

Resolution No. 1222

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND
ADOPTING THE WICOMICO COUNTY MULTI-HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN.

WHEREAS, the City of Salisbury, a municipality in Wicomico County, Maryland, recognizes the threat that natural and technological hazards pose to its citizens and their property; and

WHEREAS, an adopted multi-hazard mitigation plan is required by the federal government as a condition of future funding for hazard mitigation projects; and

WHEREAS, the City of Salisbury has jointly participated in the planning process with other local units of government and agencies within the County to prepare a multi-hazard mitigation plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND, officially adopts the Wicomico County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan as an official plan, and, that the Wicomico County Emergency Management Agency is authorized to submit, on behalf of the City, the adopted Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for final review and approval.

THIS RESOLUTION was duly passed at a meeting of the Council of the City of Salisbury, Maryland held on April 11, 2005, and is to become effective immediately upon adoption.

ATTEST:

Brenda J. Colgrove, City Clerk

Michael P. Dunn, President
Salisbury City Council

APPROVED BY ME THIS:

_____ day of _____, 2005

Barrie P. Tilghman, Mayor

Fire Department

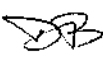
City of Salisbury

Departmental

MEMO

To: Mr. John R. Pick, City Administrator

Date: 31 March 2005

 **From:** David B. See, Chief of the Department

Subject: Wicomico County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan

Attached you will find a resolution for consideration by the City Council to officially adopt the Wicomico County Hazard Mitigation Plan. The following information is offered to provide a brief background regarding the development of this plan.

Congress enacted the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 in response to large-scale outlays of federal funding to local jurisdictions during the 1990s. Section 322 of this act requires states and local jurisdictions to develop and submit mitigation plans designed to meet the criteria of 44 CFR Part 201 (local planning requirements) and Part 206 (state planning requirements). These plans are designed to prevent, or reduce, the loss of life and damage from various hazards including winter storms, river flooding, hurricanes, tornadoes, thunderstorms, fires, epidemics, soil movement, drought, extreme heat, hazardous materials, wildfires, explosions, and transportation accidents. In 2002, states were provided federal funding to initiate this planning process. Additional funding was made available to develop Hazard Mitigation Plans for local communities with the option provided for those local communities to participate with their county government in the preparation of this plan. Plan development followed a planning methodology that included public involvement, risk assessment for various hazards throughout the region, an inventory of critical and other at-risk facilities, a vulnerability analysis, a mitigation strategy for each identified high-risk hazard, and a methodology to maintain and update the plan.

A private consulting firm contracted by the County and working with Wicomico County Emergency Services developed the Wicomico County Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) composed of representatives from various county and municipal agencies, and private industry, served as the plan's review body. Public meetings were conducted to provide the public with an opportunity to review and participate in the adoption of the plan. The eight (8) municipalities (Delmar, Fruitland, Hebron, Mardela Springs, Pittsville, Salisbury, Sharptown, and Willards) in

Wicomico County accepted the opportunity to participate in the process. According to Doug Jones, of the Wicomico Emergency Management Agency, each of these municipalities has supported the consultant's development of this plan for the County. This also means that each of the municipalities will not be required to develop its own "stand alone" multi-hazard mitigation plan.

After completion of a vulnerability analysis, a mitigation strategy including goals and objectives serving as the basis for implementation of a number of action items as identified in the plan was developed. Those goals and objectives include:

Goal 1 Maintain and enhance Wicomico County's department of Communications and Emergency Services capacity to continuously make Wicomico County less vulnerable to hazards.

- Objective 1.1 Institutionalize hazard mitigation.
- Objective 1.2 Improve organizational efficiency.
- Objective 1.3 Maximize utilization of best technology.

Goal 2 Build and support municipal capacity and commitment to become continuously less vulnerable to hazards.

- Objective 2.1 Increase awareness and knowledge of hazard mitigation principles and practice among local and municipal public officials.
- Objective 2.2 Provide assistance to municipal officials and help municipalities obtain funding for mitigation planning and project activities.
- Objective 2.3 Prepare technical reports for critical facilities as necessary.

Goal 3 Improve coordination and communication with other relevant organizations.

- Objective 3.1 Establish and maintain lasting partnerships.
- Objective 3.2 Streamline policies to eliminate conflicts and duplication of effort.
- Objective 3.3 Incorporate hazard mitigation into activities of other organizations.

Goal 4 Increase public understanding, support, and demand for hazard mitigation.

- Objective 4.1 Identify hazard specific issues and needs.
- Objective 4.2 Heighten public awareness of natural hazards.
- Objective 4.3 Publicize and encourage the adoption of appropriate hazards mitigation actions.

- Objective 4.4 Increase the number of businesses that have developed a business risk reduction plan.
- Objective 4.5 Increase the proportion of businesses and residences that have flood insurance.

Goal 5 Protect existing and future properties (residential, commercial, public, and critical facilities).

- Objective 5.1 Utilize the most effective approaches to protect buildings from flooding, including acquisition and elevation.
- Objective 5.2 Enact and enforce regulatory measures to ensure that new development will not increase hazard threats from riverine flooding, storm surge, or the threat of wildfire at the urban/forest interface.
- Objective 5.3 Review and update building codes to ensure that manufactured housing, including mobile homes, are constructed and installed in a manner to minimize wind and storm surge damage.
- Objective 5.4 Reduce the number of houses in the floodplain that are subject to flooding.
- Objective 5.5 Increase the number of critical facilities that have carried out mitigation measures to ensure their functionality in a 100 year flood event.

Goal 6 Ensure that public funds are used in the most efficient manner.

- Objective 6.1 Prioritize new mitigation projects, starting with sites facing the greatest threat to life, health, and property.
- Objective 6.2 Use public funding to protect public services and critical facilities.
- Objective 6.3 Use public funding on private property where benefits exceed costs.
- Objective 6.4 Maximize the use of outside funding sources.
- Objective 6.5 Encourage property --owner self-protection measures.

Goal 7 Promote sustainable development to improve the quality of life.

- Objective 7.1 Establish open space parks and recreational areas in flood hazard areas.
- Objective 7.2 Provide for the conservation and preservation of natural resources.
- Objective 7.3 Limit additional housing (especially elderly and high density) in areas of high hazard risk.

Goal 8 Prevent destruction of forest and structures in the Urban Wildland Interface.

- Objective 8.1 Improve communications capability between municipal and county

emergency management and law enforcement personnel.

Objective 8.2 Identify specific high hazard areas in the urban wildland interface.

Objective 8.3 Develop evacuation procedures to enable residents near forested areas to evacuate safely.

Mitigation actions have been identified to address the goals and objectives and form the core of the entire plan. Those actions have been grouped into the following six (6) broad categories:

Prevention – government administrative or regulatory actions or processes that influence the manner in which land is developed and buildings are constructed including public activities identified to reduce losses. Examples: planning and zoning processes, building code enforcement, capital improvement programs, open space preservation, storm water management.

Property protection – actions involving modifications to existing critical facilities to afford them protection from hazards. Examples: acquisition, elevation, relocation, structural retrofits.

Public education and awareness – methods of informing and educating citizens, elected officials, and property owners about potential hazards and mitigation methods. Examples: outreach projects, real estate disclosure, hazard information centers, and educational programs.

Natural resource protection – actions, in addition to minimizing hazard losses that also preserve the functions of natural systems. Examples: sediment and erosion control, stream corridor restoration, watershed, forest and vegetation management, wetlands restoration and preservation.

Emergency services – systems that protect people and property during and immediately after a disaster or event. Examples: early warning systems, emergency response services.

Structural projects – actions involving the construction of structures designed to reduce hazard impact. Examples: dams, levees, floodwalls, seawalls, retaining walls, safe rooms.

Adoption of this plan is but another avenue in which we continue to cooperate effectively with the County to ensure the safety of our citizens. Should you have questions or require additional information please feel free to contact me immediately.

cc: File