

APPENDIX C: PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH

This Appendix provides documentation of public and stakeholder outreach, and includes:

- Screenshots of the Public Hazard Mitigation Website and online Natural Hazards Citizens Preparedness Questionnaire (Citizen Survey)
- Media releases and newspaper articles on the County planning effort
- Informational handouts

Stakeholder involvement in this planning process has been broad and productive as discussed in Section 3 (Planning Process). Stakeholder input has been incorporated throughout this Plan document as identified in the references, as well as within specific mitigation initiatives identified in Volume II, Section 9.



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Tuesday - Jun 26, 2012



Tioga County Multi Hazard Mitigation Plan

The mission of the Tioga County Multi-Jurisdictional 2006 All-Hazard Mitigation Plan is to identify and reduce, through cost-effective and sustainable mitigation efforts, our vulnerability to natural and man-made hazards. In doing so, Tioga County seeks to create an informed and prepared community while protecting its health, safety, property, economy, quality of life, and environment.



Please help us better serve your needs by completing our survey. Just [CLICK HERE](#) to take the survey.

- ◆ [Hazard Mitigation Plan 2012 Update & Introduction](#)
- ◆ [What is Hazard Mitigation?](#)
- ◆ [How does this plan benefit Tioga County?](#)
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[Hazard Mitigation Plan 2012 Update & Introduction](#)

Tioga County residents are well aware of their vulnerability to natural hazards such as flooding, severe storms, and severe winter storms. Hazard mitigation planning is a step toward addressing these hazards and the effects on County businesses and population and reducing future damages due to hazard events. Residents and businesses benefit from comprehensive hazard mitigation planning by using a sustained proactive approach to reduce or eliminate long term risk to people and property from hazards. By utilizing mitigation planning, communities assess risks and identify actions to reduce their vulnerability and increase sustainability.

A Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) is a living document that communities use to reduce their vulnerability to hazards. HMPs form the foundation for a community's long-term strategy to reduce disaster losses and break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage. They create a framework for risk-based decision making to reduce damages to lives, property, and the economy from future disasters.

Further, communities must have an approved HMP to apply for or receive pre-disaster mitigation grant funding. Grant funding is available for projects to mitigate risk to both public and private property. For example projects such as home elevations and local flood mitigation projects are eligible for funding. Ultimately, these actions reduce vulnerability, and communities are able to recover more quickly from disasters.

Tioga County's original HMP was approved by FEMA in June 2006, and may be seen at the [2006 Plan link](#). By regulation, local HMPs must be formally updated every five years. The update process is an opportunity for Tioga County and its municipalities to re-examine its vulnerability to natural hazards, evaluate progress on the mitigation strategies identified in the original plan, and add new mitigation actions/projects/initiatives so that the County can continue to lower its overall natural hazard risk.

Tioga County's Soil and Water District is managing this plan update effort, supported by the Tioga County HMP Steering Committee and Tetra Tech, Inc. (Morris Plains, NJ). This plan update effort is expected to continue through Spring 2012. The County and all municipalities (the "Planning Partnership") have committed to participating in this update process, and so continue to be eligible for pre-disaster mitigation grant funding for eligible projects.

- ◆ [What is Hazard Mitigation?](#)
- ◆ [How does this plan benefit Tioga County?](#)
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seeks to create an informed and prepared community while protecting its health, safety, property, economy, quality of life, and environment.



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- ◇ [How does this plan benefit Tioga County?](#)

The hazard mitigation plan assists Tioga County with the following:

- An increased understanding of natural hazards the County faces.
- Reduced long-term impacts and damages to human health and structures and reduced repair costs.
- Development of more sustainable and disaster-resistant communities.
- Access to [federal mitigation grant funding](#) for eligible projects.

Proactive mitigation leads to sustainable, more cost-effective projects. By contrast, reactive mitigation tends to lead to the "quick-fix" alternatives; it simply costs too much to address the effects of disasters only after they happen. A surprising amount of damage can be prevented if the County anticipates where and how disasters will occur, and take steps to mitigate those damages.

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Hazard Mitigation Plan is to identify and reduce, through cost-effective and sustainable mitigation efforts, our vulnerability to natural and man-made hazards. In doing so, Tioga County seeks to create an informed and prepared community while protecting its health, safety, property, economy, quality of life, and environment.



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- ◇ [Hazard Mitigation Plan 2012 Update & Introduction](#)
- ◇ [What is Hazard Mitigation?](#)

Hazard Mitigation is any action taken to reduce the loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters (natural, technological and man-made) (www.fema.gov). It is often considered the first of the four phases of emergency management: mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

Mitigation measures fall into the following six general categories, and address both public and private property:

- **Prevention:** Measures such as planning and zoning, open space preservation, and development regulations, building codes, storm water management, fire fuelreduction, soil erosion, and sediment control.
- **Property Protection:** Measures such as acquisition, relocation, storm shutters, rebuilding, barriers, flood-proofing, insurance, and structural retrofits for high winds and earthquake hazards.
- **Public Education and Awareness:** Measures such as outreach projects, real estate disclosure, hazard information centers, technical assistance, and school age and adult education programs.
- **Natural Resource Protection:** Measures such as erosion and sediment control, stream corridor protection, vegetative management, and wetlands preservation.
- **Emergency Services:** Measures such as hazard threat recognition, hazard warning systems, emergency response, protection of critical facilities, and health and safety maintenance.
- **Structural Projects:** Measures such as dams, levees, seawalls, bulkheads, revetments, high flow diversions, spillways, buttresses, debris basins, retaining walls, channel modifications, storm sewers, and retrofitted buildings and elevated roadways (seismic protection).

- ◇ [How does this plan benefit Tioga County?](#)
- ◇ [How can I get involved in the Plan Update?](#)
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- ◇ [How can I get involved in the Plan Update?](#)
 - Take the Citizens Hazard Preparedness Survey.
 - Review the 2006 Hazard Mitigation Plan and provide input.
 - Review the 2012 Plan Update Draft and provide input.
 - Attend public outreach activities held during the Plan Update process.
 - Contact the County Contacts or Municipal Contacts if you are interested in mitigating your residential or commercial property.
- ◇ [Public Outreach Activities](#)

Announcements for public outreach activities held during the plan update process shall be made here once they are scheduled.

◇ [County Contacts](#)

Name	Agency	Telephone	eMail

- ◇ [Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee](#)
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◇ [County Contacts](#)

▫ [Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee](#)

As the title suggests, the role of the Steering Committee is to provide guidance and direction to the planning effort to ensure the resulting document will be embraced both politically and by the constituency within the planning area. The Steering Committee will provide guidance and leadership, oversee the planning process, and act as the point of contact for all participating communities and the various interest groups in the planning area. The makeup of this committee was selected to provide a cross section of views to enhance the planning effort and to help build support for hazard mitigation.

The Steering Committee that has been selected for this process is as follows:

Name	Affiliation
Barb Crannell	Town of Nichols
Gary Hammond	Tioga County Department of Public Works
Elaine Jardine	Tioga County Planning
Dick Lacount	Tioga County Emergency Management
Kevin Millar	Village of Owego
Bill Ostrander	Tioga County Geographical Information Systems
Judy Quigley	Tioga County Attorney
Martha Sauerbrey	Tioga County Legislator & Chamber of Commerce
Chet Spencer	Town of Nichols (alternate)
Debbie Standinger	Town of Owego Planning & Zoning
Wendy Walsh	Tioga County Soil & Water Conservation District

Agendas and Minutes for Steering Committee meetings may be reviewed here:

Meeting Date	Agenda or Minutes
<i>11/11/12</i>	<i>Minutes</i>
<i>12/12/12</i>	<i>Agenda</i>

◇ [Resources & Links](#)

◇ [Presentations](#)

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- ◇ [County Contacts](#)
- ◇ [Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee](#)
- ◇ [Resources & Links](#)

Agencies / Organizations

- New York State Office of Emergency Management – Mitigation Section:
<http://www.dhSES.ny.gov/oem/mitigation/>
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/index.html>
- New York City Department of Environmental Protection:
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/home/home.shtml>
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Home Page: www.fema.gov
- FEMA Hazard Mitigation Division: www.fema.gov/about/divisions/mitigation/mitigation.shtm
- FEMA – Region II: <http://www.fema.gov/about/contact/regionii.shtm>

Mitigation Planning

- FEMA Hazard Mitigation Planning Page: <http://www.fema.gov/plan/mitplanning/>
- Mitigation Planning Guidance Documents: <http://www.fema.gov/plan/mitplanning/guidance.shtm#3>

Flood Insurance and Grant Programs

- National Flood Insurance Program: www.fema.gov/business/nfip/index.shtm
- FEMA Mitigation Grant Programs: <http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/hma/index.shtm>

Regulatory

- Hazard Mitigation Planning Laws, Regulations and Guidance:
<http://www.fema.gov/plan/mitplanning/guidance.shtm>

Hazard Information

- FEMA Hazard Support: www.fema.gov/hazard/index.shtm
- National Weather Service – National: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>
- National Weather Service Forecast Office – Binghamton, NY: <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/bgm/>

- ◇ [Presentations](#)

- ◇ [Forms](#)



Tioga County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2012

Tioga County Hazard Mitigation
Planning Committee

Wendy Walsh, Director Manager
Tioga County SWCD

Richard LeCount, Director
Tioga County Emergency management

Judith Quigley
Tioga County Attorney

Elaine Jardine
Tioga County Director of Planning

Debra Standing
Town of Owego Planning

For more information contact:

Wendy Walsh, Project Manager
Tioga County SWCD
Phone: 607-687-3553
Email: walshw@co.tioga.ny.us

Richard LeCount, Director
Tioga County Emergency Management
Phone: 607-687-2023
Email: tcemo@co.tioga.ny.us

Reducing Losses to Natural Hazards

The mission of the Tioga County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, through partnerships and careful planning, is to identify and reduce the vulnerability to natural hazards in order to protect the general health, safety, welfare, quality of life, environment, and economy of the residents and communities within Tioga County.

Purpose

The Tioga County Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee is leading the update of the Tioga County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. This plan is an opportunity to detail a variety of potential hazards that could affect some or all of our citizens. It will also allow the County and participating municipalities to continue to be eligible for future mitigation funding from FEMA.

The goal of the plan update is to identify projects that can reduce damages from future natural hazards. The plan will include a Risk Assessment and a Hazard Mitigation Strategy. The primary hazards of concern in Tioga County include Severe Storms, Flooding, Severe Winter Storms, and Tornadoes.

The plan will focus on existing and future buildings, infrastructure, and critical facilities that might be impacted. Critical facilities include shelters and hospitals and infrastructure such as power-generation facilities, water utilities, roadways, railroads, and communication systems.

How can I provide information to support the plan?

A public survey is posted on the Tioga County website at www.tiogacountyny.com/departments/emergency-management or www.surveymonkey.com/s/WR586ZL

Please visit the site and complete the survey to provide valuable information for the planning process.

Inform the Planning Committee if you are interested in mitigation of your residential or commercial property.

Where can I review the Draft Plan and provide input if I choose?

Sections of the plan will be available for download and review at the Tioga County Emergency Management website at <http://www.tiogacountyny.com/departments/emergency-management>

Any comments should be forwarded to:

Wendy Walsh, Project Manager
Tioga County SWCD
Phone: 607-687-3553
Email: walshw@co.tioga.ny.us

Can I get funding to mitigate my property?

Once this Plan is approved by FEMA and adopted by Tioga County and participating municipalities, owners of properties vulnerable to flooding may be eligible to receive funding to elevate a structure above flood levels, or have their property acquired by their municipality. Generally the property must have a history of NFIP (National Flood Insurance Program) damage claims. The property owner may be responsible for up to 25% of the project costs. Interested property owners should contact their local municipal leaders.

A note about NFIP Flood Insurance:

Many properties in Tioga County are vulnerable to flooding; for those it is not a question of if, but when and how severe. NFIP flood insurance is available to everyone. Standard homeowner policies do NOT cover flood damage. Federal grants to mitigate vulnerable properties are typically only awarded to those who participate in, and have made claims against, the NFIP.

If you live in or near a flood prone area and don't have flood insurance, get it! If you have it and suffer flood damage, use it! If you can, mitigate your property!



- ✓ Pet food and extra water for your pet
- ✓ Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container
- ✓ Cash or traveler's checks and change
- ✓ Emergency reference material such as a first aid book
- ✓ Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person. Consider additional bedding if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- ✓ Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes. Consider additional clothing if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- ✓ Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper – When diluted nine parts water to one part bleach, bleach can be used as a disinfectant. Or in an emergency, you can use it to treat water by using 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleaches with added cleaners.
- ✓ Fire Extinguisher
- ✓ Matches in a waterproof container
- ✓ Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- ✓ Mess kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils, paper towels
- ✓ Paper and pencil
- ✓ Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

DISASTER SUPPLY KITS FOR YOUR HOME

Additional Items to Consider Adding to an Emergency Supply Kit:



- ✓ Prescription medications and glasses
- ✓ Infant formula and diapers
- ✓ Local maps
- ✓ Can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)
- ✓ Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- ✓ Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- ✓ Plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- ✓ Dust mask, to help filter contaminated air and Whistle to signal for help
- ✓ First aid kit: gauze, bandages, aspirin, tape, scissors, disinfectants, antiseptics, latex gloves, nonprescription medications
- ✓ Flashlight and extra batteries
- ✓ and extra batteries for both and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and a NOAA Weather Radio (HCR)
- ✓ Battery-powered or hand crank radio (HCR) perishable food
- ✓ Food, at least a three-day supply of non-tion
- ✓ Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation

Recommended Items to Include in a Basic Emergency Supply Kit:

When preparing for a possible emergency situation, it's best to think first about the basics of survival: **fresh water, food, clean air and warmth.**

Flood WATCH - Flooding is likely in your area due to meteorological conditions. Stay tuned to radio or TV. **Flood WARNING**—Flooding is occurring or will occur soon in your area. Seek higher ground. **Flash Flood WATCH**—Flash flooding could occur without warning due to meteorological conditions. **Flash Flood WARNING**—Flash flooding is occurring or will occur very soon. **Urban and Small Stream ADVISORY**—Flooding of small streams, streets and low-lying areas is occurring.

TERMS TO REMEMBER

Floods can happen all year round caused by melting snow combined with rainfall in the winter, heavy thunderstorms in the spring, and tropical storms in the summer and fall. Furthermore, urbanization - the conversion of woods and fields into roads and parking lots - increases rain runoff two to six times more than what would occur on natural terrain. There are two types of floods—**floods and flash floods**. Flooding occurs in known floodplains when prolonged rainfall over several days or intense rainfall over a short period of time causes a river or stream to overflow and flood the surrounding area. Floods generally develop over a period of hours or days. Flash flooding on the other hand is caused by slow moving thunderstorms or heavy rains from hurricanes and tropical storms. Flash floods generally occur within six hours of a rain event and often without warning.

Floods are among the most frequent, universal and costly natural disasters in the United States. As much as 90% of damage related to all natural disasters is caused by floods. Floods on average kill 100 people and generate \$4.6 billion in damage in the U.S. each year.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT FLOODING

FLOODS: Definitions & Terminology

FLOODS: Facts & Fiction

Fiction: A 100-year flood occurs only once every 100 years.

Fact: The 100-year flood is simply a climatic average; the same area could experience two 100-year floods in the same year. There is a 1% chance that a 100-year flood will occur in any given year.

Fiction: Flash floods occur only along flowing streams.

Fact: Flash floods can occur in urban areas where no streams are present.

Fiction: Homeowners' insurance policies cover flooding.

Fact: Unfortunately, many homeowners do not find out until it is too late that their homeowners' policies do not cover flooding. Contact your insurance company or agent to buy flood insurance. It takes 30 days for flood insurance to take effect.

Fiction: You cannot buy flood insurance if your property has been flooded.

Fact: You are still eligible to purchase flood insurance after your home or business has been flooded, provided your community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program.

Fiction: Larger trucks such as pick-up trucks and SUV's are safe to drive through floodwater.

Fact: Two (2) feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles, including SUV's and pick-up trucks.



EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Tioga County Residents:

Use this handy table of important local contacts during flood emergencies. These organizations provide important emergency information and help to flood victims during and after the flooding event.

ORGANIZATION	CONTACT INFO
Tioga County Sheriff	687-1010
Tioga County Emergency Management Office	687-2023
First Call for Help Tioga	1-800-227-5353 or 211
Southern Tier Red Cross	785-7207
Salvation Army	722-2987
Tioga Opportunities	687-4222
USGS	266-0217 waterdata.usgs.gov/ny/nwis/rt
National Weather Service	newweb.erh.noaa.gov/ahps2
Tioga County	tiogacountyny.com/flood
WEBO Radio Station	1330 AM and 107.9 FM
TV Stations	WBNG, WIVT, WICZ



FLOODING: ARE YOU READY?



What to do Before, During and After a Flood

A FLOOD AWARENESS TOOL BOX For TIOGA COUNTY RESIDENTS

Brought to you by: The Tioga County Flood Mitigation Group

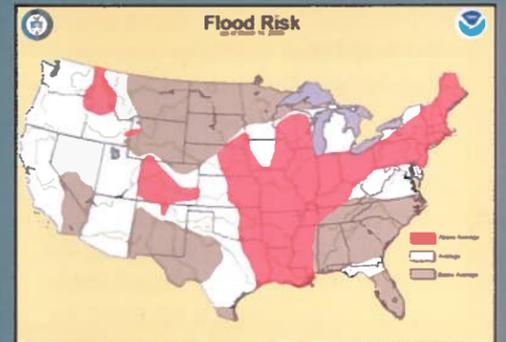


Funding and information provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency

HOW TO BE PREPARED FOR A FLOOD

If a FLASH FLOOD OR FLOOD WATCH is issued:

- Keep your previously-assembled Disaster Supply Kit near.
- Use a NOAA Weather Radio or listen continuously to a local station (WEBO 1330 AM / 107.9 FM) on a portable HCR or battery-powered radio or television.
- Be ready to act quickly—visit the Tioga County, United States Geological Survey (USGS) or National Weather Service websites — all have information on river levels (see Emergency Contact table).
- Be alert to signs of flooding, and if you live in a flood-prone area, be ready to evacuate at a moment's notice.
- Have a plan for evacuation of larger animals and pets.
- Follow the instructions of local authorities—they are the most informed about affected areas to avoid.
- Prepare your home in a flood-prone area
 - Fill plastic bottles with clean water for drinking
 - Fill bathtubs and sinks with water for flushing toilets and washing floors or clothing
 - Move furniture and valuables to higher floors of your home where they are less likely to be damaged
 - Turn off utilities if told to do so by authorities
 - Turn off propane tanks
 - Unplug small appliances
 - Bring outdoor belongings such as patio furniture inside
 - Fill your car's gas tank in case evacuation is necessary
 - Be prepared to evacuate



This map shows that Tioga County is in a high risk flood area. Also, the Susquehanna River is one of the most frequently flooded rivers in the nation.
BE PREPARED!

If a FLASH FLOOD OR FLOOD WARNING is issued:

- Keep your previously-assembled Disaster Supply Kit near.
- Use a NOAA Weather Radio or listen continuously to a local station (WEBO 1330 AM / 107.9 FM) on a portable HCR or battery-powered radio or television.
- Determine current flood water level by using the NOAA or USGS river gauge websites.
- Bring your pets indoors.
- If you live in a flood-prone-area and you are advised by authorities to evacuate, do so IMMEDIATELY.
 - Save yourself, not your belongings.
 - Bring your pets.
- Follow recommended evacuation routes.
- Leave early enough to avoid being marooned by flooded roads.
- Avoid already flooded areas and areas subject to flooding.
- Stay away from underpasses.
- Turn around and find another route if you come upon standing, flowing or rapidly rising water. Take routes on higher ground.



WHAT TO DO AFTER A FLOOD

Precautions When Returning to Your Home

Electrical power and natural gas or propane tanks should be shut off to avoid fire, electrocution, or explosions. Try to return to your home during the daytime so that you do not have to use any lights. Use battery-powered flashlights and lanterns, rather than candles, gas lanterns, or torches. If you smell gas or suspect a leak, turn off the main gas valve, open all windows, and leave the house immediately. Notify the gas company or the police or fire departments or State Fire Marshal's office, and do not turn on the lights or do anything that could cause a spark. Do not return to the house until you are told it is safe to do so.

Your electrical system may also be damaged. If you see frayed wiring or sparks, or if there is an odor of something burning but no visible fire, you should immediately shut off the electrical system at the circuit breaker.

Avoid any downed power lines, particularly those in water. Avoid wading in standing water, which also may contain glass, metal fragments or sewage.

You should consult your utility company about using electrical equipment, including power generators. Be aware that it is against the law and a violation of electrical codes to connect generators to your home's electrical circuits without the approved, automatic-interrupt devices. If a generator is on line when electrical service is restored, it can become a major fire hazard. In addition, the improper connection of a generator to your home's electrical circuits may endanger line workers helping to restore power in your area. All electrical equipment and appliances must be completely dry before returning them to service. It is advisable to have a certified electrician check these items if there is any question. **Also, remember not to operate any gas-powered equipment indoors.**

Cleanup

Walls, hard-surfaced floors, and many other household surfaces should be cleaned with soap and water and disinfected with a solution of 1 cup of bleach to five gallons of water. Be particularly careful to thoroughly disinfect surfaces that may come in contact with food, such as counter tops, pantry shelves, refrigerators, etc. Areas where small children play should also be carefully cleaned. Wash all linens and clothing in hot water or dry clean them. For items that cannot be washed or dry cleaned, such as mattresses and upholstered furniture, air dry them in the sun and then spray them thoroughly with a disinfectant. Steam clean all carpeting. If there has been a backflow of sewage into the house, wear rubber boots and waterproof gloves during cleanup. Remove and discard contaminated household materials that cannot be disinfected, such as wall coverings, cloth, rugs, and drywall.

Chemical Hazards

Use extreme caution when returning to your area after a flood. Be aware of potential chemical hazards you may encounter during flood recovery. Flood waters may have buried or moved hazardous chemical containers of solvents or other industrial chemicals from their normal storage places.

If any propane tanks (whether 20-lb. tanks from a gas grill or household propane tanks) are discovered, do not attempt to move them yourself. These represent a very real danger of fire or explosion, and if any are found, police or fire departments or your State Fire Marshal's office should be contacted immediately.



**100-YEAR FLOOD
ELEVATION**

**2006 FLOOD
LEVEL**



**100-YEAR FLOOD
ELEVATION**

**2006 FLOOD
LEVEL**

Tioga County Updating FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan to Maintain Eligibility for Federal Grant Funding

Tioga County's Department of Emergency Management and the Planning Department in conjunction with the Soil and Water Conservation District are working to formally update the County's 2006 Hazard Mitigation Plan so that the County and municipalities can continue to apply for and receive Federal mitigation grant funding.

A Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) is a living document that communities use to reduce their vulnerability to hazards. HMPs form the foundation for a community's long-term strategy to reduce disaster losses and break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage. They create a framework for risk-based decision making to reduce damages to lives, property, and the economy from future disasters.

Further, communities must have an approved HMP to receive pre-disaster mitigation grant funding. Grant funding is available for projects to mitigate risk to both public and private property. For example projects such as home elevations and local flood mitigation projects are eligible for funding. Ultimately, these actions reduce vulnerability, and communities are able to recover more quickly from disasters.

Tioga County's original HMP was approved by FEMA in June 2006, by regulation must be formally updated every five years. The update process is an opportunity for Tioga County and its municipalities to re-examine its vulnerability to natural hazards, evaluate progress on the mitigation strategies identified in the original plan, and add new mitigation actions/projects/initiatives so that the County can continue to lower its overall natural hazard risk.

This plan update effort is expected to continue through Spring 2012. The County and all municipalities (the "Planning Partnership") have committed to participating in this update process, and so continue to be eligible for pre-disaster mitigation grant funding for eligible projects. In November of 2011, the Tioga County Emergency Management Office received a planning grant for \$52,500 from FEMA, through the NYS Office of Emergency Management and Tioga County is providing \$17,500 in project match for a total grant award of \$70,000.

To inform and engage the public and other local and regional stakeholders in the planning process, the County has developed a hazard mitigation planning website at:

<http://www.tiogacountyny.com/departments/emergency-management/tioga-county-all-hazards-mitigation-plan.html>

This site includes an online hazards awareness and preparedness survey, and will include sections of the Draft Plan as it becomes available. The public is encouraged to visit the site, take the online survey, review the Draft Plan and provide input to the planning process.

For more information, contact Wendy Walsh, at the Tioga County Soil and Water Conservation District at 607-687-3553 or walshw@co.tioga.ny.us or Dick LeCount at the Department of Emergency Management 607-687-2023 or by email at tcemo@co.tioga.ny.us

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 Turn what's possible into what's next. >>

Tioga County updating mitigation plan

BY AMANDA RENKO (STAFF WRITER)

Published: January 28,

ARTICLE TOOLS

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SIGN UP NEWSLETTER

Tioga County officials announced plans Friday to formally update the county hazard mitigation plan.

Officials from the county department of emergency management, planning department and soil and water conservation district hope to have a draft of updated plan completed by the end of spring, according to a release from county. The plan was last updated and approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in 2006.

FEMA requires that the plan be formally updated every five years, the release states. Communities must have a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan in order to receive pre-disaster mitigation grant funding, which is available for both public and private properties.

A hazard mitigation plan is a living document which forms the foundation for a community to reduce their vulnerability to natural disasters, cut down losses and rebuild the damage that does occur.

Updating the plan will allow the county and its municipalities to continue to be eligible to apply for mitigation grants. An update would also give county officials the chance to revisit its vulnerability to natural hazards, evaluate the results of the original plan and add new projects.

"Ultimately, these actions reduce vulnerability, and communities are able to recover more quickly from disasters," the release states.

All of the county's municipalities have committed to participating in the plan update process, according to the release.

Waverly trustees agreed to participate in the plan at their Tuesday meeting. Ron Keene, the village's representative for the county council of governments, said he attended a recent meeting about the plan.

The updated plan "will affect every community in the county," Keene told trustees Tuesday. "It's quite a program."

County officials have asked for public input as it drafts the updated plan. Citizens can take a hazard preparedness survey on the county's website,

www.tiogacountyny.com. The county will also hold public outreach events during the plan update process and provide sections of the updated draft on the county website as they become available.

For more information, contact Wendy Walsh of the Tioga County Soil and Water Conservation District at (607) 687-35: walshw@co.tioga.ny.us or Dick LeCount at the county Department of Emergency Management at (607) 687-2023 or tcemo@co.tioga.ny.us.

Amanda Renko can be reached at (570) 888-9652; or email: arenko@thedailyreview.com.

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Tioga County updating mitigation plan

BY AMANDA RENKO (STAFF WRITER)

Published: January 28, 2012

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SIGN UP NEWSLETTER

Tioga County officials announced plans Friday to formally update the county's hazard mitigation plan.

Officials from the county department of emergency management, planning department and soil and water conservation district hope to have a draft of the updated plan completed by the end of spring, according to a release from the county. The plan was last updated and approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in 2006.

FEMA requires that the plan be formally updated every five years, the release states. Communities must have a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan in order to receive pre-disaster mitigation grant funding, which is available for both public and private properties.

A hazard mitigation plan is a living document which forms the foundation for a community to reduce their vulnerability to natural disasters, cut down losses and rebuild the damage that does occur.

Updating the plan will allow the county and its municipalities to continue to be eligible to apply for mitigation grants. An update would also give county officials the chance to revisit its vulnerability to natural hazards, evaluate the results of the original plan and add new projects.

"Ultimately, these actions reduce vulnerability, and communities are able to recover more quickly from disasters," the release states.

All of the county's municipalities have committed to participating in the plan update process, according to the release.

Waverly trustees agreed to participate in the plan at their Tuesday meeting. Ron Keene, the village's representative for the county council of governments, said he attended a recent meeting about the plan.

The updated plan "will affect every community in the county," Keene told trustees Tuesday. "It's quite a program."

County officials have asked for public input as it drafts the updated plan. Citizens can take a hazard preparedness survey at the county's website,

www.tiogacountyny.com. The county will also hold public outreach events during the plan update process and provide sections of the updated draft on the county website as they become available.

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POLL

A recent Poll Position poll asks: What would you do if you were on a sinking ship?

- I would stay aboard and wait for help to arrive
- I would jump into the water and try to swim for safety

Show results

This poll is not scientific and is meant for entertainment purposes.



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Tioga County begins updates for hazard mitigation plan

Tioga County is working to update its hazard mitigation plan to allow future federal mitigation grants.

The Tioga County Department of Emergency Management, the county's Planning Department and its Soil and Water Conservation District are working together to update the county's 2006 hazard mitigation plan, which the county said is used by communities to reduce "their vulnerability to hazards."

The decision comes months after flooding in September caused widespread damage to parts of Tioga County, including the towns of Owego, Nichols and Tioga. The HMP is designed to produce a long-term strategy to reduce losses suffered in a disaster and to "break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage," according to a press release.

The new HMP is necessary for the county to receive federal funding to help mitigate future risk to disasters. The funding could be used for a variety of programs including increasing home elevations.

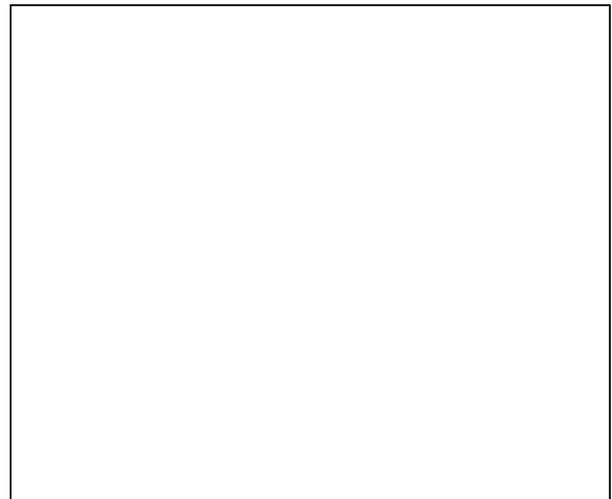
The county's 2006 HMP was approved by the Federal Emergency Management

Agency and has to be updated every five years. Work on the plan will continue for the next few months, officials said, and will include input from all municipalities. The county is also looking for input from the public, via its website -- www.tiogacountyny.com -- that will offer sections of the draft plan, once it becomes available, as well as a hazard awareness and preparedness survey. Individuals can also leave comments about the plan.

A \$52,500 grant, along with \$17,500 provided by the county, will be used to pay the cost of the new HMP.

Those with questions can call Wendy Walsh, with the county's Soil and Water Conservation District, at (607) 687-3553 or walshw@co.tioga.ny.us, or Dick LeCount, with the county's Department of Emergency Management, at (607) 687-2023 or tcemo@co.tioga.ny.us.

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**For Immediate Release
February 7, 2012**

Tioga County Hosting Hazard Mitigation Plan Public Meeting

Tioga County's departments of Emergency Management, Planning and the Soil & Water Conservation District are working to formally update the County's 2006 Hazard Mitigation Plan and the County invites you to a Hazard Mitigation Planning Meeting on February 16th, from 7:00-8:30 pm at the Hubbard Auditorium located in the County Office Building at 56 Main Street, to explain the purpose and benefits of mitigation planning.

A Hazard Mitigation Plan is a living document that communities use to reduce their vulnerability to hazards. Hazard Mitigation Plans form the foundation for a community's long-term strategy to reduce disaster losses and break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage. The plan creates a framework for risk-based decision making to reduce damages to lives, property, and the economy from future disasters.

As part of the planning process, outreach to the public and stakeholders are critical to the development of comprehensive strategies to manage natural hazard risk, and Tioga County is seeking your input to this planning process. For more information please visit our webpage at <http://www.tiogacountyny.com/departments/emergency-management/tioga-county-all-hazards-mitigation-plan.html>

If you have any questions, please contact Wendy Walsh at 607-687-3553 or via email at walshw@co.tioga.ny.us

Agency	Are critical facilities disaster resistant?	Is transportation infrastructure designed to withstand damage?	Is utility infrastructure disaster resistant to support emergency support functions during hazard events?	Are public education programs effective?	Are announcements of road closures accurate and available to support law enforcement functions?	Is public aware of emergency warning services and do they comply?	Does your organization inform public how to better manage their risks?	Does emergency response services respond properly to natural disasters in your community?	Does local government understand and support hazard risk reduction in the community?	Is your agency covered by a COOP/COG plan?
Town of Barton Highway Dept	Y	N-there is no way to plan for all hazards.	N-there is no way to plan for all hazards.	Y-the public nes to take responsibility for their actions.	Y	N-People still want to go as if normal.	Y	Y	Y	Y
Riverview Manor Health Care Center	Unsure-Riverview Manor is located on the bank of the Susquehanna River and experienced flooding in 2005, 2006, and 2001. Location has become problematic, although not before these 3 events. Riverview has a generator that can power all needs within the entire facility. Local hospitals seem to have more in the way of disaster management funds and equipment.	Unsure-Roads and bridges in our immediate area were intact once the flood waters receded. Outlying areas failed as roads and bridges washed out. Major highways and other roadways were closed for days after the 2011 flood.	No-Phone systems failed from the 2011 flood, both lines and cell phone towers. NYSEG was overwhelmed and could not begin efforts until flood waters receded. NYSEG mounted a significant response afterward, and brought in crews from around the state. They worked almost continuously to restore power, but the number of local crews has dwindled over the years in a cost savings measure, so few units were available until help arrived from other regions and states.	Now that the 2011 flood occurred, individuals may be more willing to listen to education. If not already being done, mass education should be provided to include assuring that each and every household knows what to include in an emergency preparedness kit.	There was confusion and chaos over road closures as waters rose, partly because it was the worst flood in our region's history. Emergency routes should be communicated better - it is not enough to tell people not to travel. People were either evacuated or trapped, and that very fact makes them try to move around. Communication failed to provide accurate information or to state the scope of the problems.	No-Many people are not aware, and others do not comprehend. Some do not use computers or cell and text services.	Because I arrived at Riverview post the flood, I do not have this information. Our future plan is to work closely with the Tioga County EMS. That will help us better manage our facility's risk to the benefit of our residents.	Unsure-This all depends on the scope and type of disaster.	Local government understands, but they do not have the resources they need.	No.
Owego Police	Y- Speaking strictly for the police department, I can say that the location of the department was beneficial in the 2012 flood that being high enough to escape rising flood waters and continue it's operations with the use of generator. And with that was able to assist other agencies within the village. The structure itself is in dire need of repair.	No-Specifically the North Ave underpass. A major roadway through the Village and it consistently floods with heavy rains.	Yes	No. Even after being advised to evacuate their homes many chose to stay and eventually needed rescue from fire or police.	Yes	No. Even after being advised to evacuate their homes many chose to stay and eventually needed rescue from fire or police.	Yes.	No. I am working now to ensure that all of the officers of the police department receive relevant training regarding response to natural disasters.	No. Again, I think there should be more relevant training.	Yes
Spencer Fire	Yes	No-hazard of roads.	Yes.	No. Don't know their local SOG?	Yes.	No. Look at Sept. flood.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	No-not sure.
TC. Chamber of Commerce	The Owego Fire Department is located in the floor plain and likely will not be relocating therefore not disaster-resistant.	Local governments do not have the funding to make roads and bridges strong enough to withstand all situations. The terrain in this area creates situations that present a challenge for local roads and bridges.	Yes.	Yes.	During the flood communication with the public was a challenge due to the fact that there was no electricity. There was some confusion on local roads with some people getting through road blocks and others not...due the person that was at the road closure site.	The public is not aware of NY Alert.	The Chamber does not inform our members how they can better manage risks to natural hazards.	Yes.	No.	No.
Waverley Police Dept.	Yes.	Unsure	Unsure	Unsure	No. There was a real lack of information in Waverly with regard as to what was happening in Eastern Tioga County during September, 2011 flood (East of Barton). This caused major traffic problems in Waverly.	Unsure	Yes. There is room for improvement.	Yes.	No.	Yes.

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Town of Owego Highway Dept.	No. Speaking for my SHOP, it is a definite No! It will happen again.	No. With the magnitude of 4031, nothing would have worked.	Unsure. Not my Deps.	No. Public awareness programs and advertising needed (ongoing).	No. No communication network in the beginning-Spotty as time went on.	No. Public awareness in insufficient.	Unsure. I feel we need some ongoing public awareness campagn. Even after the disaster is over.	Yes. Depends on magnitude of trhe disaster.	Unsure.	
Sheriff	Yes. With the exception of the back-up 911 center which needs to be re-located to Carmicheal Hill Road.	No. With the magnitude of 4031, nothing would have worked.	Yes. Except 911 back-up center.	Yes.	Yes.	No. More public awarenes is needed.	Yes.	No. Radion communication system needs maintenance and enhancement.	No. Lacks understanding and funding.	Yes. Plan need to be revisited and updated.
New York State Police	No. Many facilities rely too heavily on existng electrical, natural gas, propane, and water supplies that have failed during disasters. This includes too mch reliance on telephone/cell phone systems without back-up systems.	No. Many transportation infrastructure items cannot withstand damage as seen during floods in 2006 and 2011. Passage roads or disaster resistant transportation alleys (roads iimproved to ensure passage across the county) have not been identified and/or improved.	No. Due to the size and location of the county, our comm. Infrastructure lacks this disaster resistance as seen in other more populated areas.	No. Need more public education of these programs and how the public can mitigate their impact on laq enforcement resources during hazard events.	No. Road closure announcements are not delivered as far out as possible, and specific instr4rctions regarding restrictions, exemptions, and actual enforcement are not detailed enough, nor repeatedly delivered.	Yes. Need to ensure these emergency warning and notification systems are reatedly used (more than once or twice) and also include social media outlets.	No. Our agency relies on other emergency services to provide awaremenss trainin and notfication to the public. We work in support of these established programs.	Yes. The emergency response plans, services, and equipment are adequate, but more training is needed and updating required equipment is necessary. Many local emergency services did not (or do not) understand their "reach back" or higher level of support or command and control.	No. Local governments don't support or understand their role in county wide operations, mor do they share their information or services in order to lessen confusion or improve efficiency of services provided.	Yes.
Owego Fire Department	No. Owego fire department is working with FEMA and our engineers to improve this situation in our case. We have not back-up power currently. Our building locations are a challenge. Therer are few alternatives.	No.	No. Owego Fire Department is working to improve [?] communication capabilities.	No. The communications/public education is in place. Some people do not heed the warnings and directions.	Yes. The county EOC does a good job of communicating this informtion to all.	No.	Yes. Unfortunately some people do not listen.	No. There should be more frequent updating of plans. There should be more meetings and traing sessions. There should be more realistic annual exercises.	No. Local government leaders should be mandated to be trained in ICS.	No. All Hazard Emergency Plan only. Unfortunately it is not readily available.
Town of Sidney Firefighters	No. River St. Fire Station and Training Center in Floodplain.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.
Weltonville Fire Dept.	No. During the last event, there were shelte4rs tht did not have back up power.Our fire staqtion is equipped with a back up gnerator that allowed us to have lights, cooking facilities and hot showers during the event.	No. During the flood, roads were washed away and bridges were damaged by flood water and debris. Creeks were not cleaned and downed trees washed down stream causing extensive damage by striking structures or by causing water back up into areas not normally effected. Some roadways are still unrepaired with no shoulders and some driving lane damage.	No. The telephone communications to our area were lost very early in the last event. The telephone cables were attached to the underside of a bridge, the cable was damaged by high flow water in the creek. The county radio tower was damaged so that radio communications with the dispatch center were impeded.	No. Very little public education done. People are not informed where the local shelters are. No facilities for pet relocation may make people stay in their homes beyond a period that is safe for them to do so.	No. The unifed command and disaster plan for the Town of Candor was clearly not enacted duringthis past event.	No. Not sure if people are aware that these programs exist.	no. Notg aware of funding available todo commijity preparedness education. Current budget does not allow for these programs.	No. We have good equipment. We may not have enough trained bolunteers to manage the situation. There was a disaster plan in place during thelast event, but it was not implemented or used.	No. I think that there is an overall wait andsee kind of attitude. It is not a problem until it is a problem.	Yes. The county mutual aid plan is available in the event of loss of a department's ability to respond to an emergency. Agency chain of command has provisions for contiuity if services.
Waverly Barton Fire District	Yes.	No. I think that the roads and bridges are not in the shape they should be (for maintenance reasons). Just don't think can handle the heavy load.	No. We have always had issues on this.	Yes. For the most part.	Yes/No. Itg all comes down to communications again.	Not sure.	Yes.	I think it work pretty good on this last event.	Not really???	