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**Philadelphia’s All-Hazard Mitigation Plan FAQ**

**Q: What is a Hazard Mitigation Plan?**

**A:** Hazard Mitigation is the act of reducing or eliminating the risk of natural, human-caused, or technological disasters. The Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) describes which natural and human-caused hazards, like flooding and winter storms, affect Philadelphia. The plan also contains a list of prioritized City projects that can help reduce damage from disasters before they happen. The City’s current Hazard Mitigation Plan was adopted by City Council in May 2022. Office of Emergency Management (OEM) alongside City and community partners will be kicking off the next full-scale update to this plan in 2024.

**Q: Why is it important to plan for hazard mitigation?**

**A:** Mitigation is most effective when implemented as a part of a coordinated plan. Benefits to hazard mitigation planning include:

**Saves lives and reduces damage to property:** By finding ways to reduce risk before disaster strikes, we are ultimately saving lives and preventing costly damage to private and public property.

**Cost Savings:** According to a 2019 study by the National Institute of Building Sciences, for every $1 spent on mitigation, $6 is saved in future response and recovery efforts.

**Funding Opportunities**: An updated HMP is required by FEMA every 5 years for Philadelphia to remain eligible for FEMA mitigation grant funds such as Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC), Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA), and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Additional funding has been allocated to these grants through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

**Raise Awareness About Hazards & Preparedness:** The HMP planning process includes extensive outreach to City partners and the public, raising awareness about the hazards that put Philadelphia most at risk and promoting preparedness and risk reduction activities.

**Building Partnerships:** Over 80 agencies and organizations representing City, state and federal agencies, private-sector partners, and community organizations participated in the 2022 update. The planning process builds partnerships that lead to successful implementation of risk reduction projects.

**Q: What are the priorities for the next plan update?**

**A:** Equity, integration of new climate change data, and increasing public involvement in the planning process are top priorities throughout our next plan update.

Learn more about our 2022 plan priorities in the Executive Summary of our [2022 HMP.](https://www.phila.gov/departments/oem/programs/hazard-mitigation-plan/)

**Philadelphia's All-Hazard Mitigation Plan**

**Q: What hazards are identified in the Hazard Mitigation Plan?**

**A:** The HMP identifies both natural and human-caused hazards and threats that pose the greatest risk to Philadelphia. These include:

Drought

Earthquake

Extreme Temperature

Flood, Flash Flood, Ice Jam

Hurricane, Tropical Storm, Nor’easter

Pandemic & Infectious Disease **(Added in 2022)**

Subsidence, Sinkhole **(Added in 2022)**

Tornado, Windstorm

Winter Storm

Active Assailant

Building and Structure Collapse

Civil Disturbance **(Added in 2022)**

Cyber Terrorism **(Added in 2022)**

Dam Failure

Gun Violence **(Added in 2022)**

Hazardous Materials Release

Opioid Crisis Response **(Added in 2022)**

Urban Fire and Explosion

Terrorism **(Added in 2022)**

OEM and partners will reevaluate these hazards and add additional hazards if needed during the upcoming plan update.

**Q: What can we do to reduce our risk?**

**A:** The HMP identifies a prioritized list of mitigation actions that the City can implement to reduce our risk. The types of projects identified include:

**Local Plans and Regulations:** These actions include plans, ordinances, policies, and regulations that influence the way land and buildings are built and developed.

**Structure and Infrastructure Projects:** These actions involve modifying existing structures and infrastructure to protect them from a hazard or remove them from a hazard area. This could apply to public or private structures as well as crucial facilities and infrastructure. This type of action also includes the construction of manmade structures to reduce impacts to hazards.

**Natural Systems Protection:** These actions aim to minimize damage and losses by preserving or restoring the functions of natural systems.

**Education and Awareness Programs:** These are actions to inform and educate citizens, elected officials, and property owners about hazards and potential ways to mitigate them.

**Q: Where can I get more information on the Hazard Mitigation Plan and how to get involved in the next plan update?**

**A:** You can receive more information on the Hazard Mitigation Plan update on Philadelphia Office of Emergency Management’s (OEM) website at [www.phila.gov/ready/programs/hazard-mitigation-plan/](http://www.phila.gov/ready/programs/hazard-mitigation-plan/).

**Questions or Feedback?** Please do not hesitate to reach out to OEM at [oem@phila.gov](mailto:oem@phila.gov).