

Executive Summary

Hays County, Texas has developed and maintained its Hazard Mitigation Plan because of the increasing awareness that natural hazards, especially floods, have the potential to affect the County and its citizens.

Background of Mitigation Planning

Through hazard mitigation planning, it is possible to minimize the losses that disasters can cause. The responsibility for hazard mitigation lies with many, including private property owners; business and industry; and local, state, and federal government.

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) is federal legislation that requires proactive, pre-disaster planning as a prerequisite for some funding available under the Robert T. Stafford Act. The DMA 2000 encourages state and local authorities to work together on pre-disaster planning. An approved Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) is a requirement in order for the County to remain eligible for some types of project grants that are administered by the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM), the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

History of Hays County Mitigation Planning

In April 2003, Hays County initiated the development of its first HMP. The initial Hays County HMP was approved in 2006, and established the County's long-term strategy for reducing its risks from natural hazards. In 2011, the Hays County HMP update included reevaluation of the original hazards, risk assessment, mitigation goals, strategies, and mitigation priorities. As part of the update process, these sections of the Plan were reassessed to identify changes and updates that may have occurred since approval and adoption of the original plan.

The 2017 Hays County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

In 2016, Hays County Mitigation Planning Committee (MPC) began its process for a 2017 HMP update.

This HMP update has several inter-related purposes:

- Provide overviews of the hazards that threaten the County
- Characterize the people and property at risk from the hazards
- Describe the planning process
- Identify vulnerabilities and assess risks from specific hazards
- Identify and prioritize mitigation action items while drawing from and adding to other community plans and programs

Participating communities in the 2017 Hays County Mitigation Plan Update are:

Village of Bear Creek
City of Hays
City of Niederwald
City of Wimberley

City of Buda
City of Kyle
City of San Marcos
City of Woodcreek

City of Dripping Springs
City of Mountain City
City of Umland
Hays County

Organization of the Plan

The Hays County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update is made up of one main plan document with supporting Appendices and 12 Community Annexes, one per planning area. The main plan document provides information regarding the plan process and methodology, while each annex provides the data and analysis relevant to the respective planning area.

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The four chapters within the main Plan document correspond to the four phases of the planning/plan update process, to include:

1. Organize and Review
2. Risk Assessment
3. Mitigation Strategy
4. Finalize (Approval and Adoption)

The content of these chapters, as well as that of the Community Annexes, closely follows guidance from FEMA's G318 Local Mitigation Planning Workshop, FEMA's Local Mitigation Planning Handbook, and FEMA's Local Mitigation Plan Review Guide.

The Planning/Update Process

As noted above, the update process consisted of four phases. Chapter 1 outlines the details of the development of the process and the schedule for planning activities. Throughout the process, special effort was made to ensure public involvement was welcomed and encouraged. Feedback was taken through a Public Survey that was advertised through multiple websites, social media, newsletters, emails and even through announcements at Commissioners' Court and City Council meetings. The public was provided a second opportunity to review and comment on the Plan update at the point of the final draft stage, when it was posted on the Hays County website as well as those of each participating community. Printed copies of the document were also made available for review at multiple locations within the County.

Planning activities also included stakeholders who were invited from industry, academia, and the private sector. Further information regarding stakeholders and the planning process can be found in Chapter 1 of the plan.

Hays County Office of Emergency Services and Hays County Grant Administration led the update effort and coordinated all meetings for the process. The primary point of contact for the HMP update is

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Flood Damage Hays County, Texas



Hazards and Risks

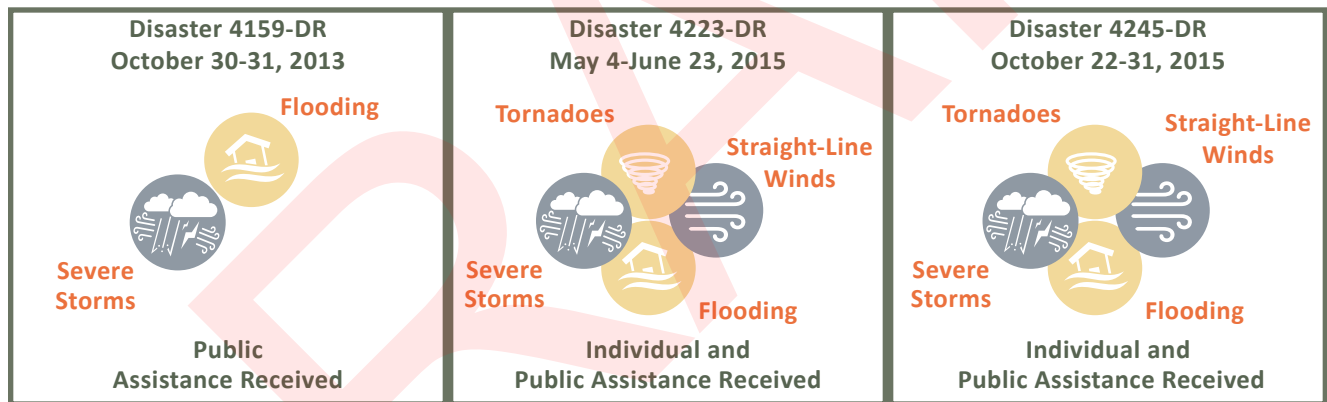
Chapter 2 of the main plan document includes hazard description and extent scale information, which apply to all participating communities. The State of Texas Hazard Mitigation Plan was used as the source of data for the hazard description information. Hazard location maps, community extent, history of significant events, probability of future events, as well as impact and vulnerability summaries can be found in Section 2 of each Community Annex.

A total of 14 hazards were profiled by the MPC. The hazards included:

1. Drought
2. Extreme Heat
3. Severe Winter Storms
4. Lightning
5. Hailstorms
6. Windstorms
7. Tornadoes
8. Expansive Soils
9. Floods
10. Land Subsidence
11. Hurricanes/Tropical Storms
12. Earthquakes
13. Dam/Levee Failure
14. Wildfires

Expansive Soils and Land Subsidence were added to the 2017 update as new hazards that had not been previously profiled for Hays County.

Hazard data also included details on the 3 federal disaster declarations experienced by Hays County since the last update period. Information from these events was used to update and re-prioritize efforts within the plan. Those declarations are shown below:



Hazard identification and risk analysis was followed by hazard risk prioritization. Risks were ranked for each hazard using a quantified, formula-based Hazard Ranking Utility. This calculation included consideration for risk perception from members of the public (derived from Public Survey results) and analysis of data by planners from the MPC. This analysis included quantifying the past and possible impact from hazard events to Health/Safety, Property and Business Continuity. Each individual community risk ranking can be read in the respective Community Annex. The top three ranked hazards among all communities were Floods, Wildfire and Drought.

Summary of Goals and Actions

Mitigation strategy goals were modified as part of the plan update process. The MPC voted to reduce the number of goals from seven hazard-specific goals found in the 2011 plan to 3 plan-wide strategic goals. The 2017 Mitigation Strategy goals are:

1. Enhance the abilities of Hays County and the communities within its boundaries to provide protection of life, property, economy and natural systems from natural hazards.
2. Mitigate the vulnerabilities existing within hazard areas in order to lessen impacts on safety, damage to critical infrastructure/facilities and the capabilities of emergency responders.
3. Incorporate measures that assist with the improvement of water conservation efforts in Hays County.

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The primary types of mitigation actions vary from non-structural solutions such as plans, regulations, education and awareness programs to structure and infrastructure projects and natural systems protection. Over 230 diverse mitigation actions designed to reduce structural and social vulnerability to the identified hazards are included in the plan and its annexes. The mitigation strategy includes action status and modifications for existing actions as well as details regarding new actions added during the update process.

Approval and Adoption Processes

Chapter 4 discusses approval and adoption of the updated plan. The Hays County Commissioners Court and each participating City/Village Council was responsible for approving and adopting the Hays County 2017 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. The Commissioners Court reviewed and approved the plan update on (insert date XX).

Implementation Process

For each mitigation action identified, the plan identifies the lead agency, resources needed, time period for implementation. Each lead agency will factor the action into their work plans and schedules when possible. Annual reports on the status of implementation, including obstacles to progress, will be submitted by mitigation planners from each community to the Hays County Office of Emergency Services.

Incorporation/Integration with other Plans

Each Community Annex identifies how mitigation efforts found in existing resources, such as plans, programs, and regulations, can be incorporated into the HMP. In turn, the annexes also highlight opportunities for integrating new HMP actions back into existing resources in order to tie mitigation priorities into existing community processes and goals.

Monitoring and Updating Processes

Chapter 4 of the main plan document describes the general schedule and procedures for ensuring that the County's HMP remains current. Each Community Annex details how it will be performed and what position will lead the effort at the local level. This section also provides a combination of trigger events that will initiate future amendments and future updates to the HMP. The Hays County Office of Emergency Services is responsible for overall Plan updates.

Acknowledgments

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