

Executive Summary
2019 Knox County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Background- PL 106-390, the *Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000* (DMA2000) was enacted as an amendment to the *Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act*. DMA2000 placed greater emphasis on the identification and assessment of risks from natural disasters. It also implemented a means by which federal funding could be provided to mitigate those risks while ensuring critical infrastructure of communities could continue to function after a natural disaster.

In 2013, FEMA approved the second revision of the Knox County Hazard Mitigation Plan which had been formally adopted by the county and its 17 towns and plantation. This current iteration of the Hazard Mitigation plan was *approved-pending adoption* by FEMA on (enter APA date for 2019 revision when available)

The purpose of the Knox County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update is to provide guidance for a hazard resistant Knox County that vigilantly assesses, plans for and mitigates any natural hazard. Particular emphasis is placed on those natural hazards which pose the greatest hazard to Knox County. Municipal hazard mitigation projects identified in this plan update by jurisdictions participating in the plan are eligible to apply for FEMA funding assistance under a variety of mitigation related programs.

This multi-jurisdictional plan has been prepared by a Hazard Mitigation Planning Team hosted by the Knox County EMA and Mr. Rich Rothe, of Rothe Associates, a contract Hazard Mitigation planner. Assistance and direct input was provided by representatives from state, county and municipal governments, private and volunteer sectors. The Planning Team met or spoke with representatives of each of the municipalities to collect comments and recommendations on identification of hazards, assessment of vulnerabilities and risks, and determination of mitigation goals and measures. Information for this plan was also collected from surveys sent to each municipality. The surveys asked about planning and development, critical infrastructure inventory, and a listing of reoccurring disaster damage areas. Several public meetings and presentations were held at the Knox County EMA office or other locations about the county.

This plan is generally revised every five years, however, the *Hazard Mitigation Projects by Municipality* table contained in Section 5 is considered a “*living document*”. Municipalities are encouraged to periodically revise projects listed and provide updates for their respective jurisdictions. The projects listed in this section are the starting points for competitive grant awards for Hazard Mitigation Projects.

The Knox County Hazard Mitigation Planning Team identified and rated natural hazards, described their occurrence, frequency and vulnerable areas. The top five hazards profiled are:

1. Severe Summer Storm Events (includes storms in the spring, coastal erosion/landslides associated with storms and Hurricanes)
2. Severe Winter Storm Events
3. Flooding
4. Wildfire
5. Landslide

Cost estimates of potential future damages based on previous declared and undeclared disaster events were calculated. Recovery and mitigation costs from those historical events were shown along with calculated estimates of costs in “today’s dollars”.

Goals and strategic activities for each of the hazards identified were followed by a summary of prioritized projects (listed by municipality) to mitigate these hazards. Strategies for hazard mitigation across the municipalities of the county were identified to improve the disaster resilience of the affected communities. As noted, projects included in the plan may be eligible for funding from FEMA and MEMA.

The Knox County EMA will convene a meeting of the Hazard Mitigation Planning Team in 2023 to formally review of the risk assessment portion of the plan to determine if this information should be updated or modified, and if additional hazards should be profiled in the next revision.

Selected citations from PL 106-390, “*The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000*”

Title II 42 USC 5133

“Section 203. Predisaster Mitigation

(c) APPROVAL BY PRESIDENT.—If the President determines that a State or local government has identified natural disaster hazards in areas under its jurisdiction and has demonstrated the ability to form effective public-private natural disaster hazard mitigation partnerships, the President, using amounts in the National Predisaster Mitigation Fund established under subsection (i) (referred to in this section as the ‘Fund’), may provide technical and financial assistance to the State or local government to be used in accordance with subsection (e).

Title II 42 USC 5165

“SEC. 322. MITIGATION PLANNING.

(a) REQUIREMENT OF MITIGATION PLAN.—As a condition of receipt of an increased Federal share for hazard mitigation measures under subsection (e), a State, local, or tribal government shall develop and submit for approval to the President a mitigation plan that outlines processes for identifying the natural hazards, risks, and vulnerabilities of the area under the jurisdiction of the government.

(b) LOCAL AND TRIBAL PLANS.—Each mitigation plan developed by a local or tribal government shall—

- (1) describe actions to mitigate hazards, risks, and vulnerabilities identified under the plan; and
- (2) establish a strategy to implement those actions.