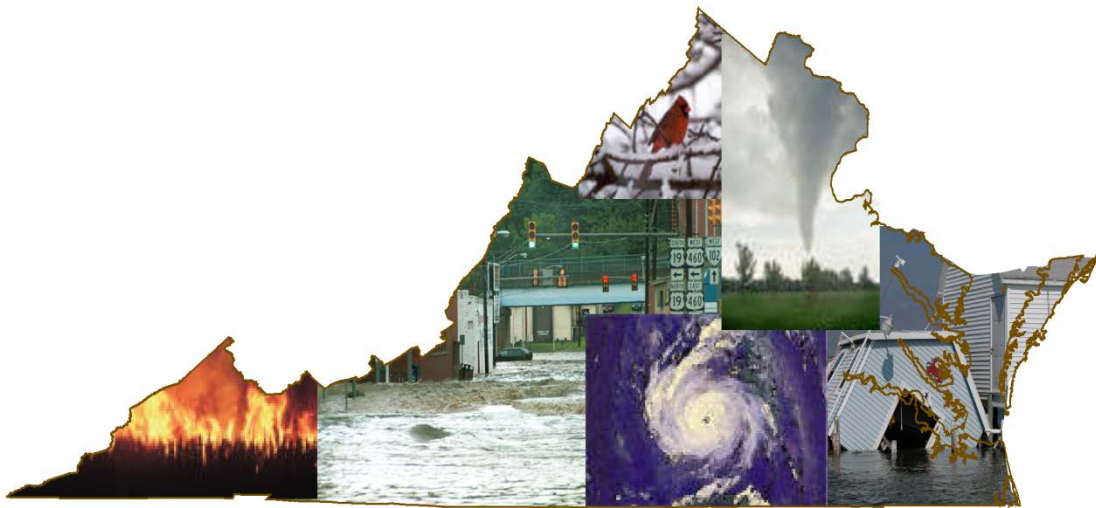


COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



Hazard Mitigation Plan



Chapter 2 Planning Process



Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000

§201.4(b): An effective planning process is essential in developing and maintaining a good plan. The mitigation planning process should include coordination with other State agencies, appropriate Federal agencies, interested groups, and be integrated to the extent possible with other ongoing State planning efforts as well as other FEMA mitigation programs and initiatives.

§201.4(c)(1): Description of the planning process used to develop the plan, including how it was prepared, who was involved in the process, and how other agencies participated

2.1 2013 Update

This plan was developed and updated in accordance with the planning requirements outlined in section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Act as amended by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA2K). Since the 2010 version of the plan was submitted to FEMA for review and approval, the Commonwealth of Virginia has experienced eight Federal Disaster Declarations. The concept of mitigation planning is to develop a plan that identifies hazards and their impacts to the Commonwealth, as well as actions to reduce the future impacts. In order to develop such a plan, a group of stakeholders and subject matter experts need to be brought together.

In early 2012, the Virginia Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee (VHMAC) and Virginia Hazard Mitigation Working Group (VHMWG) were created to replace the Commonwealth of Virginia Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee (CVHMAC) structure of previous plans. This concept is better suited for this process as VHMAC is a small group of decision makers, and the VHMWG is a larger group of subject matter experts than can be brought into the planning process as needed. The VHMAC has established roles and responsibilities, whereas the CVHMAC structure with four sub-committees did not and had too many people involved for effective planning. The participants in the VHMAC and the VHMWG are identified in Tables 2.1 and 2.1 of this section. The VHMAC members were only those agencies that played a direct role in hazard mitigation in the Commonwealth. A member of the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions (VAPDC) was nominated to represent the agency. This was critical as PDCs play a significant role in developing local hazard mitigation plans.





The 2013 update followed a slightly different approach to the planning process than the 2010 version. During the 2010 update a comprehensive revision to the Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA) was completed. Assisted by the post-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding from the 2010 February Snowstorms, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) contracted with the Virginia Tech Center for Geospatial Information Technology once again (CGIT) to revise the HIRA in May of 2012.

Due to the comprehensive update of the HIRA in 2010, the VHMACH decided that the methodologies for analysis in the plan were still relevant, and that the data just needed to be updated based on events that occurred after the HIRA was completed. Local hazard mitigation plans that received FEMA “Approved Pending Adoption” status as of July 2, 2012 were incorporated into this update. Local plans that were not incorporated into the 2013 plan were LENOWISCO, Cumberland Plateau, Roanoke Valley-Allegheny, Central Shenandoah, Thomas Jefferson, Region 2000, Northern Shenandoah, and Southside Planning District Commission. More information on local plan incorporation can be found in Chapter 3, HIRA, Section 3.6 and Chapter 4, Capability Assessment.

The hazards that are included in the 2013 update are flood, non-rotational wind, tornado, winter storms, landslide, land subsidence, earthquake, wildfire, drought, and flooding due to dam failure. The human-caused matrices, found in Appendix K, addresses terrorism, civil disturbances, foreign attacks, urban structural collapse, public health, mining related, as well as hazards classified under technological and hazardous materials. Due to the THIRA requirement from the Presidential Preparedness Directive 8 (PPD-8), the human-caused matrices were not updated with this plan. It is anticipated that once the THIRA is completed, methodologies will be explored to incorporate the results into this plan.

In the spring of 2012 VDEM was contacted by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) regarding a primer for the incorporation of pipelines into state and local hazard mitigation planning. VDEM and PHMSA agreed to partner together not only to incorporate pipelines and natural hazard impacts in this plan, but also to promote more awareness of pipelines in the emergency management community. The inclusion of private infrastructure in this plan update is the first step in expanding this plan to include additional infrastructure. Many of the recent disaster declarations have involved impacts to private and non-profit infrastructure. Developing mitigation actions to specific to infrastructure will be designed to avoid dollar losses and reduce recovery time. Over the course of the planning period, VHMACH meetings have taken place to review and prioritize project applications for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) as well as general planning meetings for this update. More details can be found below:





2.2 May 10, 2012 VHM MAC Kick-Off Meeting - Richmond, VA

Invitations to the meeting were sent out to all of the pre-identified VHM MAC agencies requesting a member to serve on the committee. The meeting started with a welcome from Mr. Brett Burdick, Deputy State Coordinator followed by an overview of the mitigation program by Matt Wall, Hazard Mitigation Program Manager. A discussion of the committee re-structuring took place with a general consensus of approval of the advisory committee and working group concept. The timeline and milestones were reviewed and discussed. CGIT then gave a general overview of the HIRA process which resulted in discussions on available data. Meeting Agenda and sign in sheet can be found in Appendix E.



VHM MAC Meeting, May 10, 2012

2.3 May 15, 2012 Pipeline Hazard Meeting, Richmond, VA

Introductions and discussions took place between PHMSA, VDEM, and pipeline operators regarding the overall objective of the process. A presentation on the Pipeline Integrity Management System was given, as well as Williams’ Pipeline Operation and Maintenance procedures. VDEM then gave a presentation on the state HIRA process. Open discussions took place regarding how to assess risk of pipeline hazards and natural hazards.





2.4 July 16 – 18, 2012 Hazard Specific Webinars

During the week of July 16th there were four webinars that took place for specific hazards addressed in the HIRA. Both the VHMAC and VHMWG were invited to participate. The webinars provided overview of hazard sections and the methodologies that would be used to update the HIRA. The Webinar topics were as follows:

- July 16, 2012 – Severe Weather
- July 16, 2012 – Geological Hazards
- July 17, 2012 – Wildfire, Drought, and Extreme Heat
- July 18, 2012 – Flooding

2.5 July 24, 2012 Pipeline Hazard Meeting, Richmond, VA

The Pipeline and Informed Planning Alliance (PIPA) and VDEM had a two day workshop to discuss the pilot program involving hazard mitigation planning and pipelines. The first day the PIPA team had an internal meeting, and then VDEM staff joined to discuss how pipelines can be integrated in the hazard mitigation planning. The second day involved the PIPA team meeting with the State Corporation Commission to discuss strategies for updating their communications plan for the following year.

2.6 October 5, 2012 – Draft HIRA Available for Comment

A website was created by Virginia Tech CGIT to host the draft HIRA which required a username and password. The draft HIRA was put out for comment for a three week period, with comments being due to Virginia Tech CGIT and VDEM by October 26, 2012.

2.7 October 16, 2012 Vision, Goals, and Categories Webinar

Prior to the webinar, the revised mitigation vision, goals, and categories were drafted by VDEM staff and distributed to the VHMAC. During the webinar the vision, goals, and categories were discussed. For the VHMAC that could not make the webinar, they were also able to provide comments. Once the comments were collected, a final draft was completed.

2.8 October 18, 2012 Flood Mitigation Targeting Worksheets

For this plan update, as described in Chapter 3, mitigation targeting worksheets were developed for state owned and operated facilities located in the floodplain. Included in the worksheet was the identified FEMA flood zone, a picture of the building, and a link to a web based survey. The survey requested additional information such as “has your building ever flooded?” or “are mitigation measures already in place?” Information collected from this process will be used to coordinate more mitigation actions for vulnerable state facilities. These worksheets can be found in Appendix L.





2.9 November 7, 2012 VHM MAC Meeting – Richmond, VA

VHM MAC members were invited to attend the final in person meeting for the plan update. For those who could not make it, a webinar was also set up so people could join remotely. An agenda and sign in sheet can be found in Appendix E. This meeting involved a presentation by Virginia Tech CGIT regarding overall results of the HIRA. This presentation followed by a discussion of how mitigation actions will be prioritized, which can be found in Chapter 5, Mitigation Strategy. After prioritization was discussed, the committee ranked each action item in the plan.

Table 2.1 Virginia Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee	
Agency	Contact
Department of Emergency Management	Matt Wall
Department of Conservation and Recreation	Charley Banks
Department of Environmental Quality	Shep Moon
Department of Forestry	John Miller
Department of Game and Inland Fisheries	Amy Ewing
Department of General Services	David McGreevy
Department of Historic Resources	Julie Langan
Department of Housing and Community Development	Emory Rodgers
Department of Planning and Budget	John Crooks
Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy	Matt Heller
Department of Transportation	Sue Maddox-Toth
University Representative	TBD
Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions	Jackie Stewart

Table 2.2 Virginia Hazard Mitigation Working Group	
Agency	Contact
American Red Cross	Paul Hundley
Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	Megan Samford
Department of Conservation and Recreation	Robert Bennett
Department of Conservation and Recreation	Alison Meehan
Department of Emergency Management	Stewart Baker
Department of Emergency Management	Brian Crumpler
Department of Emergency Management	Mike Gray
Department of Emergency Management	Mark Slauter
Department of Fire Programs	Willie Shelton
Department of Health (Drinking Water)	Barry Matthews
Department of Forestry	Fred Turck
Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy	David Spears
Department of Treasury	Don LeMond
Department of Rail and Public Transportation	Velvet Walker
Federal Emergency Management Agency	Tess Grubb





Federal Emergency Management Agency	Matt McCullough
National Weather Service – Blacksburg	Phil Hysell
National Weather Service – Sterling	Chris Strong
National Weather Service – Wakefield	Bill Sammler
Old Dominion University	Mike Robinson
Old Dominion University	Elizabeth Smith
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration	Julie Halliday
State Corporation Commission	George Lyle
United States Army Corps of Engineers	Michelle Hamor
United States Army Corps of Engineers	Paul Moye
United States Army Corps of Engineers	Holly Carpenter
United States Geological Survey	Russ Lotspeich
United States Geological Survey	Randy Orndorff
United States Geological Survey	Shaun Wicklein
University of Virginia State Climatology Office	Jerry Stenger
Virginia Building and Code Officials Association	Vernell Woods
Virginia Institute for Marine Science	Tom Murray
Virginia Tech Seismological Observatory	Martin Chapman
Wetlands Watch	Skip Styles





2.10 Plan Integration 2010 - 2013

A comprehensive hazard mitigation program at the state level must display that it has been integrated into the different arenas of state government planning. The following bullets show how the state hazard mitigation program has been integrated throughout other state planning processes.

- The 2013 hazard mitigation plan has been integrated into the Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan (COVEOP).
- This plan has been updated and integrated into the EMAP process for the Commonwealth of Virginia and fulfills 6 of the 63 standards.
- All 26 local hazard mitigation plans in the Commonwealth were integrated into this update including the HIRA, capability assessment, and goals, categories, and strategies.
- VDEM staff sits on the Chowan River Basin Technical Advisory Committee, which was set up through the U.S. Corps of Engineers to improve the warning capabilities and data collection for flooding events within the river basin. This river basin was responsible for the severe flooding in the City of Franklin after Hurricane Floyd (VA-DR-1293).
- VDEM Hazard Mitigation Program Manager sits on the Virginia Silver Jackets Team.
- Localities involved in revising local Emergency Operation Plans are instructed by VDEM local planners to integrate the results of the risk assessment in their local hazard mitigation plan into their local EOPs.
- This update will be made available for integration into other state plans as well as local hazard mitigation plan updates. Please see Chapter 5, strategy *MH-12*, *MH-13*, and *MH-32* for details.
- Strategy *MH-18* outlines the need to build support for legislation for an integration of local comprehensive plans and local hazard mitigation plans. This strategy has been modified as local support would be necessary before any legislation could be passed.
- VDEM and PHMSA are working together to develop a mitigation primer for pipelines in the Commonwealth.

2.11 Final Draft Review

A draft of the plan was distributed to the VHMAC, VHMWG for review and comments. These groups were able to comment on all Chapters 1-7 of the standard plan. A two week comment period was allowed from December 3, 2012 – December 17, 2012. Comments were reviewed and necessary changes were made to the final draft of the plan.

