

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: CITY OF MILWAUKEE ALL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

BACKGROUND

The City of Milwaukee all hazard mitigation plan update, which revises the City's initial 2005 hazard mitigation plan, sets forth the most appropriate, feasible, and effective hazard mitigation strategy for the City of Milwaukee over the period 2012 through 2016. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires that the plan be reviewed and updated every five years. The updated plan, which was prepared by the staffs of the City of Milwaukee Department of Public Works, City of Milwaukee Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, and the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC), is documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Report No. 282 (2nd edition), [*City of Milwaukee All Hazard Mitigation Plan Update*](#): June 2011.

Preparation and adoption of the updated plan is necessary to retain City eligibility for mitigation funding for the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program administered by the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs, Division of Emergency Management (WEM).

The plan was developed under the guidance of the City of Milwaukee All Hazards Mitigation Plan Steering Committee, which was created by the City specifically for plan development purposes and is comprised of officials; agency and business representatives; and citizens from throughout the City knowledgeable in hazard mitigation matters. Where appropriate, the members of the original Steering Committee were reappointed for this plan update. In assembling the Steering Committee, the Department of Public Works and Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security sought representatives from law enforcement; the City's fire, public works, and community development departments; the County emergency management office and transit system; the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District; interested nongovernmental organizations; and the health care community.

The Steering Committee met three times during the plan preparation period to provide input on the types of hazards to be considered and appropriate mitigation strategies, and to review the draft report chapters. Copies of draft plan chapters were placed in downloadable form on the website of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) and a webpage was available on the website so members of the public could ask questions and submit comment upon the draft plan update. When the draft plan was completed, public informational meetings were held at the Andersen Lake Tower and the Department of Public Works Field Headquarters on June 7, 2011.

FOCUS OF THE PLANNING EFFORT

The focus of this planning effort is upon hazard mitigation measures. Such measures generally involve long-term, often permanent, measures designed to reduce the exposure to, probability of, or potential risk to human life and property from hazardous events. Such measures tend to focus on actions related to where and how to build structures, education to reduce losses or injury, and programs to improve the safety of identified hazard areas. A hazard mitigation plan outlines the strategy for mitigating the hazards potentially impacting a county or municipality.

The mitigation plan should be distinguished from, but compatible with, an emergency operations plan. Such a plan is defined as a plan which describes how people and property will be protected in disaster and disaster threat situations; details who is responsible for carrying out specific actions; identifies the personnel, equipment, facilities, supplies, and other resources available for use in the disaster; and outlines how all actions will be coordinated.

PLANNING ANALYSIS AND PLAN COMPONENTS

The analysis includes three components: 1) profile and analysis of hazard events; 2) community vulnerability assessments; and 3) development of hazard mitigation strategies.

The updated plan reviews implementation of the initial plan and includes revised and updated inventories of:

- Demographic data,
- Existing and planned land use,
- Lake Michigan shoreline and bluff stability conditions,
- Transportation and utility systems,
- Critical community facilities,

- Existing regulations and programs, and
- Hazard occurrence and expected damages.

The updated plan takes an “all hazards” approach and identifies and provides mitigation strategies for a variety of hazards including both natural hazards and human-induced hazards. Natural hazards identified include:

- Flooding,
- Thunderstorms, high winds, hail, and lightning,
- Tornadoes,
- Extreme temperatures,
- Winter storms,
- Lake Michigan coastal erosion, and
- Earthquakes.

Human-induced hazards identified include:

- Contamination or loss of water supply,
- Hazardous material incidents,
- Medical emergencies and health risks,
- Terrorism, and
- Major fire or emergency incidents.

The updated plan identifies and recommends priority mitigation strategies for the identified hazards. For flooding, the recommended priority mitigation strategies include:

- Floodland and wetland zoning and zoning review,
- Preservation of open space and sensitive areas,
- Purchase, demolition, and removal or floodproofing of 94 structures,
- Stream channel clearing, maintenance, or rehabilitation,
- Stormwater management planning, regulation, and facility maintenance,
- National Flood Insurance Program map updating,
- Elevation surveys of buildings near flood hazard areas, and
- Levee and floodwall construction and improvement.

Recommended priority mitigation strategies for weather-related hazards include:

- Maintaining early warning systems,
- Public information and education,
- Identifying and advertizing shelters,
- Reviewing and enforcing building code requirements,
- Coordination of local government emergency operations and response plans, and
- Continued implementation of the National Incident Management System.

Recommended priority mitigation strategies for human induced hazards include:

- Public information and education,
- Continued coordination of emergency response, and
- Continued support of training, equipping, planning, and preparedness for emergency responders, and
- Continued implementation of the National Incident Management System.