



Liberty County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, Kickoff Meeting 3/27/2023 NOTES

A G E N D A

8:45 AM **Registration & Sign-in**

9:00 AM **Welcome & Introductions**

9:10 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

9:30 AM **Next Steps**

9:45 AM **Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment Exercise**

11:00 AM **Adjourn**



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ATTENDANCE

Name	Organization	Title
Amanda Ashcroft	Planner, Community & Environmental Planning	H-GAC
Bill Hergemueller	Emergency Management Coordinator, Fire Marshall	Liberty County
Brian Hurst	Fire Chief	City of Liberty
Cheryl Mergo	Senior Manager, Community & Environmental Planning	H-GAC
Damon Jones	Public Works	City of Liberty
Danielle Andrews	Office Manager	Liberty County
Elanie Rosser	Safety & Security	Liberty ISD
Eric McDaniel	Asst. Fire Chief	City of Liberty
Erskine N. Holcomb	Liberty County	Asst. Fire Marshall
James Autrey	Emergency Management Coordinator, Asst. Fire Chief	City of Plum Grove
James Poitevent	General Manager	WCID #5
Madison Gonzalez	Asst. Emergency Management Coordinator	Liberty County
Shane Burleigh	Emergency Management Coordinator	City of Dayton
Tom Warner	City Manager	City of Liberty

MEETING NOTES

Welcome and Introductions

Amanda Ashcroft began the meeting by welcoming attendees and explained the reasons behind hazard mitigation planning. The hazard mitigation planning committee members introduced their name, title, the organization they represented, and how a hazard has affected them.

Overview of Hazard Mitigation Plans & Procedures

Amanda Ashcroft reviewed the meeting agenda and 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 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 will include items outlined in the presentation included:



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- 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 scheduled the next meeting for Monday, April 24^h from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM. The committee agreed keeping the same date/time and hosting a hybrid event (utilizing Microsoft Teams and in-person) would allow for greater attendance and input.

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 H-GAC so they can be included in future updates regarding the plan. Committee members should also sign and return commitment letters as soon as possible. The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, April 24^h from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM in Liberty, TX. H-GAC staff will begin running the HAZUS model for outputs to help inform the continuation of the risk assessment activity that the next meeting will continue and expand on.

Hazard identification and Risk Assessment

Amanda passed out a risk assessment handout and the committee reviewed hazards from the 2018 Liberty County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation and Texas State Hazard Mitigation plans. 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. She outlined updates the hazard mitigation planning committee may want to make to certain hazard titles or regroupings, new additions, and gave examples of what 2023 plans were doing similarly for the committee to consider.

The hazard mitigation committee began working on the hazard identification and risk assessment handout for the remainder of the meeting as a group, assigning probability and severity scores to each hazard they identified. Results for the hazard identification and risk assessment exercise are below.

It was discussed that any participating jurisdictions that were not present at the kickoff meeting for this exercise would be sent a fillable PDF to complete before next meeting. Results will then be averaged and presented to the committee.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 AM.



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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



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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
Flooding	4	8	32	1
Wildfire	3	2	6	3
Severe Thunderstorms	4	4	16	2
Hail	2	1	2	3
Tornado	2	2	4	3
Windstorms	3	2	6	3
Severe Winter Storms	2	4	8	3
Hurricanes, Tropical Storms, & Depressions	4	8	32	1
Drought & Expansive Soils	3	2	6	3
Heat Events	4	4	16	2
Dam/Levee Failure	2	8	16	2
Erosion	2	1	2	3
HazMat Spill	3	4	12	2
Cyber Attacks	2	8	16	2
Terroristic Threats	1	8	8	3

Commented [AA1]: Combined lightning and thunderstorms to this new hazard title

Commented [AA2]: New hazard added

Commented [AA3]: Added depressions to the end of this title

Commented [AA4]: New hazard added

Commented [AA5]: New hazard added

Commented [AA6]: New hazard added

Commented [AA7]: New hazard added