

Section 1 PLAN, BACKGROUND, AND PURPOSE

1.1 Overview

The Carver County Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) as written fulfills the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, which is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The act requires that all HMPs be updated every five years. This plan serves at the update of the 2006 Carver County HMP. The act also provides federal assistance to state and local emergency management to mitigate the effects of disasters. The plan also encourages cooperation among various organizations and crosses political subdivisions.

In addition to representatives from Carver County, the following communities also provided representatives to participate in the update of the Carver County HMP:

Cities	Townships
Carver	Benton
Chanhassen	Camden
Chaska (county seat)	Dahlgren
Cologne	Hancock
Hamburg	Hollywood
Mayer	Laketown
New Germany	San Francisco
Norwood Young America	Watertown
Victoria	Waconia
Waconia	Young America
Watertown	

1.2 Authority

Section 409 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act Title 44 CFR as amended by Section 102 of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 gives state and local governments the framework to evaluate and mitigate all hazards as a condition of receiving federal disaster funds. In Minnesota, federal regulatory authority for hazard mitigation planning resides with FEMA Region V.

1.3 Scope

The scope of the Carver County Multijurisdictional HMP encompasses all areas of Carver County, including all its cities and townships. The plan will identify all natural and technological hazards that

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could threaten life and property in our communities. The scope of this plan includes short-term and long-term mitigation strategies, implementation, and possible sources of project funding.

The plan also contains the following information:

- The vision for mitigation in our community (Executive Summary)
- The profile of Carver County, its geography, history, physical features, and other community indicators (Section 2: Community Profile)
- The planning process and the involvement of all cities, townships, state and federal governments, the public, the private sector, and other community players (Section 3: Planning Process)
- Documentation of Carver County's past and predicted exposure to natural hazards and the potential risks that include the impacts on critical infrastructure with anticipated losses (Section 4: Risk and Vulnerability Assessment)
- An overview of Carver County's capabilities to implement hazard mitigation goals and objectives, policies that will effectively mitigate risks to our community (Section 5: Hazard Mitigation Goals and Objectives)
- Procedures for maintaining an effective, long-range HMP and the strategy to implement it (Section 6: Executing the Plan)
- Critical facilities information

1.4 Purpose

The purpose of the Carver County Multijurisdictional HMP is to identify risks and vulnerability to Carver County and to formulate a plan of action to reduce damage and loss of life from natural and technological disasters. This plan shall serve as a benchmark for future mitigation activities and will identify mitigation goals and objectives for Carver County and its cities and townships. The plan will also prioritize potential risks and vulnerabilities in an effort to minimize the effects of disasters in our community.

Realizing that identifying our community's risks and working collectively toward the prevention of disasters in our community is in everyone's best interest, Carver County Emergency Management has taken a lead role in the development of the Carver County Multijurisdictional HMP.

Mitigation planning is imperative to lessen the impact of disasters in Carver County. The written plan is an excellent method by which to organize Carver County's mitigation strategy. The implementation of the plan and its components is vital to achieve a community that is resistant to the effects of a disaster. The plan provides a risk assessment of the hazards Carver County is exposed to and establishes several mitigation goals and objectives that are based on that risk assessment. This plan has been formally adopted by each participating jurisdiction and is required to be updated every five years.

1.5 Consistency with Federal and State Mitigation Policies

The plan is intended to enhance and complement state and federal recommendations for the mitigation of natural and technological hazards in the following ways:

- Substantially reduce the risk of loss of life, injuries, and hardship from the destruction of natural and technological disasters on an ongoing basis.
- Improve the public's awareness of the need for individual preparedness and building safer, more disaster-resilient communities.

- Develop strategies for long-term community sustainability during community disasters.
- Develop governmental and business continuity plans that will continue essential private sector and governmental activities during disasters.

FEMA publishes many guidance documents for local governments for mitigating natural disasters. The Carver County Multijurisdictional HMP fully recognizes, adopts, incorporates, and endorses the following principles:

- Develop a strategic mitigation plan for Carver County.
- Enforce current building codes.
- Develop incentives to promote mitigation.
- Incorporate mitigation of natural hazards into land use plans.
- Promote awareness of mitigation opportunities and programs throughout our community on a continual basis.
- Identify potential funding sources for mitigation projects.

The private sector is often an overlooked segment of the community during disasters. It is vital that this sector of a community is included in mitigation efforts that are consistent with state and federal recommendations such as the following:

- Develop mitigation incentives with insurance agencies and lending institutions.
- Encourage the creation of a business continuity plan for the continuance of commerce during disasters.
- Partner with businesses in an effort to communicate with customers about the hazards in our community and possible solutions.

Individual citizens must be made aware of the hazards they face. Additionally, they must be educated in how to protect themselves from the hazards they face. They must be shown that mitigation is an important part of reducing loss of life and property in their community. Their support is critical to the success of any mitigation effort. The Carver County Multijurisdictional HMP supports the following FEMA recommendations regarding individual citizens:

- Become educated on the hazards that you and your community face.
- Become part of the process by supporting and encouraging mitigation programs that reduce vulnerability to disasters.
- Take individual responsibility for safeguarding yourself and your family prior to a disaster.

1.6 Goals and Objectives

The following goals and objectives are the basis of this plan and summarize what the Carver County Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee will accomplish as a result of implementing this plan.

- Maximize the use of all resources by promoting intergovernmental coordination and partnerships in the public and private sectors.
- Harden our communities against the effects of disasters through the development of new mitigation strategies and strict enforcement of current regulations that have proved effective.

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- Reduce and, where possible, eliminate repetitive damage, loss of life, and property from disasters.
- Bring greater awareness throughout the community about potential hazards and the need for community preparedness.
- Continue county and city training for Carver County and Carver County Public Health.