, and Williamsburg often experiences dry day power failures.

Planning stakeholders made the decision to add public health emergencies as a new hazard in this plan update to address rising cases of Norovirus, RSV, flu, and to address concerns and gaps identified during the recent COVID-19 pandemic. This hazard profile will also discuss issues pertaining to the opioid crisis.

Doug introduced ideas for an outreach plan to obtain public participation before adjourning the meeting. The public must have the opportunity to participate, both during plan development and when a draft is available. Doug suggested using an electronic public survey (using a link and QR Code) as well as hardcopy surveys to gather input as the plan is developed. Drawing on updated FEMA guidelines, Doug explained that stakeholders will need to identify “under-represented populations” in the county and devise an outreach strategy for them. Doug also explained that dam regulators and owners will need to have the opportunity to participate.

Stakeholders also discussed other plans (i.e., zoning ordinances, floodplain regulations, comprehensive plans, etc.) that jurisdictions may have that can be integrated into the mitigation plans update.

Planning stakeholders also reviewed the goals contained in the existing mitigation plan. A decision was made to combine existing goals 1, 2, and 3 into a single new goal and to remove existing goals 9 through 12 as those goals would be better used as mitigation projects.

For reference, the following list outlines the primary topics for upcoming mitigation plan stakeholder meetings.

- **Meeting 2:** Assign status updates to existing mitigation projects (i.e., completed, on-going, deferred, and deleted), and the use of a jurisdictional capabilities survey
- **Meeting 3:** Discuss areas where economic development has occurred over the past five years, or where it is targeted, and develop new mitigation projects and discuss hazard rankings
- **Meeting 4:** Discuss the plan maintenance process, review drafts compiled to date

Attachments

- Slide Deck



**CLERMONT COUNTY
HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN
UPDATE**

*Stakeholder Committee Meeting #1
March 5, 2025 ~ 1:30 p.m.*

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**WELCOME AND
INTRODUCTIONS**




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AGENDA

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Mitigation Planning Overview
3. The Planning Process
4. Goals & Hazards Review
5. Homework: Asset Inventory
6. 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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PLANNING PROCESS

DMA2K ~ Stafford Act, Section 322 ~ 44 CFR 201.6

The Hazard Mitigation Plan

- Planning Process
- Description of the planning area
- Risk Assessment
- Action plan
 - Goals
 - Strategies (projects/actions)
- Plan maintenance
- Appendices

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HAZARD MITIGATION 101

Planning Stakeholders Responsibilities

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HAZARDS REVIEW

- Natural Hazards**
 - Drought
 - Earthquake
 - Extreme Temperatures
 - Flood
 - Invasive Species
 - Landslide
 - Severe Storms
 - Tornado
 - Wildfire
 - Winter Storm
- Technological Hazards**
 - Dam & Levee Failure
 - Hazmat Release
 - Utility / Power Failure
- Human-Caused Hazards**
 - Terrorism

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GOALS REVIEW

1. Reduce loss of life and injury from hazard events.
2. Reduce environmental damage from hazard events and protect natural resources.
3. Minimize damage to personal and public property.
4. Provide public awareness of potential hazards and mitigation efforts.
5. Update critical facility locations and identify new critical facilities to prevent disruption during and after an event.
6. Identify areas of greatest impact from hazards (e.g., high-water marks, repetitive loss, etc.).

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GOALS REVIEW

7. Coordinate mitigation efforts through communication and collaboration between jurisdictions and all departments.
8. Increase awareness of jurisdictional leaders on how to recuperate costs pre-and-post disaster.
9. Develop and implement plans and programs to identify and reduce a hazard's risk (e.g., Emergency Action Plans, Power Restoration Plans, Post-Hazard Evaluation and Action Plans, etc.).
10. Complete a hazardous materials commodity flow study which includes roads, air, and water transportation.
11. Provide public awareness on the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), grant programs, and safe rooms.
12. Promote communication and collaboration to all communities to assist in accurate data collection.

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HOMEWORK: ASSET INVENTORY

- Inventory and Summarize Vulnerable "Assets"
 - Building stock inventory (mapped)
 - Manufactured housing units (mobile homes)
 - Critical facilities
 - Transportation systems (airways, highways, railways, waterways)
 - Lifeline utility systems
 - Communication systems and networks
 - High potential loss facilities (power plants, dams)
 - Hazardous material facilities
 - Economic elements
 - Special consideration areas
 - Natural resource areas
 - Historic and cultural resources (National Register listed, etc.)

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