

Region Hazard Mitigation Goals

The Region VII Hazard Mitigation Province is very diverse and communities of this region have different hazard mitigation needs. In order for this RHMP to be useful for its constituents across the board the regional plan has to be general in nature and adaptable for each community. **The overriding goal is to reduce damage and loss from manifested hazards.**

Goal 1: Local Leadership

Local leadership is so very important to implement hazard mitigation plans. A primary goal of this RHMP is to support the autonomy of local leaders, recognizing their skill in disaster management and the institutional knowledge of their communities.

Goal 1 Objectives: Leaders at the County level identify, prioritize and submit County Hazard Mitigation Projects for Regional HMP maintenance.

Goal 2: Regional Leadership

In the rural communities of Region VII, many of the local leaders wear many hats. They serve with their full hearts to provide for the needs of their community in several different arenas. From a regional perspective, another goal of this plan is to develop a regional leadership model for Regional Planning & Development Councils in hazard mitigation. Regional leadership can maintain hazard mitigation plans, provide technical capacity in hazard mitigation project development, maintain a regional list of projects, act as a clearing house to curb duplication, disseminate information, track opportunities to fund hazard mitigation projects and administer funded projects. Implementing a Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan will be a two edged sword in that it helps

Goal 2 Objectives: At minimum, add Hazard Mitigation Projects to Regional CEDS Project list. Update RHMP with information from County Hazard Mitigation Planners and appropriate CEDS narratives. Provide other services as funding permits.



The regional plan will be available for local leadership, to upgrith them with information and assistance. **In no way is the regional plan meant to supplant the hard efforts invested at the county level in Hazard Mitigation Plans.**

communities cut red tape; therefore, expediting needed projects. It slices the amount of paperwork generated to maintain 7 County plans opposed to 1 Regional Plan and reduces the labor intensive review process for State and Federal Hazard Mitigation Planners. An added benefit to State and Federal Agencies would be utilizing the proven track record of project administration of Regional Councils when they fill regional leadership roles. A Regional Planning & Development Staff would not need to be retrained on reports, draws, procurement and labor monitoring requirements every time a new project emerges. Regional Hazard Mitigation Planning has a potential to be Win – Win – Win for all stakeholders.

Goal 3: Hazard Mitigation Project Development

A major hazard mitigation project requires a certain amount of skilled effort to develop. The project has to be identified, there may need to be some procurement of professional services, funding agencies identified and applications developed. **If a project entity does not feel they have capacity to manage the total project they can choose to contract with Region VII.**

Project Development

It is important that Hazard Mitigation Strategies complement other initiatives in the Region. In order to do this a simple method of project development needs to be in place.

Region VII Planning and Development Council has worked closely with State and Federal officials in implementing projects that are funded. The Council keeps a list of about 130 projects in various stages of development for a region that includes 7 Counties. Region VII Planning and Development Council staff has been active in project development since 1972. In 2010 three hazard mitigation projects, worth in aggregate over \$1,500,000, were funded as a

The Method

When a potential project has been identified the local elected officials need to be contacted first. If it is in a municipality, town or city council members should be contacted. If the project is in the county outside of municipalities, then the county commissioners are appropriate contacts. Each local government is a member of Region VII Planning and Development Council and they may contact the Agency's Executive Director or request that the person with the project idea contact the Executive Director.

The staff at Region VII Planning and Development Council can make an expeditious assessment of the project and recommend the next

Region VII Planning & Development Council has functioned in the Project Development Management Role for almost forty years. The Small Cities Block Grant Program, US EDA Economic Development Programs and Appalachia Regional Commission Programs all rely on Regional Council staff to keep projects moving.

direct result of Region VII project development and those projects being listed in the Regional Councils project priority list. Prerequisites for these projects to qualify included 1) the project had to be identified, 2) developed, complete with costs and 3) reside on an official project list. The Regional Council has the capacity to make recommendations to the project owner for funding, provide procedural guidance in Architect/Engineering (A&E) procurement, act as liaison between funder and project sponsor and provide administrative services if the project supports that function.

step in project development. It may be gathering some more information, garnering more local participation or simply a project meeting with the Regional Council's Staff (staff). If the project has ample support and exhibits viable benefits, then in most cases A&E procurement would be the next step. The staff has capacity to facilitate that process for the project team. Please note; not all projects such as simple acquisition relocation projects require A&E services. The project would also be placed on the regional project list at this time.

When there is a written project description and costs estimated the project is ready to be developed into a funding application. Normally a funding program that fits the project has to be identified. Region VII Planning and Development Council has the capacity to complete intricate applications and has a working knowledge of funding opportunities. Some funders require public hearings or other public and regulatory input. Region VII Planning and Development Council is familiar with the process and can help move the project forward.

Goal 3 Objectives: Develop at least one major Hazard Mitigation Project in Region VII on an annual basis.

Goal 4: Hazard Mitigation Project Implementation

Project implementation can be defined as that gray area between a funding award letter and the golden shovel at ground breaking. Often a project has many preliminary milestones to clear before it can be implemented. This is especially true for construction projects. Project design, permits, Americans with Disability Act surveys, environmental reviews and evidentiary materials of all types have to be collected and submitted to the funding agency.

Goal 4 Objectives: Implement developed Hazard Mitigation Projects as funding becomes available.

Goal 5: Develop WV Hazard Mitigation Districts

US Economic Development Administration (EDA) and the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) formed special districts to help facilitate services and projects for the public good. Region VII is an Economic Development District for EDA and a Local Development District for ARC. Each federal agency supports Region VII with annual planning grants to function as their special districts. The West Virginia Legislature also provides a yearly stipend which helps to underwrite planning and project development for such

The method is very simple; contact the responsible local officials and then Region VII Planning & Development Council. The Council also acts as the regional clearinghouse of State and Federally funded projects. This additional role of the Regional Planning and Development Council ensures integration of strategies, reduction of duplicated services and the development of strong collaborations of funders and partners in the implementation of projects. Eligible and proper administrative fees for projects underwrite staff involvement.

Many major government agencies will use an existing program to manage the cash flow. Case in point; in Region VII three Disaster Recovery Initiatives were funded in 2008, their funds passed through West Virginia's Small Cities Block Grant Program. Region VII Staff has institutional knowledge of that program and was able to efficiently expedite the implementation of the projects.

programs as Small Cities Block Grants and other infrastructure/community development programs.

This established model could be used to develop the Hazard Mitigation District concept. The WV Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management have already implemented a bare bones Hazard Mitigation District system by organizing regional plans to coincide with Regional Planning & Development Districts. The next step is to fund the Regional Hazard Mitigation Efforts.

Mission

The Council performs, as dictated by legislature, as a local, multi-jurisdictional agency focused specifically on regional planning and economic development. The Council selects and employs an Executive Director. The Executive Director then selects and employs the staff to operate as low-key facilitators in a process that converts community and economic development needs into plans and strategies. These plans are then converted into the development of

Structure

The Council consists of the County Commission Presidents from each of the seven (7) Counties of the Region as well as the Mayors from its twenty-four (24) Municipalities. In addition, twenty-three (23) private sector or citizen representatives are selected by this Region's respective County Commissioners for an annual term. The private sector membership affords the Council's wide range of diverse opinions, experiences, and expertise to compliment the elected official's views. The background of the private sector members, by design, runs the gamut reflective of the region's particular identity. There are representatives from, but not limited to; minorities, small businesses, social services, education, state

Programs

The operation budget continues to consist of federal and state funds, local assessment dues, and contractual project administration. Project administration, which contributes to 65% of the budget, is necessary to maintain an adequate level of staff to perform the requested services needed by the member governments and/or their local organizations.

Staff continues to utilize the Project Development Policy Process. This Council-approved process establishes a procedure to take a

projects and programs. The Council's role is also to prioritize local goals and objectives, review and endorse projects, and to aid in pursuit of funding. Once funding is secured, the staff also provides project administration services on a contractual basis to member governments, public service districts, and other community organizations as needed.

government, economic development, banking, real estate, senior programs, community development, and agriculture.

Currently, there are four (4) full-time positions, which include; Executive Director, Regional Development Director, Community Development Specialist, and an Administrative Assistant. A part time Project Manager, who is a registered Professional Engineer (P.E.), has been added to the staff. The Executive Director continues to hold regular staff meetings for open discussion and information sharing of all project concerns, prioritization and agency operations.

project from its initial discussion to completion and identifies appropriate staff involvement. This process is distributed to member governments, public service districts, development authorities, and engineering firms. This process is an effort to keep communication open and ongoing with all parties involved in the project. The Council remains committed to their resolution to support the Regional Councils as originally created.

Objective Goal 5: Establish Hazard Mitigation District with an annual allocation to provide hazard mitigation services

Hazard Specific, Mitigation Goals, Objectives & Strategies

Region VII Goal 6 - Floods

Objective: Reduce Negative effects of flooding

Strategies:

1. Review, update, and enact Ordinances
2. Acquisition/demolition projects
3. Review, update, enact/enforce floodplain development regulations
4. Develop surface/storm water management plans
5. Severe Repetitive Loss Projects
6. Coordinate efforts to participate in CRS
7. Public education
8. 100 year storm design for public roads
9. Update floodplain data
10. Highway culvert inspection
11. Promote flood insurance purchases
12. Develop warning system
13. Retention structures
14. Channel improvements
15. Training
16. Relocation Projects
17. Elevations Projects
18. Closely monitor stream/rain gauges
19. Preserve open space
20. Construct floodwalls & levees
21. Flood proofing
22. Protect critical facilities
23. Establish emergency/evacuation transportation routes
24. Identify/remove surface water drainage obstructions
25. Participate in FEMA proactive Hazard Mitigation Programs
26. Develop floodplain BMPs
27. Wetlands protection
28. Dams
29. Diversion canals
30. Storm sewers
31. Floodgates
32. Storm water pumping stations
33. Search for funding for planning projects
34. Flood response/disaster recover planning

Region VII Staff Recommendation: Pursue Community Rating System (CRS) <http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/crs.shtm>

Outcomes: Lower flood insurance for community members and resulting flood hazard mitigation education from CRS activities.

Region VII Goal 7 – Winter Storms

Objective: Reduce Negative effects of severe winter storms

Strategies:

1. Develop debris management strategies & snow removal
2. Better building techniques
3. Improve right of way maintenance of public utilities
4. Public education
5. Underground electrical construction
6. Monitor weather/early warning system
7. Map highest incidences of storms
8. Develop stand-by generator network
9. Identify critical facilities to keep in operation

Region VII Goal 8 – Drought

Objective: Reduce negative effects of drought

Strategies:

1. Develop emergency water supply protocol/procure tanker
2. Develop a Water Conservation Plan
3. Public Education
4. Extend public infrastructure
5. Study and evaluate supply alternatives
6. Appoint a drought response officer
7. Promote water-conserving devices
8. Coordinate water construction projects
9. Improve current sources
10. Construct raw water impoundments
11. Use native plants for landscaping

Region VII Goal 9 – Wildfires

Objective: Protect population and forests from fire

Strategies:

1. Public Education
2. Develop safety zones around structures
3. Use flame retardant construction materials
4. Enhance relationships between local fire departments and U.S. Forest Service
5. Regulate construction
6. Report wildfires immediately
7. Improve ISO ratings

Region VII Goal 10 – Wind/Tornados

Objective: Reduce damage from severe winds and tornados

Strategies:

1. Public education
2. Monitor weather/early warning systems
3. Improve right of way maintenance of public utilities
4. Encourage/legislate better building techniques
5. Building codes
6. Monitor NOAA Weather Radio for tornado watches
7. Develop response plans
8. Develop debris management strategies
9. Map highest incidences of storms
10. Underground electrical construction
11. Strengthen vulnerable spots in structures
12. Identify critical facilities and ensure back-up power

Region VII Goal 11 – CBRN

Objective: Protection from terrorist threats (CBRN)

Strategies:

1. Public education
2. Monitor suspected terrorist groups
3. Maintain a working relationship with law enforcement
4. Protect public water supplies
5. Develop response plans
6. Coordinate public media as to alert status
7. Establish trauma centers
8. Thoroughly investigate all threats of violence

Region VII Goal 12 – Thunderstorms

Objective: Lessen damage from severe thunderstorms

Strategies:

1. Monitor weather/early warning system
2. Public education
3. Install rain gauges
4. Develop debris management strategies
5. Improve right of way maintenance of public utilities
6. Map highest incidences of storms
7. Underground electrical construction
8. Encourage better building techniques

Region VII Goal 13 – Earthquakes

Objective: Reduce potential effects of earthquakes Strategies:

1. Public education
2. Better building techniques
3. Review, update or enact building codes
4. Expect aftershocks
5. Develop response plans
6. Upgrade public infrastructure

Region VII Goal 14 – Hail

Objective: Lessen hail damage

Strategies:

1. Monitor weather/early warning
2. Public education
3. Map highest incidences of storms

Region VII Goal 15 – Land Subsidence

Objective: Reduce negative effects of land subsidence

Strategies:

1. Map at risk areas
2. Public education
3. Promote insurance purchase
4. Structural design
5. Develop more effective response plans

Region VII Goal 16 – Hazardous Materials

Objective: Protection from hazardous materials

Strategies:

1. Hazardous material inventory
2. Public education
3. Map most likely transportation routes hazardous materials travel
4. Develop incident response/emergency action plans
5. Create safe zone/shelters
6. Determine most likely place for road accidents
7. Develop containment plans and have on hand spill containment equipment

Region VII Goal 17 - Landslides

Objective: Reduce effects of landslides Strategies:

1. Regulated construction
2. Public education
3. Forestry BMPS
4. Response plans
5. DEP Storm Water Permitting
6. Map at risk areas
7. Promote insurance purchases

Region VII Goal 18 – Utility Failures

Objective: Reduce negative effects of utility failures Strategies:

1. Inventory at risk people
2. Develop a shelter network
3. Inventory at risk power lines
4. Develop back-up sources

Region VII Goal 19 – Dam Failures

Objective: Reduce the potential for dam failure

Strategies:

1. Develop monitoring system
2. Develop intra-county inventory of impoundments and their impact areas
3. Inventory potential inter-county dam failure impact areas
4. Develop response plans compatible with county emergency operation plans

Region VII Goal 21 - Hurricanes

Objective: Protection from Hurricanes

Strategies:

1. Public education

Region VII Goal 22 – Communications Failure

Objective: Protection from Communications Failure

Strategies:

1. Develop monitoring system to keep open lines between EMS & communities
2. Develop a HAM Operators network

Region VII Goal 23 (tie) – Broad Scope Hazard Mitigation

Objective: General public awareness and broad-scope hazard mitigation

Strategies:

1. Public education
2. Integrate a county plan with existing regulation and programs
3. Commodity study (hazardous materials inventory) and monitoring
4. Prioritize mitigation projects
5. Continue to pursue funding opportunities
6. Active Hazard Mitigation Committee at county level
7. Link emergency services, hazard mitigation programs and public education
8. Explore funding sources
9. Supply NOAA radios to critical facilities
10. Install multi-tone alarms to different hazards in fire stations
11. Reverse 911 system
12. Coordinate with other agencies to strengthen mitigation efforts
13. Develop collaborative programs between real estate, insurance, public and private sectors
14. Determine types of hazardous materials being used by well service companies

Region VII Goal 23 (tie) – Epidemics

Objective: Protect from epidemic

Strategies:

1. Public education
2. Public declaration if epidemic occurs
3. Stockpile vaccinations and other health supplies

Region VII Goal 24 – Geological Hazards

Objective: Reduce negative effects of Geological Hazards

Strategies:

1. Public education
2. See earthquakes

Region VII Goal 25 (tie) – Radiologic Hazards

Objective: Reduce negative effects of Radiologic Hazards

Strategies:

1. Public education
2. Known radon gas issues
3. Emergency plan

Region VII Goal 25 (tie) – Infestation

Objective: Protect from infestation

Strategies:

1. Public education

Region VII Goal 26 – Heat Wave

Objective: Protect from heat wave

Strategies:

1. Public education