



County of Passaic

Department of Public Safety



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Passaic Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Underway

The public is invited to participate in updating the countywide Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) that will pave the way for mitigation funding. Please consider attending the following public meetings to learn more about the project:

- Kickoff meeting for the 2020 HMP: The meeting is October 10, 2019 at 10am: Passaic County Public Safety Academy (Auditorium), 300 Oldham Road, Wayne NJ 07470.
- National Weather Service SKYWARN Spotter Training Session: Residents can learn more about severe weather events and the 2020 HMP update. The meeting is September 24, 2019 at 7pm: Passaic County Public Safety Academy (Auditorium), 300 Oldham Road, Wayne NJ 07470.

To stay informed on the planning process, please visit our website at:

http://www.passaiccountynj.org/government/departments/office_of_emergency_management/hazard_mitigation_plan.php

We encourage all Passaic County residents to take the online survey to gauge citizen preparedness available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/passaichmp2020>.

Passaic County has received a grant to complete a mandatory five-year update of its existing 2015 Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) defines hazard mitigation as a “sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and their property from hazards.” Passaic County’s Hazard Mitigation Plan will identify key actions to be taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from natural disasters.

PASSAIC COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE
News Release



The Disaster Mitigation Act (DMA) of 2000 requires local governments to have a hazard mitigation plan approved by FEMA. This plan will eventually form the basis for a long-term strategy to help reduce or eliminate disaster losses, and break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage.

The goal of the plan is to identify projects that can reduce damages from future natural hazards. The plan includes a risk assessment and a hazard-mitigation strategy. The hazards of concern include coastal storm, dam failure, drought, earthquake, extreme temperature, flood, geologic hazards, severe weather, winter weather, wildfire, hazardous substances and disease outbreak. The study focuses on the population, existing and future buildings, infrastructure and critical facilities that might be impacted.

Communities with an approved HMP may apply for FEMA pre-disaster mitigation funding for projects to mitigate risk to both public and private property, such as home acquisitions/elevations and local flood-control measures. Ultimately these projects will reduce vulnerability and enable communities to recover more quickly from disasters.

Additional information regarding future opportunities to participate in the plan update will be posted on the mitigation website:

http://www.passaiccountynj.org/government/departments/office_of_emergency_management/hazard_mitigation_plan.php Opportunities include attendance at public meetings, taking the citizen survey and review of the draft plan. For more information, please contact Passaic County Office of Emergency Management at 973-904-3621, pcoem@passaiccountynj.org