



Delaware County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

The Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan for Delaware County is a document used by the jurisdictions within Delaware County to commit to working with citizens and business owners to make Delaware County safer.

Delaware County is at risk of natural and man-made hazards. The risks included in this plan are damage due to flooding, winter weather, tornadoes, HAZMAT incidents, pandemic events, severe summer weather, dam failure, terrorism, land subsidence, large utility disruptions/failures, cyber-attacks, earthquakes, civil disturbances, invasive species, and drought. This plan provides a long-term approach to reducing the likelihood that a natural hazard will result in severe damage.

Delaware County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DCOHSEM) facilitates the creation of the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan as directed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This revision of the plan DCOHSEM received help from the OSU Regional Planning Graduate Students. Also, DCOHSEM does not create the plan alone as the Delaware Hazard Mitigation Planning Group (DMPG) provides valuable coordination and insight. This group is made up of county stakeholders, government officials, first responders, and private industry. Besides the DMPG, citizens of Delaware County seek input on the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The hazard mitigation planning process consists of gathering and analyzing data available from various sources. The data show the hazards most likely to result in costly damages are flooding, tornadoes, severe winter weather, and severe summer weather. These results are reached by conducting an assessment for each hazard, which consists of a thorough analysis of each hazard's plausible hypothetical occurrence of catastrophic magnitude. This process allows for better estimation and quantification of each hazard's social, structural, economic, and environmental consequences and provides general insight into the nature of the hazard within the county, despite the situation-specific figures.

Based on the hazard analysis in the Delaware County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, each jurisdiction's action items and goals are created; these projects and goals stated here are designed to make Delaware County safer. Goals include but are not limited to minimizing injuries and loss of life due to disaster, enhancing public awareness and education, coordinating inter-jurisdictional preparedness measures, providing decision-making tools for interested stakeholders, and achieving regulatory compliance. Projects to achieve these goals are included in the plan, and the plan allows access to federal grant funding for the projects. Some of the projects are a tornado safe room, flood property buy-outs, educational outreach, and more.

This plan is renewed every five years. Delaware County's plan is due for its next renewal in 2024, with the process starting at least a year before. This is the current process being worked on. Delaware County has seen tremendous change in the last five years. Its population is continuing to increase, changing the demographics, social and economic data, and land use. The severity, frequency, and type of hazards have also seen changes. The next plan will provide valuable direction into the future.