



2. PLANNING PROCESS

This chapter describes the planning process used to update the Sussex County HMP, including how it was prepared, who was involved in the process, and how the public was involved. The planning approach aimed to achieve the following results:

- The plan is multi-jurisdictional, including all municipalities in the County. Sussex County invited all jurisdictions in the County to join in the planning process. To date, all 24 local municipal governments in the County (the Planning Partnership) have participated in the 2025 plan update process (B indicates boroughs; Twp indicates townships):
 - Sussex County
 - Andover (B)
 - Andover (Twp)
 - Branchville (B)
 - Byram (Twp)
 - Frankford (Twp)
 - Franklin (B)
 - Fredon (Twp)
 - Green (Twp)
 - Hamburg (B)
 - Hampton (Twp)
 - Hardyston (Twp)
 - Hopatcong (B)
 - Lafayette (Twp)
 - Montague (Twp)
 - Newton (T)
 - Ogdensburg (B)
 - Sandyston (Twp)
 - Sparta (Twp)
 - Stanhope (B)
 - Stillwater (Twp)
 - Sussex (B)
 - Vernon (Twp)
 - Walpack (Twp)
 - Wantage (Twp)
- The format of the plan is such that other entities can easily join at a later date as part of the regulatory 5-year plan update process.
- The plan considers all natural hazards that pose a risk to the area, as required by 44 CFR 201. Non-natural hazards that pose significant risk were considered as well.
- The plan was developed following FEMA regulations and prevailing FEMA and state guidance. This ensures that all the requirements are met and supports plan review. In addition, the plan meets criteria for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) and the Flood Mitigation Assistance program.

Sussex County applied for and was awarded a multi-jurisdictional planning grant under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (FEMA-4488-0005-DR-NJ), which supported the development of this HMP. Grant administration was the responsibility of the Sussex County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management (DEM).

2.1 GENERAL MITIGATION PLANNING APPROACH

FEMA provides hazard mitigation planning support to local communities through guidance, resources, and plan reviews. This hazard mitigation plan was prepared in accordance with the following regulations and guidance:

- FEMA Mitigation Planning How-to Series (FEMA 386-1 through 4, 2002)
- Using HAZUS-MH for Risk Assessment; How-To Guide (FEMA 433, August 2004)
- FEMA Local Mitigation Plan Review Guide, October 1, 2011
- FEMA Mitigation Ideas: A Resource for Reducing Risk to Natural Hazards, January 2013
- FEMA Integrating Hazard Mitigation into Local Planning, March 1, 2013.
- FEMA Plan Integration: Linking Local Planning Efforts, July 2015



- FEMA Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide, April 19, 2022
- FEMA Local Mitigation Planning Handbook, May 2023
- DMA 2000 (Public Law 106-390, October 30, 2000)
- 44 CFR 201 and 206 (including: Feb. 26, 2002, Oct. 1, 2002, Oct. 28, 2003, and Sept. 13, 2004, Interim Final Rules)
- NJOEM Hazard Mitigation Planning Standard, 2019
- State of New Jersey Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2019

2.2 ORGANIZATION OF PLANNING PROCESS

2.2.1 Planning Process Participants

Project Management and Planning Consultant

Project management was the responsibility of the Sussex County Sheriff's Office DEM. A contract planning consultant (Tetra Tech) was tasked with the following:

- Assisting with the organization of a Steering Committee and the Planning Partnership
- Assisting with the development and implementation of a public and stakeholder outreach program
- Collecting data
- Facilitating and attending meetings (Steering Committee, municipal, stakeholder, public, and other)
- Reviewing and updating the hazards of concern, hazard profiles, and risk assessment
- Assisting with the review and update of mitigation planning goals and objectives
- Assisting with the review of past mitigation strategy progress
- Assisting with the screening of mitigation actions and the identification of appropriate actions
- Assisting with the prioritization of mitigation actions
- Authoring the draft and final plan documents

Planning Partnership

In February 2023, the County notified all municipalities in the County of the pending planning process and invited them to formally participate. Jurisdictions were asked to formally notify the County of their intent to participate via a letter of intent and to identify points of contact to facilitate their participation and represent the interests of their communities. All participating jurisdictions, including the County, are recognized as Planning Partners and belong to the Planning Partnership for this HMP. Planning Partnership members were charged with the following:

- Representing their jurisdictions throughout the planning process
- Ensuring participation of all departments and functions within their jurisdiction that have a stake in mitigation (e.g., planning, engineering, code enforcement, police and emergency services, public works)
- Assisting in gathering information for inclusion in the HMP update, including the use of previously developed reports and data
- Supporting and promoting the public involvement process
- Reporting on progress of mitigation actions identified in prior or existing HMPs, as applicable



- Identifying, developing, and prioritizing appropriate mitigation actions
- Reporting on progress of integration of prior or existing HMPs into other planning processes and municipal operations
- Supporting and developing a jurisdictional annex
- Reviewing, amending, and approving all sections of the plan update
- Adopting, implementing, and maintaining the plan update

Table 2-1 shows the primary and secondary points of contact for the participating jurisdictions in the Planning Partnership as of the time of publication of this plan update.

The various jurisdictions in Sussex County have differing levels of capabilities and resources available to apply to the plan update process, as well as differing levels of vulnerability to and impacts from the natural hazards being considered in this plan. It was Sussex County's intent to encourage participation by all jurisdictions, and to accommodate their specific needs and limitations while still meeting the intent and purpose of plan update participation. Such accommodations have included establishing a Steering Committee, engaging a contract consultant to assume certain elements of the plan update process on behalf of the jurisdictions, and providing alternative mechanisms for planning participation.

Ultimately, jurisdictional participation is evidenced by a completed annex of the HMP, wherein jurisdictions identify their points of contact, evaluate their risk from the hazards of concern, identify their capabilities to effect mitigation in their community, identify and prioritize a suite of actions to mitigate their hazard risk, and adopt the updated plan via resolution. Annexes are included in Volume II of this HMP.

Appendix B (Participation Matrix) identifies how each individual who represented the jurisdictions during this planning effort contributed to the planning process.

All municipalities in Sussex County actively participate in the NFIP and have a designated NFIP floodplain administrator. All floodplain administrators have been informed of the planning process, reviewed the plan documents, and provided direct input to the plan update. Local floodplain administrators are identified as part of each jurisdiction's hazard mitigation planning team, as presented in the jurisdictional annexes in Volume II, as well as in Appendix B (Participation Matrix).

After completion of the plan, implementation and ongoing maintenance will become a function of the Planning Partnership as described in Chapter 22 (Plan Maintenance). The Planning Partnership will be responsible for reviewing the draft plan and soliciting public comment as part of an annual review and as part of the five-year mitigation plan updates.



Table 2-1. Sussex County Hazard Mitigation Planning Partnership, Primary and Secondary Points of Contact for Participating Jurisdictions

Jurisdiction ^a	Primary Point of Contact	Title	Alternate Point of Contact	Title
Andover (B)	Jessica Casella	Emergency Management Coordinator	Beth Brothman	Registrar
Andover (Twp)	Chief Eric Danielson	Emergency Management Coordinator	George Laoudis	Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator
Branchville (B)	Jeff Lewis	Emergency Management Coordinator	Kate Leissler	Municipal Clerk
Byram (Twp)	Joseph Sabatini	Township Manager	Phil Crosson	Deputy Township Manager
Frankford (Twp)	Jeff Lewis	Emergency Management Coordinator	Lori Nienstedt	Administrator, Municipal Clerk, Public Information Officer
Franklin (B)	Jim Williams	Emergency Management Coordinator	Brian VanDenBroek	Public Works Supervisor
Fredon (Twp)	Keith Festa	Emergency Management Coordinator	Carl Lazzaro	Deputy OEM Coordinator
Green (Twp)	Mark Zschack	Municipal Clerk/Administrator	Margaret Phillips	Mayor
Hamburg (B)	Keith Sukennikoff	Emergency Management Coordinator	John Ruschke	Engineer
Hampton (Twp)	Diana Juarez	Clerk / Acting Administrator	George Chattaway	Emergency Management Coordinator
Hardyston (Twp)	William Hickerson	Emergency Management Coordinator	Carrie Piccolo-Kaufer	Township Manager
Hopatcong (B)	Wade Crowley	Emergency Management Coordinator	Ron Tappan	Borough Administrator
Lafayette (Twp)	Richard Hughes	Committeeman, Emergency Management Coordinator	Jim Ando	Public Works Supervisor
Montague (Twp)	Dave Coss	Emergency Management Coordinator	Jesse Brace-Revak	Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator
Newton (T)	Dan Finkle	Emergency Management Coordinator	Jason Miller	Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator
Ogdensburg (B)	Richard Keslo	Emergency Management Coordinator	George Hutnick	Mayor
Sandyston (Twp)	Kevin Pumphrey	Emergency Management Coordinator	Amanda Lobban, RMC	Municipal Clerk
Sparta (Twp)	Jeffrey McCarrick	Emergency Management Coordinator	Tom McIntyre	Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator
Stanhope (B)	Brian McNeilly	Borough Administrator	Eric Keller	Borough Engineer
Stillwater (Twp)	Lisa Chammings	Mayor, Emergency Management Coordinator	Jim Cantelmo	Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator



Jurisdiction ^a	Primary Point of Contact	Title	Alternate Point of Contact	Title
Sussex (B)	Floyd Southard	Emergency Management Coordinator	Robert Regavich	Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator
Vernon (Twp)	Ken Clark	Emergency Management Coordinator	Dan Young	Police Chief
Walpack (Twp)	Victor Maglio	Mayor	Christine Von Oesen	Municipal Clerk
Wantage (Twp)	Joe Konopinski	Emergency Management Coordinator	Michael Restel	Township Administrator

a. (B) indicates boroughs; (Twp) indicates townships; (T) indicates towns

Steering Committee

Sussex County developed a Steering Committee to provide guidance and direction to the HMP update effort and to ensure that the resulting document will be embraced by local government leaders and all who live and work within the planning area. Steering Committee members were charged with the following:

- Providing guidance and oversight of the planning process on behalf of the general planning partnership
- Attending and participating in Steering Committee meetings
- Reviewing and updating the hazards of concern
- Developing a public and stakeholder outreach program
- Ensuring that the data and information used in the plan update process is the best available
- Reviewing and updating the hazard mitigation goals
- Identifying and screening appropriate mitigation strategies and activities
- Reviewing and commenting on plan documents prior to submission to NJOEM and FEMA.

The Steering Committee provided guidance, leadership, and oversight of the planning process and acted as the point of contact for all participating jurisdictions and various interest groups in the planning area. Table 2-2 lists the members of the Steering Committee.

2.2.2 Planning Activities

Members of the Planning Partnership (individually and as a whole), as well as key stakeholders, met and communicated as needed to share information. This included workshops to identify hazards, assess risks, update inventories of critical facilities, and assist in updating mitigation goals and strategies. All members of the Planning Partnership had the opportunity to review the draft plan, supported interaction with other stakeholders, and assisted with public involvement efforts. These activities provided continuity through the process to ensure that natural hazard vulnerability information and appropriate mitigation strategies were incorporated.

Table 2-3 summarizes meetings and other planning activities conducted during the development of the plan. It also identifies which 44 CFR 201 requirements each activity satisfies. Documentation of meetings (agendas, sign-in sheets, minutes, etc.) may be found in Appendix D (Public and Stakeholder Outreach). This table identifies only formal meetings and milestone events in the plan update process. In addition to these meetings, there was a great deal of communication between Planning Partnership members and the consultant through individual local meetings, phone, and email.



Table 2-2. Sussex County Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee Members

Affiliation	Name	Title
Sussex County Sheriff's Office	Sheriff Michael F. Strada	Sheriff, Emergency Management Coordinator
Sussex County DEM	Steven Sugar	Deputy Coordinator
Sussex County DEM	Eric Muller	Deputy Coordinator
Sussex County DEM	James Aumick	Deputy Coordinator
Sussex County Division of Public Works	Scott House	Director
Sussex County Division of Planning and Economic Development	Autumn Sylvester	Coordinator, Agricultural Development Board
Sussex County Health and Human Services Division of Health	Christine Florio	Administrator
Atlantic Health System Newton Medical Center	Manny Ayers	Senior Supervisor Protection and Security Services
Wantage Township	Joe Konopinski	Wantage OEM Coordinator
Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority	Joe Sesto	Executive Director
Sussex County Administrator; Department of Central and Shared Services	Ron Tappan	County Administrator
Sussex County Engineering Department	William J. Koppenaal	Administrator
Sussex County Division of Planning	Tom Drabic	Planning Director
Sussex County Facilities Management	Keith Nelson	Director
Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Sussex County	Stephen Komar	Department Head
Atlantic Health System Newton Medical Center	Beata Dumala	Protection and Security Services
Sussex County Community College	Fred Mamay	Director Campus Safety & Security
Upper Delaware Conservation District	Sandra Meyers	District Manager
Andover Township	George Laoudis	Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator
New Jersey Bureau of Dam Safety	John Kale	Supervising Environmental Specialist
Sussex County Open Space Committee	Lisa Chammings	Chair
Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority	Angelo Baron	Wastewater Superintendent
Sussex County Division of Community and Youth Services	Nick Kapetanakis	Division Director
Sussex Rural Electric Coop	Claudia Raffay	Director of Marketing & Member Services
Sussex County Division of Senior Services	Lorraine Hentz	Vision Director
Atlantic Health System Newton Medical Center	Steven Sarinelli	Emergency Manager
Sussex County Department of Public Works	Ashley Gottemoller	Purchasing Assistant
Hampton Township	Edward Hayes	Former Emergency Management Coordinator
Hampton Township	Jessica M. Caruso	Former Township Administrator



Table 2-3. Summary of Mitigation Planning Activities

Date	44 CFR 201 Requirement ^a	Description of Activity	Participants ^b
March 8, 2023	2	<u>Pre-Kickoff Meeting with Sussex County:</u> Plan timing and administration, data needs and sharing, hazards of concern, dates, and next steps	Sussex County, Tetra Tech
March 15, 2022	2	<u>Steering Committee Meeting #1:</u> Welcome and Introductions, In-Kind Tracking, Project Organization, Roles/Responsibilities, HMP Overview, Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategy Overview, Data Collection, Public and Stakeholder Outreach Next Steps, and Schedule.	Sussex County DEM, Sussex County Division of Planning and Economic Development, Sussex County Health and Human Services Division of Health, Newton Medical Center, Wantage Township, Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority, Sussex County DPW, Tetra Tech
March 15, 2022	2, 3c, 4a	<u>Planning Partnership Meeting #1:</u> Welcome and Introductions, In-Kind Tracking, Benefits of Hazard Mitigation and Overview, Project Organization and Overview, Updating the Risk Assessment, Identifying Critical Facilities, Public and Stakeholder Outreach, Capability and Mitigation Strategies, Updating the Mitigation Strategy, Sections of Plan, Worksheet Review, Next Steps and Questions.	Sussex County, Andover (B), Andover (Twp), Branchville (B), Byram (Twp), Frankford (Twp), Green (Twp), Hamburg (B), Hardyston (Twp), Lafayette (Twp), Montague (Twp), Newton (T), Ogdensburg (B), Sandyston (Twp), Sparta (Twp), Stanhope (B), Stillwater (Twp), Sussex (B), Vernon (Twp), Walpack (Twp), Wantage (Twp), New Jersey State Police, Tetra Tech
April 9, 2024	2, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e, 4b	<u>Steering Committee Meeting #2:</u> Welcome and Introductions, In-Kind Tracking, Project Report and Status Review, Public and Stakeholder Outreach, Risk Assessment Review, Mitigation Strategy, Next Steps	Sussex County DEM, Sussex County Division of Senior Services, Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority, Hampton (Twp), Tetra Tech
April 11, 2024 AM Session	2, 3c, 3d, 3e, 4a, 4b	<u>Planning Partnership Meeting #2:</u> Welcome and Introductions, In-Kind Tracking, Project Report and Status Review, Public and Stakeholder Outreach, Risk Assessment Overview, Schedule, Next Steps	Andover (Twp), Byram (Twp), Hamburg (B), Hampton (Twp), Lafayette (Twp), Sparta (Twp), Wantage (Twp), Tetra Tech
April 11, 2024 PM Session	2, 3c, 3d, 3e, 4a, 4b	<u>Planning Partnership Meeting #3:</u> Welcome and Introductions, In-Kind Tracking, Project Report and Status Review, Public and Stakeholder Outreach, Risk Assessment Overview, Schedule, Next Steps	Branchville (B), Frankford (Twp), Montague (Twp), Stillwater (Twp), Tetra Tech
May 8, 2024	2, 3c, 3d, 3e, 4a, 4b	<u>Planning Partnership Meeting #4:</u> Welcome and Introductions, In-Kind Tracking, Project Report and Status Review, Public and Stakeholder Outreach, Mitigation Strategy, Schedule, Next Steps	Sussex County, Andover (Twp), Branchville (B), Byram (Twp), Frankford (Twp), Hamburg (B), Hampton (Twp), Montague (Twp), Newton (T), Sparta (Twp), Stillwater (Twp), Wantage (Twp), New Jersey State Police, Tetra Tech



Date	44 CFR 201 Requirement ^a	Description of Activity	Participants ^b
November 21, 2024	2	<u>Draft Plan Review Meeting</u> : Overview of entire plan and sections; confirmed plan maintenance schedule; public invited to attend.	Sussex County, Sussex County Central Purchasing Office, Sussex County Open Space Committee, New Jersey Highlands Council, Andover (Twp), Branchville (B), Byram (Twp), Frankford (Twp), Franklin (B), Fredon (Twp), Hamburg (B), Hampton (Twp), Hardyston (Twp), Hopatcong (B), Newton (T), Sparta (Twp), Stillwater (Twp), Walpack (Twp), Wantage (Twp), Tetra Tech
November 21, 2024	1b, 2	Draft HMP posted to public project website; all plan participants were notified and asked to assist with the public outreach including social media. Neighboring communities and stakeholders were notified of the posting as well.	Public and Stakeholders
December 23, 2024	2	HMP submitted to NJOEM	NJOEM
April 8, 2025	2	HMP submitted to FEMA Region II	FEMA Region II
Upon plan approval by FEMA	1a	Plan adoption by resolution by the governing bodies of all participating jurisdictions	All Plan Participants

Note: TBD = to be determined.

a. Numbers in column 2 identify specific requirements of 44 CFR 201.6, as follows:

1a – Prerequisite – Adoption by the Local Governing Body (201.6.a.1)

1b – Public Participation (201.6.b)

2 – Planning Process – Documentation of the Planning Process (201.6.c.1)

3a – Risk Assessment – Identifying Hazards (201.6.c.2.i)

3b – Risk Assessment – Profiling Hazard Events (201.6.c.2.i)

3c – Risk Assessment – Assessing Vulnerability: Identifying Assets (201.6.c.2.ii.A)

3d – Risk Assessment – Assessing Vulnerability: Estimating Potential Losses (201.6.c.2.ii.B)

3e – Risk Assessment – Assessing Vulnerability: Analyzing Development Trends (201.6.c.2.ii.C)

4a – Mitigation Strategy – Local Hazard Mitigation Goals (201.6.c.3.i)

4b – Mitigation Strategy – Identification and Analysis of Mitigation Measures (201.6.c.3.ii)

4c – Mitigation Strategy – Implementation of Mitigation Measures (201.6.c.3.iii)

5a – Plan Maintenance Procedures – Monitoring, Evaluating, and Updating the Plan (201.6.c.4.i)

5b – Plan Maintenance Procedures – Implementation through Existing Programs (201.6.c.4.ii)

5c – Plan Maintenance Procedures – Continued Public Involvement (201.6.c.4.iii)

b. For listed municipalities, (B) indicates boroughs, (Twp) indicates townships, and (T) indicates towns

2.3 STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH AND INVOLVEMENT

The Sussex County HMP update was written using the best available information obtained from a wide variety of sources. Throughout the HMP update process, a concerted effort was made to gather information from municipal and regional agencies and staff as well as stakeholders, federal and state agencies, and the residents of the County. A Steering Committee solicited information from local agencies and individuals with specific knowledge of natural hazards and past historical events. In addition, the Steering Committee and Planning Partnership took into consideration planning and zoning codes, ordinances, and recent land use planning decisions.



This section details the outreach to and involvement of the agencies, organizations, non-profits, districts, authorities, and other entities that have a stake in managing hazard risk and mitigation, commonly referred to as stakeholders. Efforts were made to ensure broad regional, county, and local representation in this planning process. A comprehensive list of stakeholders was developed with the support of the Steering Committee and Planning Partnership. Stakeholder outreach was performed early and throughout the planning process, including mass media notification efforts. Identified stakeholders were invited to attend the Planning Partnership risk assessment meeting, and key stakeholders were requested to participate as members of the Steering Committee or Planning Partnership. Information and input provided by these stakeholders has been included throughout this plan.

The following sections list the stakeholders who were invited to participate in the development of this plan and describe how they contributed to the plan. This summary information demonstrates the scope and breadth of the stakeholder outreach efforts during the planning process. Beyond those described here, many stakeholders were aware of and contributed to this plan through formal and informal outreach efforts by the Planning Partners.

2.3.1 Federal and State Agencies

The federal and state agencies listed in Table 2-4 were contacted during the planning process and participated as indicated.

Table 2-4. Participation of Federal and State Agencies

Agency	Participation
FEMA Region 2	Provided updated planning guidance; provided summary and detailed NFIP data for planning area; presented preliminary regulatory flood products to municipalities and the public; attended meetings; participated in a mitigation strategy workshop; conducted plan review.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI)• National Hurricane Center (NHC)• National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)• National Weather Service (NWS)• Storm Prediction Center (SPC)• U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)• U.S. Census Bureau• U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)	Information regarding hazard identification and the risk assessment for this HMP update was requested and received or incorporated by reference.
NJOEM	Administered planning grant and facilitated FEMA review; provided updated planning guidance; attended meetings; participated in the mitigation strategy workshop, provided review of draft and final plan.
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Watershed and Land Management Program	Was asked to provide information on the location of dams, identified issues with dams, and suggested mitigation actions to include in the mitigation strategy to address dam failure.

2.3.2 County and Regional Agencies

The county and regional agencies listed in Table 2-5 were invited to participate during the planning process and participated as indicated.



2.3.3 Stakeholders by Community Lifeline Category

FEMA defines community lifelines as fundamental services in a community that, when stabilized, enable all other aspects of society. Following a disaster event, intervention is required to stabilize community lifelines. All participating jurisdictions were asked to invite their internal agencies associated with community lifeline categories to complete a stakeholder survey. Many jurisdictions also directly involved representatives of these agencies in the planning process, as identified in Table 2-1. This section describes outreach to and participation by other stakeholders in the planning process associated with FEMA's eight designated community lifeline categories. More detailed information about community lifelines in the planning area is provided in Chapter 3.

Table 2-5. County and Regional Agencies

Agency	Participation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andover Township Hampton Township Newton Medical Center Sussex County Department of Public Works Sussex County DEM Sussex County Division of Health Sussex County Division of Planning and Economic Development Sussex County Division of Public Works Sussex County Engineering Department Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority Sussex County Open Space Committee Sussex County Sheriff's Office Wantage Township 	Served on steering committee, attended meetings, completed hazard of concern exercise, goals and objectives exercise, and reviewed draft plan.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sussex County Division of Senior Services 	Served on steering committee, attended meetings, provided input, and reviewed draft plan.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Sussex County Sussex County Administrator Sussex County Community College Sussex County Department of Central and Shared Services Sussex County Division of Community and Youth Services Sussex County Facilities Management Sussex Rural Electric Coop Upper Delaware Conservation District 	Served on the steering committee, provided input, and reviewed draft plan.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sussex County Fire Marshal Sussex County Board of Agriculture Family Promise of Sussex County Sussex County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Jersey Central Power & Light Verizon NJ North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority Skylands Ride Public Transportation New Jersey American Water Executive County Superintendent of Schools Sussex County Chamber of Commerce 	Invited to take the stakeholder survey and review the draft plan.



Safety and Security

Law Enforcement

Many municipalities directly involved law enforcement representatives in the planning process. Municipalities were asked to invite their law enforcement agencies to complete a stakeholder survey. The following law enforcement agencies were invited to complete a stakeholder survey and review the draft plan:

- Andover Township Police Department
- Byram Township Police Department
- Franklin Police Department
- Hardyston Police Department
- Hopatcong Police Department
- New Jersey State Police Sussex Station
- Ogdensburg Police Department
- Sparta Police Department
- Stanhope Police Department
- Sussex County Sheriff
- Vernon Police Department

Fire Districts and Fire Departments

Many jurisdictions directly involved fire districts or departments, hazmat teams, and rescue team representatives in the planning process. Jurisdictions were asked to invite their fire departments to complete a stakeholder survey. The following fire districts or departments, hazardous materials response teams, and rescue teams were invited to complete a stakeholder survey and review the draft plan:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| • Andover Borough Fire Department | • Lakeland Rescue Squad |
| • Andover Township Fire Department | • McAfee Fire Department |
| • Beemerville Fire Department | • Montague Township Fire Department Station 35 |
| • Blue Ridge Rescue Squad | • New Jersey Forest Fire |
| • Branchville Hose Company 1 | • Newton Fire Department |
| • Byram Township Fire Department | • Ogdensburg Fire Department |
| • Colesville Fire Department | • Pochuck Valley Fire Department |
| • Frankford Township Fire Department | • Quakertown Fire Co |
| • Franklin Fire Department | • Sandyston Fire Department |
| • Fredon Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) | • Sparta Fire Department |
| • Green Township Fire Department | • Stanhope Fire Department |
| • Hamburg Fire Department | • Stillwater Fire Department Station 42 |
| • Hampton Fire and Rescue | • Sussex Fire Department Station 69 |
| • Hardyston Fire Department | • Sussex County Fire Marshal |



- Highland Lakes Fire Department Station 29
- Hopatcong Fire Department
- Lafayette Fire Department
- Vernon Township Fire Co. 1
- Wantage Township Fire Department

Dams

In order to address high hazard potential dams, outreach was conducted with dam owners and the dam safety agency. The following information was requested, however no responses were received:

- Information, data, or resources regarding the risk of dam failure as a result of deficiencies or exposure to hazards such as flooding, geologic impacts, and severe storms
- Concerns with dam safety due to changing climate conditions
- Concerns with emergency action plan deficiencies, including warning time, evacuation needs, etc.
- Completed or in progress repairs/improvements to dams
- Potential new mitigation actions that should be considered for inclusion in the HMP mitigation strategy

Food, Hydration, Shelter

Jurisdictions were asked to invite their emergency management related agencies to provide information on shelters and sheltering procedures. The following stakeholders that provide food, hydration, shelter, and agricultural activities in the County were invited to complete a stakeholder survey and review the draft plan:

- Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program
- Sussex County Board of Agriculture
- American Red Cross
- Benny's Bodega
- Christ Church Newton
- Family Promise of Sussex County
- Ginnie's House
- Sparta Church

Health and Medical

Hospitals and Health-Care Facilities

The following health-care facility was invited to complete a stakeholder survey and review the draft plan:

- Newton Medical Center

Ambulance/Emergency Medical Services

Jurisdictions were asked to invite their ambulance and emergency medical service providers to complete a stakeholder survey. The following ambulance and emergency medical service providers in the County were invited to complete a stakeholder survey and review the draft plan:

- Blue Ridge Rescue Squad
- Fredon Fire and EMS



- Hampton Fire and Rescue
- Lakeland Rescue Squad
- Sussex County EMS
- Vernon Township Ambulance Squad
- Wantage First Aid Squad

Energy

In addition to municipal utilities, the following energy companies were invited to complete a stakeholder survey and review the draft plan:

- Jersey Central Power & Light
- Sussex Rural Electric Coop

Communications

Each jurisdiction was asked to provide information on emergency communication and warning systems. In addition, the following communications company was invited to complete a stakeholder survey and review the draft plan:

- Verizon NJ

Transportation

The following transportation companies and organizations were invited to complete a stakeholder survey and review the draft plan:

- North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority
- Skylands Ride Public Transportation

Water Systems

In addition to municipal utilities, the following water utility companies were invited to complete a stakeholder survey and review the draft plan:

- Montague Sewer Company (owned by Utilities Inc.)
- Musconetcong Sewer Authority District
- New Jersey American Water
- Stillwater Water District #1
- Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority
- Town of Newton Wastewater Utility
- Vernon Township Municipal Utilities Authority

2.3.4 Additional Stakeholder Groups

Additional stakeholder outreach was made to academia, business and commerce, and organizations that support socially vulnerable populations and underserved populations, as listed in the sections below.



School Districts and Other Academic Institutions

Many jurisdictions directly involved school district representatives in the planning process, as identified in Table 2-1. Jurisdictions were asked to invite representatives of their local schools to complete a stakeholder survey. Additionally, the following school districts, colleges, and academic organizations were invited to complete a stakeholder survey and review the draft plan:

- Sandyston-Walpack School District
- Sparta School District
- Stanhope School District
- Stillwater School District
- Sussex County Charter School for Technology
- Sussex County Community College
- Sussex County Education Services Commission/Northern Hills Academy
- Sussex County Technical School
- Sussex-Wantage Regional School District
- Vernon School District
- Wallkill Valley Regional High School
- Executive County Superintendent of Schools

Business and Commerce

The following chambers of commerce and businesses were invited to complete a stakeholder survey and review the draft plan:

- Ames Rubber Corporation
- Greater Newton Chamber of Commerce
- Mountain Creek Resort
- Selective Insurance Group, Inc.
- Stanhope Chamber of Commerce
- Sussex County Chamber of Commerce
- Thor Labs
- Vernon Chamber of Commerce

Groups Supporting Socially Vulnerable Populations and Underserved Communities

The following groups and agencies that provide support to and work with socially vulnerable populations and underserved communities were invited to complete a stakeholder survey and review the draft plan:

- Sussex County Division of Community and Youth Services
- Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Intervention Services
- Sussex County Disability Services
- Sussex County Department of Public Health
- Sussex County Division of Senior Services



- Sussex County Division of Social Services

2.3.5 Adjacent Jurisdictions

The County kept surrounding jurisdictions apprised of the project, invited them to complete a neighboring community survey, and requested their review of the draft plan. The following adjoining county and jurisdictional representatives were contacted to inform them about the availability of the project website, draft plan documents, and surveys and to invite them to provide input to the planning process:

- Morris County (NJ)
 - Jefferson Township
 - Roxbury Township
 - Mount Arlington Borough
 - Mount Olive Township
 - Netcong Borough
- Orange County (NY)
 - Deer Park Township
 - Port Jervis City
 - Greenville Township
 - Minisink Township
 - Warwick Town
- Passaic County (NJ)
 - West Milford Township
- Pike County (PA)
 - Lehman Township
 - Delaware Township
 - Dingman Township
 - Milford Township
 - Milford Borough
 - Westfall Township
 - Matamoras Borough
- Warren County (NJ)
 - Hardwick Township
 - Frelinghuysen Township
 - Allamuchy Township

2.3.6 Stakeholder and Neighboring Community Survey Summaries

This section summarizes the results and feedback received by those who completed the stakeholder and neighboring community surveys, with full results provided in Appendix D of this plan. Feedback was reviewed by the Steering Committee and integrated where appropriate in the plan.



Stakeholder Survey

The stakeholder survey was designed to identify general needs for hazard mitigation and resiliency within Sussex County from the perspective of stakeholders, as well as to identify specific projects that may be included in the mitigation plan. It was distributed to identified stakeholders, including county and municipal departments and agencies.

Who Responded

As of October 25, 2024, seven stakeholders completed the survey. Following are key results about who the survey respondents are and what they do:

- Respondents represent the following sectors: academic/research, education, emergency services, non-profit organizations, public works, and utility provider.
- 42.9 percent of respondents represent groups that serve the Borough of Andover.
- 14.29 percent of respondents represent groups that serve Sussex County as a whole.
- Respondents manage the following types of facilities:
 - Buildings
 - Stormwater infrastructure
 - Roads
 - Water/sewer plants
- 28.6 percent of respondents do not manage any facilities.
- 33.3 percent of respondents work with socially vulnerable populations:
 - Working with children who have special needs
 - After school programs
 - In-class educational support
 - Free and reduced lunch services

Risk Overview

Following are key results about the survey respondents' experience with hazards and risk:

- 42.9 percent of respondents indicated that buildings, facilities, or structures their organization is involved with have been impacted by a hazard, specifically as follows:
 - Sustained damages from Superstorm Sandy (2012) and the October snow storm (2011)
 - Closure from water main breaks
 - COVID pandemic disruption of treatment centers, schools, and community access to services
- The majority of respondents are unsure whether their facilities are susceptible to impacts from hazards. However, those who indicated their facilities are susceptible noted power failures, flood, and overall bad weather as vulnerabilities.
- Four respondents identified a facility as a critical facility or community lifeline.
- Respondents identified the following hazards and impacts as their greatest vulnerabilities:



- Water main breaks
- Severe weather
- Drought
- Power and utility disruption
- Surface water quality
- Infestations
- High winds
- Disease and illnesses
- Flooding and flash flooding
- Wildfires
- Respondents identified the following as challenges or barriers to reducing vulnerability in Sussex County:
 - Adequate funding for the planning and implementation of hazard mitigation
 - Evacuations
 - Distribution of resources

Socially Vulnerable and Underserved Communities

Following are key results about the survey respondents' work with socially vulnerable and underserved communities:

- 71.4 percent of respondents are not aware of the location and number of socially vulnerable populations in their community/operating area.
- 60 percent of respondents provide assistance to socially vulnerable or underserved populations in Sussex County.
- Of those who provide services to socially vulnerable populations, 62.5 percent offer services during times of disaster, including the following:
 - Human rights (20 percent)
 - Personal services (20 percent)
 - Regulatory oversight (20 percent)
 - Other (33.3 percent):
 - Emergency response
 - Environmental and agricultural programs
 - Grants assistance
- Respondents indicated the following barriers and community characteristics in Sussex County that may create additional vulnerabilities to hazards:
 - Transportation
 - Broadband access
 - Economic disadvantages
 - Physical health (chronic diseases)
 - Limited physical mobility
 - Age (older adults and children)



- Rural communities

Capabilities and Mitigation Strategies

Following are key results about the survey respondents' capabilities and mitigation strategies:

- 16.7 percent of respondents are part of a continuity of operations plan or continuity of government plan.
- 66.7 percent of respondents are part of an emergency operations plan.
- Respondents maintain the following capabilities that could assist in addressing hazards:
 - Emergency Response
 - Administration and maintenance staff
 - Back-up power for vulnerable locations
 - Conducting surveys and research
 - Sustainable agriculture grants
 - Watershed restoration planning
 - Climate hazard vulnerability planning
 - Planning guidance and grants
 - Stormwater assistance grants
 - Natural resource protection and green infrastructure requirements for the development of projects
- 50 percent of respondents are not involved in conducting studies or developing programs that would further support Sussex County's hazard mitigation program. One respondent is involved in such work.

Neighboring Community Survey

The neighboring community survey was sent to the county and municipal governments that border Sussex County due to their proximity to the county and because the effects of hazard events that impact Sussex County would be similar to that of their neighbors. As of October 25, 2024, none of the surrounding counties or municipalities submitted the survey.

2.3.7 Public Outreach

In order to facilitate better coordination and communication between the Planning Partnership and all community members and to involve the public in the planning process, draft documents were made available to the public online. The Steering Committee and Planning Partnership made the following efforts toward public participation in the development and review of the Plan:

- A public website is being maintained to facilitate communication between the Steering Committee, Planning Partnership, public and stakeholders (www.sussexcountynjhmp.com). The public website contains a project overview, County and local contact information, access to the citizens survey and stakeholder survey, and sections of the HMP for public review and comment.
- All participating jurisdictions have been encouraged to distribute press releases on the project, including links to the project webpage and citizen and stakeholder surveys. The following jurisdictions posted information and supported online outreach:
 - Township of Byram
 - Township of Sandyston



- Township of Sparta
- In order to facilitate coordination and communication between the Planning Partnership and citizens and involve the public in the planning process, the updated HMP will be available to the public through a variety of venues. A printed version will be maintained at the Sussex County DEM, located within the Sheriff's Office.
- An online natural hazards preparedness citizen survey was developed to gauge household preparedness that may impact Sussex County and to assess the level of knowledge of tools and techniques to assist in reducing risk and loss of those hazards. The survey asks quantifiable questions about citizen perception of risk, knowledge of mitigation, and support of community programs. It also asks demographic questions to help analyze trends.
- The survey was available through October 25, 2024, for public input. All participating jurisdictions have been requested to advertise the availability of the survey via local homepage links, and other available public announcement methods (e.g., Facebook, X, email blasts, etc.). Over 130 responses have been collected. A summary of survey results is provided later in this section, with full results provided in Appendix D of this plan.
- Virtual public information meetings on the HMP update process were held on March 15, 2023; April 11, 2024; and November 21, 2024.
- The draft plan was posted to the public website as of November 21, 2024, for public review and comment. All public comments were directed to the Sussex County DEM for collection and review by the Steering Committee. All public comments received were forwarded to the appropriate jurisdiction or agency and incorporated into the final plan as appropriate.
- Once submitted to NJOEM/FEMA, the final plan will be available for public review and comment in the same manner and format as the draft plan, as well as in hard-copy format as identified in Chapter 22, (Plan Maintenance).

Online Outreach Examples

Examples of outreach via websites and social media completed by the Planning Partners are provided in Figure 2-1 and Figure 2-2.



Figure 2-1. Sussex County HMP Webpage



SUSSEX COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

- Home
- About
- What's Mitigation
- Calendar
- Meetings
- Explore the Plan
- Websites

Welcome to the Sussex County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) Website. This website provides project updates, resources, and links to hazard mitigation in support of the HMP update.

The goal of the project is to save lives and property through the reduction of hazard vulnerability for the entire county. During the course of this planning project, county and local leaders and the community will work in tandem to identify risks, assess capabilities, and formulate a strategy to reduce disaster vulnerability.

Public participation and feedback is a vital part of the hazard mitigation planning process. The Sussex County Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee has developed a Mitigation Survey to assist in providing the public an outlet to contribute to the Sussex County HMP update. This survey will be used to develop portions of the HMP. Thank you for participating in this important initiative by providing us with your anonymous survey contribution.

Keep checking back regularly for information on upcoming events, to take our public survey, and to review and comment on the draft plan. If you would like to get in touch with the project team, please use the following contact information:

SUSSEX COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

SUSSEX COUNTY OEM IS WORKING ON AN UPDATE TO THE COUNTY'S HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN. IF YOU LIVE OR WORK IN THE COUNTY, WE NEED YOUR INPUT ABOUT LOCAL HAZARDS.

Take a quick survey to help us with the update.
[HTTP://BIT.LY/42AZE0I](http://bit.ly/42AZE0I)





SUSSEX COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

- Home
- About
- What's Mitigation
- Calendar
- Meetings
- Explore the Plan
- Websites

Meetings

Steering Committee Meeting #1 – March 15, 2023

- Sussex County Steering Committee Kick-Off Meeting Agenda
- Sussex County Steering Committee Kick-Off Meeting Presentation
- Sussex County Steering Committee Kick-Off Meeting Minutes

Planning Partnership Meeting #1 – March 15, 2023

- Sussex County Planning Partnership Kick-Off Meeting Agenda
- Sussex County Planning Partnership Kick-Off Meeting Presentation
- Sussex County Planning Partnership Kick-Off Meeting Minutes – AM
- Sussex County Planning Partnership Kick-Off Meeting Minutes – PM

Download

Download

Download

Download

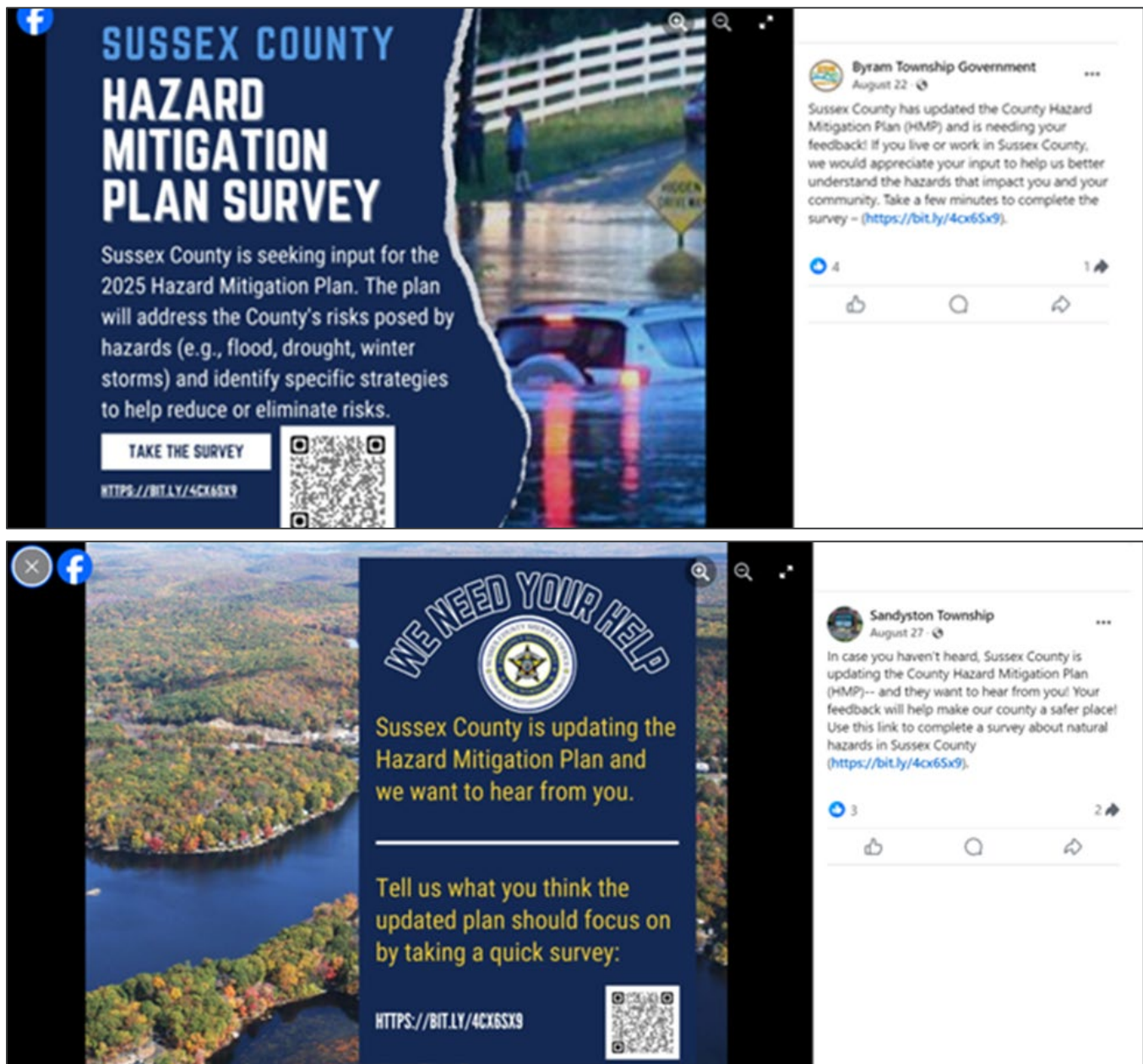
Download

Download

Download

Download

Figure 2-2. Local Online Outreach



Public Survey Summary

The public survey was developed to assess the level of knowledge of tools and techniques to assist in reducing risk and loss associated with hazards. It asked quantifiable questions about citizen perception of risk, knowledge of mitigation, and support of community programs. The County advertised the survey on their website and social media accounts. As of October 25, 2024, the survey received 134 responses.

Demographically, survey respondents were from 19 municipalities within Sussex County, with 58.5 percent having lived in the County for 20 years or more. The most common (45.8 percent) age of respondents was over the age of 60. The majority (65.7 percent) of residents receive information concerning a natural hazard through social media. Residents also receive information through mass notification systems (59.7 percent), television (57.5 percent), and email (56.7 percent).



Survey respondents identified the following as the top five most frequently occurring natural hazard events within Sussex County in the past five years, as shown in Figure 2-3:

- Earthquake (67.9 percent)
- Severe Weather (tornado, thunderstorm, hail) (65.7 percent)
- Pandemic (61.9 percent)
- Severe Winter Storms (blizzard, heavy snow, ice) (55.2 percent)
- Extreme Temperature (heat and cold) (50.8 percent)

The highest hazards of concern (respondents reporting somewhat concerned, very concerned, or extremely concerned) include extreme temperatures, and severe winter storms.

Respondents identified the following as desired projects to implement to reduce the damages due to natural hazards:

- Enforce the disclosure of natural hazard risks during real estate transactions (51.4 percent)
- Policies that prohibit development in areas subject to natural hazards (39 percent)
- Improve disaster preparedness of local schools (36.1 percent)
- Develop local inventory of at-risk buildings and infrastructure (29.8 percent)
- Implement steps to safeguard the local economy following a disaster (25.9 percent)

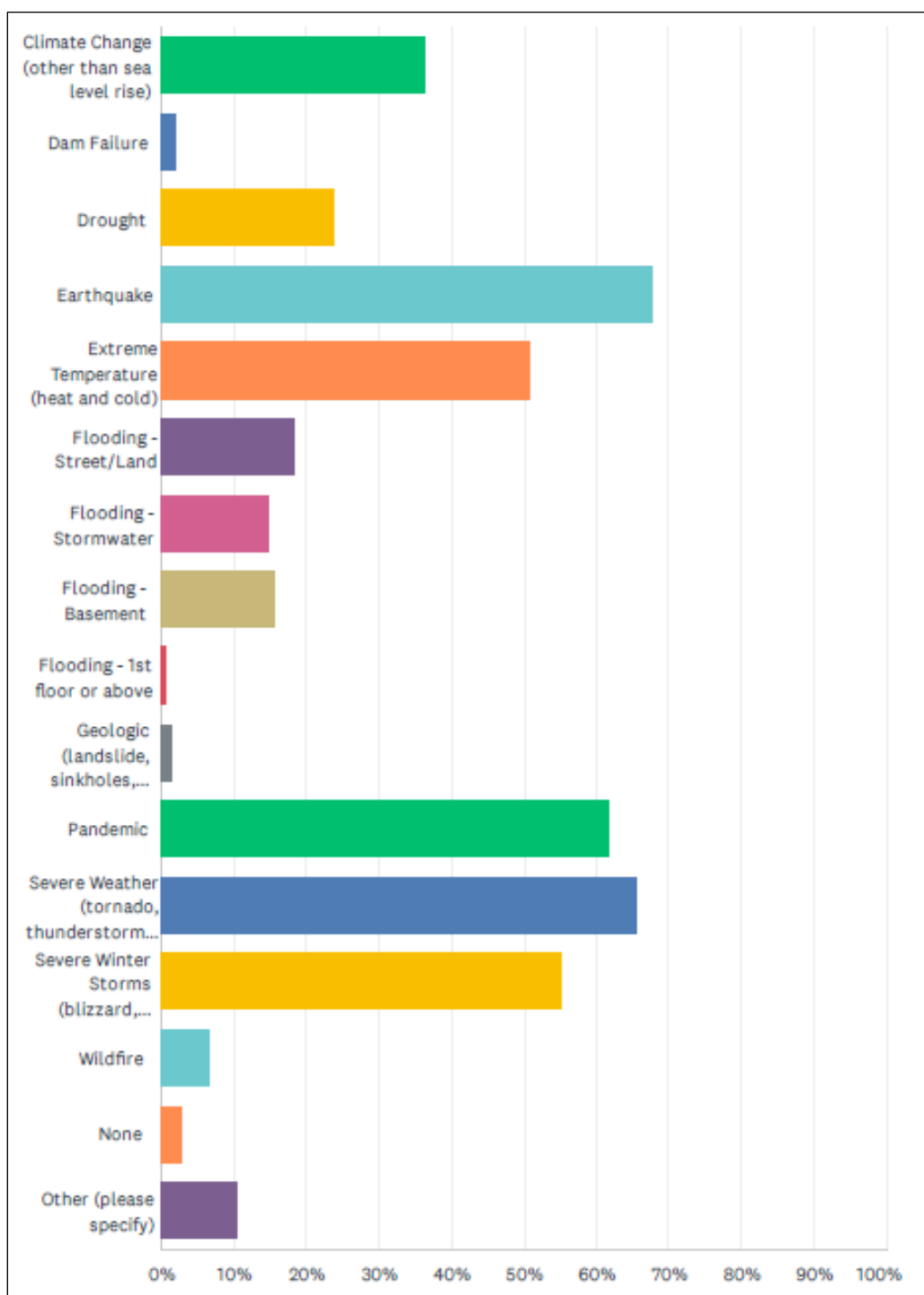
Respondents were asked which activities have been performed to mitigate hazard impacts to their homes. Approximately 99 percent of respondents have installed smoke detectors; roughly 79 percent have talked with other household members about what to do in case of a natural disaster or emergency; 56 percent have become trained in first aid and/or CPR; 30 percent have attended meetings or received information on natural disasters or emergency preparedness; 49 percent have prepared a disaster supply kit; and 57 percent have developed an emergency plan for the household to decide what will be done in the event of a disaster or emergency.

Respondents were also asked about their property's location within the floodplain, and if they have flood insurance. Of the 134 respondents who answered this question, only six (4.5 percent) indicated that their property is located in a designated floodplain. Of those residents just one indicated their home is covered by flood insurance.

The most self-selected jurisdiction respondents indicated that they live in is Byram Township (57 percent); however, there were respondents from all jurisdictions except Branchville Borough, Franklin Borough, Hampton Township, Ogdensburg Borough, and Walpack Township.

Jurisdiction-specific responses can be found in Volume II. Refer to Appendix C (Public and Stakeholder Outreach) for the full list of survey questions and responses.

Figure 2-3. Most Frequently Experienced Natural Hazard Events in Sussex County



2.4 INCORPORATION OF EXISTING PLANS, STUDIES, REPORTS AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION

The Sussex County HMP uses the best available information to support hazard profiling, risk assessment, review and evaluation of mitigation capabilities, and the development and prioritization of local mitigation strategies. Plans,



reports, and other technical information were identified and accessed online through independent research by the planning consultant or provided directly by the County, participating jurisdictions, and stakeholders involved in the planning effort. Detailed sources of technical data and information used are listed in the References section.

The asset inventory data used for the risk assessment is presented in Chapter 3 (County Profile). Details of the source of this data, along with technical information on how the data was used to develop the risk assessment, are presented in Chapter 4, as well as throughout the hazard profiles in this HMP.

The County and participating jurisdictions provided relevant jurisdiction-specific planning and regulatory documents, which were reviewed to identify the following:

- Existing jurisdictional capabilities
- Needs and opportunities to develop or enhance capabilities, which may be identified in the local mitigation strategies
- Mitigation-related goals or objectives (see Chapter 21)
- Proposed, in-progress, or potential mitigation actions to be incorporated into the updated local mitigation strategies

The following regulations, codes, ordinances, and plans were reviewed to develop mitigation planning goals and objectives and mitigation strategies that are consistent across local and regional planning and regulatory mechanisms:

- Comprehensive/master plans
- Building codes
- Zoning and subdivision ordinances
- Flood insurance studies
- Flood insurance rate maps
- NFIP flood damage prevention ordinances
- Site plan requirements
- Local waterfront revitalization plans
- Stormwater management plans
- Emergency management and response plans
- Land use and open space plans
- Capital plans
- Climate smart community program
- Community rating system
- 2019 New Jersey Hazard Mitigation Plan

The County and participating jurisdictions were tasked with updating the assessment of their planning and regulatory capabilities (see capability assessment section of each jurisdictional annex in Volume II). They reviewed relevant plans contributing to their capability to integrate hazard mitigation efforts into their daily activities. The capability assessment tables in each municipal annex list plan types, names, and dates, as well as a summary of how each plan supports mitigation and resilience.



2.5 INTEGRATION WITH EXISTING PLANNING MECHANISMS AND PROGRAMS

Effective mitigation is achieved when hazard awareness and risk management approaches and strategies become an integral part of public activities and decision-making. Many existing plans and programs support hazard mitigation in the County. It is critical that this HMP integrate, coordinate with, and complement, those existing plans and programs.

The capability assessment presented in Chapter 20 provides a summary and description of the existing plans, programs, and regulatory mechanisms at all levels of government (federal, state, county and local) that support hazard mitigation in the County. In the jurisdictional annexes in Volume II, each participating jurisdiction identifies how it has already integrated hazard mitigation into its planning, regulatory and administrative framework (“integration capabilities”) and how it intends to improve this integration (“integration actions”).

A description of continued efforts toward a holistic approach to hazard mitigation is presented in Chapter 22.

2.6 PLAN ADOPTION

Adoption by the local governing bodies of each participating jurisdiction demonstrates the commitment of the Planning Partners to fulfill the mitigation goals and strategies outlined in this HMP. Adoption via a municipal resolution legitimizes the HMP and authorizes responsible agencies to execute their responsibilities.

All participating jurisdictions will proceed with formal adoption proceedings. Each jurisdiction must submit a copy of its formal adoption resolution or other legal instrument to the Sussex County HMP Coordinator in the Sussex County DEM. Sussex County will forward the executed resolutions to the NJOEM, after which they will be forwarded to FEMA for the record. FEMA allows two options for submitting adoption resolutions:

Adoption of the HMP is necessary because:

- It lends authority to the plan to serve as a guiding document for all local and state government officials.
- It gives legal status to the plan in the event it is challenged in court.
- It certifies to program and grant administrators that the plan’s recommendations have been properly considered and approved by the jurisdictions’ governing authority and citizens.
- It helps to ensure the continuity of mitigation programs and policies over time because elected officials, staff, and other community decision-makers can refer to the official document when making decisions about the community’s future.

Source: FEMA. 2003. How to Series: Bringing the Plan to Life (FEMA 386-4).

- **Submittal of adoption resolutions with plan**—All participating jurisdictions provide documentation of plan adoption when the plan is initially submitted to the state for review. After receiving the draft plan from the state, FEMA conducts its review and will approve the plan if it meets all requirements.
- **Approvable pending adoption**—A draft HMP is submitted to the state and FEMA for approval prior to adoption by the jurisdictions. When FEMA determines that the plan as a whole and each participating jurisdiction have met all the requirements except adoption, FEMA will inform the state that the plan is “approvable pending adoption” (APA). After that, once FEMA receives documentation of adoption resolutions from at least one jurisdiction, the status is changed from APA to approved for the entire plan and for that jurisdiction. Other jurisdictions that participated in the planning process then receive approval once they pass their own adoption resolutions. A jurisdiction with a plan in APA status does not meet the requirement for an approved mitigation plan to apply for and receive funding assistance.



FEMA will transmit acknowledgement of verification of formal plan adoption and the official approval of the plan to the Sussex County HMP Coordinator. The plan approval date begins the five-year approval period and sets the expiration date for the plan. All participating jurisdictions will have the same expiration date regardless of their own jurisdiction's adoption date. The date indicated on FEMA's approval letter is the official approval date.

The resolutions issued by each jurisdiction to support adoption of this HMP are included in Appendix A.

2.7 CONTINUED PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Planning Partners are committed to the continued involvement of the public in the hazard mitigation process. This Plan update will be posted on-line (currently at www.sussexcountynjhmp.com), and jurisdictions will be encouraged to maintain links to the plan website. A notice regarding annual updates of the plan and the location of plan copies will be publicized annually after the Planning Partnership's annual evaluation and posted on the public website (currently at www.sussexcountynjhmp.com).

After completion of this plan, implementation and ongoing maintenance will continue to be a function of the Planning Partnership. The Planning Partnership will review the plan and accept public comment as part of an annual review and as part of five-year mitigation plan updates. Each jurisdiction's governing body will be responsible for receiving, tracking, and filing public comments regarding this plan.

The HMP Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the plan evaluation portion of the meeting, soliciting feedback, collecting, and reviewing the comments, and ensuring their incorporation in the 5-year plan update as appropriate. Members of the Planning Partnership will assist the HMP Coordinator. Additional meetings may be held as deemed necessary by the Planning Partnership. The purpose of these meetings would be to provide the public an opportunity to express concerns, opinions, and ideas about the plan. A notice regarding annual updates of the plan and the location of plan copies will be publicized annually after the HMP Committee's annual evaluation and posted on the public web site.

Steven Sugar of the Sussex County DEM has been identified as the ongoing County HMP Coordinator (see Chapter 22), and is responsible for receiving, tracking, and filing public comments regarding this Plan Update. Contact information is:

Mailing Address:	Sussex County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management 135 Morris Turnpike Newton, New Jersey 07860
Contact Name:	Steven Sugar
Email Address:	ssugar@sussexcountysheriff.com
Telephone:	(973) 579-0380 x2530

Further details regarding continued public involvement are provided in Chapter 22.