

HANCOCK COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

VI. PLAN MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES

§201.6(c)(4) requires a formal plan maintenance process to take place to ensure that the Mitigation Plan remains an active and pertinent document. The plan maintenance process includes a schedule for monitoring and evaluating the plan at least every five years, and continued public participation throughout the plan maintenance process.

This section also includes an explanation of how the county and municipal governments intend to incorporate their mitigation strategies into any existing planning mechanisms they have, such as comprehensive or capital improvement plans, or zoning and building codes.

This section includes the following three subsections as follows:

Monitoring, Evaluating, and Updating the Plan

Implementation Through Existing Programs

Continued Public Involvement

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MONITORING, EVALUATING, AND UPDATING THE PLAN

Requirement §201.6(c)(4)(i):	The plan maintenance process shall include a section describing the method and schedule of monitoring, evaluating, and updating the mitigation plan within a five-year cycle.
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Hancock County has developed a method to ensure that regular review and update of the Hazard Mitigation Plan occurs. The Hancock County Emergency Management Agency has formed a Hazard Mitigation Plan Evaluation Team that consists of members from the County EMA office, the County Commissioners, Selectmen, Town Managers and EMA directors from member towns, the Local Emergency Planning Committee, the Hancock County Firefighter's Association, and the Hancock County Planning Commission. The County EMA Office is responsible for contacting Team members and organizing the meeting every four years. The meeting will be held in March of the fourth year after the last plan revision was approved, and Team members will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating the progress of the mitigation strategies in the plan.

The Team will review each mitigation goal and objective to determine their relevance to changing situations and land developments in the County, as well as changes in State or Federal policy, and to ensure that they are addressing current and expected conditions. The Team will also review the risk assessment portion of the plan to determine if this information should be updated or modified. The parties responsible for the various implementation actions will report on the status of their projects and will include which implementation processes worked well, any difficulties encountered, how coordination efforts were proceeding, and which strategies should be revised.

The Hancock County EMA Office will then have one year to update and make changes to the plan before submitting it to the State Hazard Mitigation Officer. If no changes are necessary, the State Hazard Mitigation Officer will be given a justification for this determination.

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IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH EXISTING PROGRAMS

Requirement §201.6(c)(4) (ii):	[The plan shall include a] process by which local governments incorporate the requirements of the mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms such as comprehensive or capital improvement plans, when appropriate...
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County government is limited in scope and authority in the State of Maine and does not have the manpower, power, or fiscal capabilities to guide and control development within the towns in the County. Within Maine, most government authority is with State statutes and rules and with municipal “Home Rule” ordinances.

Thirty of the 37 municipalities have less than 2,000 people and are not required to have a building inspector, according to State law.

There were only a few ordinance-related mitigation measures identified by the Hancock County Hazard Mitigation Planning Team and those identified were determined to be low in priority. Ordinances do not fair well in rural Maine communities, where residents want to be left alone and not dictated to by their local government. Therefore, the majority of the mitigation measures that were identified and all those that were selected by the individual towns are either structural, public educational, or emergency planning measures.

The seven municipalities with populations over 2,000 are required to have a building inspector. These communities do utilize comprehensive land use planning, capital improvements planning, and building codes to guide and control development in their communities. After the County and municipalities officially adopt the Hancock County Hazard Mitigation Plan, these existing mechanisms will have hazard mitigation strategies integrated into them.

The County EMA office will encourage the larger municipalities to address the hazards in their comprehensive plans and land use regulations. The County EMA Office, with the Hancock County Planning Commission, will conduct periodic reviews of the municipal comprehensive plans and land use policies, analyze any plan amendments, and provide technical assistance to any municipalities in implementing these requirements.

The municipal capital improvement planning that occurs in the future will also contribute to the goals in the Hazard Mitigation Plan. The municipal planning boards will work with capital improvement planners to secure high-hazard areas for low risk uses.

After adoption of the Mitigation Plan, the Hancock County EMA Office will assist the municipal officers in implementing their selected mitigation measures. The County EMA Office will conduct annual reviews and surveys with the municipal officers and local EMA directors to determine the status of their measures. The County EMA office will assist the municipalities with the completion of FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation and Hazard Mitigation Grant packages.

The responsible agency within each municipality that is responsible for the implementation and completion of each mitigation measure will notify the County EMA Office whenever assistance is needed or whenever a measure is completed. Existing programs such as the municipal Road Maintenance Plan, Emergency Management program and local fire prevention programs will be utilized to their greatest extent to complete the community’s mitigation measures.

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CONTINUED PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Requirement §201.6(c)(4) (iii):	[The plan maintenance process shall include a] discussion on how the community will continue public participation in the plan maintenance process.
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Hancock County is dedicated to involving the public directly in the continual reshaping and updating of the Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Hazard Mitigation Plan Evaluation Team members are responsible for the review and update of the plan. Although they represent the public to some extent, the public will be able to directly comment on and provide feedback about the plan.

Copies of the plan will be provided to the municipal Emergency Management directors and kept on hand at all municipal town offices in the County. The existence and location of these copies will be publicized by posting flyers in all the town offices. Contained in the plan is the address and phone number of the Hancock County EMA Office, which is responsible for keeping track of public comments on the plan.

In addition, a downloadable copy of the plan and any proposed changes will be posted on the County EMA Office website. This site will also contain an email address and phone number to which people can direct their comments or concerns. A link to this site will also be provided on the Maine Emergency Management Agency website.

A public meeting will also be held after each Mitigation Plan Evaluation Team review meeting. This public meeting will provide the public a forum for which they can express concerns, opinions, or ideas about the plan. The County EMA Office will publicize and host this meeting.

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APPENDIX - PLANNING MEETING ATTENDANCE ROSTERS

Hancock County Hazard Mitigation Planning Team meetings were held to collect data and make decisions regarding the hazards to be profiled and the mitigation measures to implement. Copies of the rosters are attached to this section.

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