



Houston-Galveston
Area Council

Walker County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, Kickoff Meeting NOTES

March 23, 2023

A G E N D A

9:30 AM **Registration & Sign-in**

10:00 AM **Welcome & Introductions**

10:10 AM **Overview of Hazard Mitigation Plans & Procedures**

H-GAC staff will provide an overview of hazard mitigation plans, benefits, meeting objectives, activities, H-GAC's planning process, roles & responsibilities, and project timelines.

Hazard Mitigation Committee Management

10:30 AM **Next Steps**

10:45 AM **Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment Exercise**

12:00 PM **Adjourn**



Walker County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, Kickoff Meeting NOTES

March 23, 2023

MEETING NOTES

Welcome and Introductions

Butch Davis welcomed participants and thanked them for attending the meeting for the Walker County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update.

Overview of Hazard Mitigation Plans & Procedures

Amanda Ashcroft reviewed the meeting agenda. Amanda went over meeting goals and objectives- to explain hazard mitigation, review the benefits of developing a hazard mitigation plan, provide an overview of the planning process, and to inform the committee about their role in the planning process. The plan is funded by a GLO grant through H-GAC. Amanda explained that despite there being no match requirement for this instance of funding, there will be various methods of documentation you see throughout the planning process that exist solely to calculate match for any future needs.

Amanda explained what hazard mitigation planning is, the benefits of mitigating for hazards, and the history behind the Stafford Act and Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. This act requires communities to have a mitigation plan to be eligible for mitigation grants, plans must be updated every 5-years. FEMA has a plan review guide that outlines the requirements for what must be in the plan or addressed by the plan, these were updated in 2022 and take full effect for all plans approved after April 2023. Updated policies and any changes to the plan template were summarized to the committee.

Roles and responsibilities of the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee were outlined. A commitment letter of jurisdictional participation was discussed as a committee to be signed and returned by a point of contact for each participating jurisdiction. Roles and responsibilities agreed to in the letter of commitment included items outlined in the presentation, as well as grounds for dismissal due to non-participation. These included:

- To attend meetings, including public hearings or meetings/workshops that occur during the plan update process
- To assist with coordination or participation in the public input process- this could mean collecting and relaying valuable local information, data, or soliciting input from citizens or professionals
- To make decisions on the planning process and content- this includes reviewing plan updates and providing timely feedback (this include submitting any worksheets or handouts we provide you)
- To review and adopt the plan for it to be approved by FEMA

Outreach methods were discussed for how the planning team and committee will get the word out to stakeholders for future meetings and public input.

Amanda reviewed the tentative project timeline and discussed HAZUS being run in-house, to be completed before the next meeting. The committee agreed keeping the same date/time and meeting in-person would allow for greater attendance from committee members and input.



Walker County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, Kickoff Meeting NOTES

March 23, 2023

Next Steps

Amanda outlined next steps for the local planning team and members of the hazard mitigation planning committee. Committee members should provide any additional stakeholder contacts to the local planning team- Walker County OEM Butch Davis, Sherri Pegoda, and H-GAC staff so they can be included in future updates regarding the plan. The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, April 17, 2023, from 10 AM-12 PM at the Walker County Storm Shelter. H-GAC staff will begin running the HAZUS model for outputs to help inform the continued discussion of the risk assessment activity, and participating jurisdictions will begin a capability assessment activity.

At the end of the presentation, the hazard mitigation planning committee members introduced their name, title, the organization they represented.

Hazard identification and Risk Assessment

A risk assessment handout was passed out and the committee reviewed hazards from the 2018 Walker County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, The Huntsville 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan, and Texas State Hazard Mitigation Plan. She outlined updates the hazard mitigation planning committee may want to consider making to certain hazard titles, regroupings, new additions, and gave examples of what 2023 plans were doing similarly.

Listed Hazards for the 2018 plans included: Flooding, Hurricanes & Tropical Storms, Wildfire, Drought, Lightning, Heat, Hail, Winter Weather, Tornado, Dam/Levee Failure, Erosion, and Expansive Soils.

The hazard mitigation committee began working on the hazard identification and risk assessment handout for the remainder of the meeting. As a committee, they worked through the handout to determine probability and risk for hazards they identified that affect the County and participating jurisdictions. [Results of this activity can be found below.](#)

After the activity concluded, Amanda Ashcroft thanked everyone for their time and reiterated the time and date for the next scheduled meeting: **Monday, April 17, 2023, from 10 AM-12 PM at the Walker County Storm Shelter**

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.



Walker County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, Kickoff Meeting NOTES

March 23, 2023

RISK ASSESSMENT: To rank hazard risk, probability and severity must be determined.

PROBABILITY: A measure of how likely an event will occur

SEVERITY: How much a hazard affects the functionality of society and natural environment

Hazard risk is measured using this equation: **RISK = PROBABILITY x SEVERITY**

We will calculate risk by assigning a numerical value to both probability & severity (see below).

Use these values to calculate risk for each hazard within your community.

Probability	Characteristics
4 – Highly Likely	Event is probable within the next calendar year These events have occurred, on average, once every 1-2 years in the past
3 – Likely	Event is probable within the next 10 years Event has a 10-50% chance of occurring in any given year These events have occurred, on average, once every 3-10 years in the past
2 – Possible	Event is probable within the next 50 years Event has a 2-10% chance of occurring in any given year These events have occurred, on average, once every 10-50 years in the past
1 – Unlikely	Event is probable within the next 200 years Event has a 0.5-2% chance of occurring in any given year These events have occurred, on average, once every 50-200 years in the past

Severity	Characteristics
8 – Catastrophic	Multiple deaths Complete shutdown of facilities for 30 or more days More than 50% of property is severely damaged
4 – Critical	Injuries and/or illnesses result in permanent disability Complete shutdown of critical facilities for at least 14 days More than 25% of property is severely damaged
2 – Limited	Injuries and/or illnesses do not result in permanent disability Complete shutdown of critical facilities for more than seven days More than 10% of property is severely damaged.
1 – Negligible	Injuries and/or illnesses are treatable with first aid Minor quality of life lost Shutdown of critical facilities and services for 24 hours or less Less than 10% of property is severely damaged



Walker County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, Kickoff Meeting NOTES

March 23, 2023

RISK ASSESSMENT: To rank hazard risk, probability and severity must be determined.

PROBABILITY: A measure of how likely an event will occur

SEVERITY: How much a hazard affects the functionality of society and natural environment

Use the tables above as a guide

Hazard	Probability (P) (1, 2, 3, 4)	Severity (S) (1, 2, 4, 8)	Risk (P x S)	Ranking
Floods	4	4	16	1
Wildfires	4	4	16	1
Lightning	4	2	8	3
Hailstorms	3	2	6	4
Tornadoes	2	8	16	1
Severe Thunderstorms	4	2	8	3
Erosion	4	2	8	3
Hurricanes & Tropical Storms & Depressions	4	4	16	1
Drought & Expansive Soils	4	4	16	1
Extreme Heat	4	4	16	1
Severe Winter Weather	4	4	16	1
Dam/Levee Failure	2	4	8	3
Emerging Infectious Diseases	3	4	12	2
Windstorms	3	4	12	2
Invasive Species	2	2	4	4
Water Quality and Quantity	4	2	8	3
Cyber Threats	3	4	12	2
Biological/Hazmat	2	4	8	3

Commented [AA1]: The committee agree to add tropical depressions to this title

Commented [AA2]: Hazard mitigation committee agreed to combine these two hazards into one.

Commented [AA3]: Private dams and levees are rated poorly within Walker County

Commented [AA4]: New hazard, Title chosen in place of 'Pandemic'

Commented [AA5]: New hazard

Commented [AA6]: New hazard

Commented [AA7]: New hazard

Commented [AA8]: Amanda will look up man-made hazard inclusion benefits within the HMP.

Commented [AA9]: New hazard