



1.0 INTRODUCTION

SECTION 1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.0-1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The State of New Jersey 2024 All-Hazard Plan (SHMP) is the cornerstone of the state's effort to reduce New Jersey's vulnerability to natural hazard events. The New Jersey Office of Emergency Management's (NJOEM) Mitigation Division oversees a collaborative process to identify the impacts of natural hazards on critical assets and systems across the state, review existing capabilities to reduce those impacts, and identify new actions that will mitigate future damage and disruption and/or build capacity at the state and local levels to reduce damage and disruption from future natural hazard events.

Hazard mitigation distinguishes actions that have a long-term impact from those that are more closely associated with pre-disaster preparedness, response to an event, and recovery from an incident. Hazard mitigation is the only phase of emergency management specifically dedicated to breaking the cycle of damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage. "Human intervention" will never be able to fully prevent hazard events from causing damage. However, actions to reduce - or even avoid - the devastating impacts and rising costs of disasters and the disruption to daily activities can be taken. This is by planning for and implementing mitigation measures before disasters strike and by making sure that post-disaster recovery efforts include appropriate hazard mitigation measures.

The SHMP captures historic disaster experiences and presents the hazards New Jersey faces based on current science and research. The Plan has been prepared to outline a strategy to reduce risks from hazards and serve as the basis for prioritizing future project funding. It establishes the framework for coordination between the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the State Hazard Mitigation Team (SHMT) for hazard mitigation programs. The Plan has been thoughtfully prepared, administratively adopted, and approved by FEMA, enabling state and local governments to apply for and participate in the various FEMA funded mitigation programs.

In addition, the Plan Aids State and local decision makers, budget managers, and emergency management officials in developing hazard reduction programs based on a realistic assessment of hazards and vulnerabilities and developing a visible path toward sustainability. It serves as a tool to educate emergency managers and to encourage policy makers to look beyond their immediate community - think regionally and act locally. The Plan sets clear goals and timelines that assist State agencies, county governments, and municipalities in decision-making. It encourages the expansion of single-purpose disaster recovery and disaster prevention activities into wider opportunities for integrated community-wide planning, long-range neighborhood sustainability, and improved quality of life.

1.0-2 PLANNING REQUIREMENTS

The SHMP was prepared in compliance with federal requirements for state mitigation planning. The following summarizes the federal and state sources, statutes, and executive orders that establish and define the authority of the SHMP:

- Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (42 USC 5165)
- New Jersey Civil Defense and Disaster Control Act
- Executive Order #39 (Driscoll), Governor Driscoll, January 14, 1954
- Executive Order #12 (Cahill), Development of Department Emergency Plans, Governor Cahill, December 3, 1970
- Executive Order #101 (Byrne), Establishment of Office of Emergency Management, Governor Byrne, December 17, 1980
- Executive Order #115 (Florio), Establishment of Interagency State Mitigation Team, Governor Florio, January 14, 1994
- Executive Order #344 (Murphy), Continued the operation of the State Hazard Mitigation Team established in Executive Order #115 and described the role of the SMHT in updating the SHMP, Governor Murphy, October 6, 2023 (located in Appendix J of this plan update)

Recent history of FEMA planning requirements since the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000:

- February 26, 2002, FEMA published an Interim Final Rule (IFR) that provided the guidance and regulations under which

such HMPs must be developed. The IFR provides detailed descriptions of both the planning process that States and localities are required to observe, as well as the contents of the Plan that emerges.

- June 1, 2010, FEMA published Hazard Mitigation Assistance Unified Guidance that consolidates the common requirements for all hazard mitigation assistance programs and explains the unique elements of each program.
- October 1, 2011, FEMA published Hazard Mitigation Plan Review Guide as an update to previously published Hazard Mitigation Assistance Unified Guidance. The accompanying "Local Mitigation Plan Tool" directs plan developers to the common requirements for all hazard mitigation assistance programs and explains the unique elements of each program.
- July 12, 2013, FEMA published an updated Hazard Mitigation Assistance Unified Guidance continuing to outline common requirements for all hazard mitigation assistance programs reflecting programmatic changes made to date.
- February 27, 2015, FEMA published an updated Hazard Mitigation Assistance Unified Guidance continuing to outline common requirements for all hazard mitigation assistance programs reflecting programmatic changes made to date.
- June 2020, FEMA published the Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dams Grant Program Guidance (FP 104-008-7).
- April 19, 2022, FEMA published the State Mitigation Planning Policy Guide (FP 302-094-2), which became effective April 19, 2023.

The New Jersey Standard HMP was initially adopted in April 2005 and updated as outlined below:

- Initial Plan – Adoption April 2005
- First Plan Update – Adopted April 2008
- Second Plan Update – Adopted April 2011 with minor revisions November 2011
- Third Plan Update – Adopted April 2014
- Fourth Plan Update – Adopted April 2019
- Fifth Plan Update – Adopted April 2024

1.0-3 ORGANIZATION OF THE PLAN

This Plan is a comprehensive update to the 2019 HMP. It has been reformatted and organized to be more readable while paralleling the structure of the requirements outlined in **44CFR 201.4** and FEMA's State Mitigation Policy Guide while also meeting FEMA's State Mitigation Planning Policy Guide (2022). This Plan includes the following revisions:

- Equity and climate change impacts
- Wider outreach to stakeholders in FEMA's community lifelines sectors (Safety and Security; Food, Hydration, Shelter; Health and Medical; Energy; Communications; Transportation; Hazardous Materials; and Water Systems), climate change experts, and groups that support underserved communities.
- An enhanced three-tiered risk assessment (built environment, population and the economy, and ecosystems and natural assets).
- An enhanced capability assessment that discusses building code adoption and enforcement, land use, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) administration, and flood risk mapping.
- An enhanced mitigation strategy using the BAToolSM Program and an update to the methodology for project evaluation and prioritization.

The new Plan organization is presented below with a brief summary of changes and enhancements to each section.

Section 1.0: Introduction – This section defines mitigation and the planning requirements for the HMP. It also discusses the Plan organization and a summary of changes made during the 2024 Plan update.

Section 2.0: Planning Process – This section documents the planning process, including state agencies and stakeholders involved and the manner of their involvement. It highlights the extended outreach efforts conducted to encourage participation and increased involvement during this Plan update.

Section 3.0: State Profile – This section provides a description of the State of New Jersey's built environment, population and the economy, and ecosystems and natural assets to align with the format of the risk assessment.

Section 4.1: Risk Assessment Overview – The 2024 State HMP planning process identified 22 hazards of concern: 11 natural and 11 human-caused. Each hazard of concern has its own section, which includes a hazard profile and a vulnerability assessment. Radon exposure and salt-water intrusion were added to the Geological Hazards section. Harmful Algal Blooms was added as a new human-caused hazard.

Sections 4.2 - 4.23: Risk Assessment by Hazard - All hazard profiles and vulnerability assessments have been updated and enhanced to include more detailed and current technical information. The hazard profile includes an overview of the hazard, information on where hazards have occurred or could occur, previous occurrence of past significant events that occurred in New Jersey between 2010 to September 2023, discussions and analyses of each hazard’s probability for future occurrence, and considerations of changing future conditions including potential effects of climate change. The vulnerability assessment examines impacts to the built environment, population and the economy, and ecosystems and natural assets.

Section 5.0: Capability Assessment - This section is now a standalone section (no longer part of the Mitigation Strategy) and includes a comprehensive review and evaluation of state and local capabilities used to support and facilitate mitigation activities and describes the process used by the State to support, promote, and coordinate mitigation planning at the county level.

Section 6.0: Mitigation Strategy – This section provides a description of the review and update of the State’s goals and objectives and mitigation strategies. New to this plan is the use of the BAToolSM Program. Previously identified mitigation actions were updated by each lead agency, and new actions were developed to enhance the State’s resilience to natural and human-caused disasters. The methodology for project evaluation and prioritization used in 2014 and 2019 was modified to remove redundancies, highlight the State’s priorities, and align with the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant program guidance. This modification resulted in the establishment of the Mitigation Action Prioritization Tool (MAP-T), which is Appendix E of this plan update.

Section 7.0: Repetitive Loss Strategy - The strategy discusses the State’s approach in reducing the number of flood losses, with a focus on repetitive and severe repetitive loss properties. The chapter reviews the roles of the various agencies involved in reducing flooding impacts, summary of the repetitive and severe repetitive loss properties in the State, capabilities in place to mitigate repetitive and severe repetitive loss properties, mitigation strategies the State has identified in the 2024 update specific to these properties, and the State’s successes in making its residents more resilient to frequent flood-related damages.

Section 8.0: Coordination of Local Planning - Previously section 3.0, this section has been updated to provide an overview of the present processes utilized by the State (primarily NJOEM) to support and promote mitigation planning at the county and local level and develop processes to help local jurisdictions obtain funding and technical assistance for mitigation planning. This Plan update is intended to report on progress in this area and provide a clear, streamlined procedure for developing and supporting local planning.

Section 9.0: Plan Maintenance – For the 2024 SHMP update, revisions to this section are based on an evaluation of the operational feedback regarding the effectiveness of the plan maintenance procedures outlined in the 2019 SHMP.

Section 10.0: Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) – This section provides a brief overview of the EMAP, its requirements, and how the State meets 2016 Emergency Management Standard.

Section 11.0: Plan Adoption – This section has been updated and discusses the State approval and plan adoption process, the statutes and Executive Orders that establish and define the authority of the HMP, and the State’s assurances.

Appendices:

Appendix A – FEMA Plan Review Tool

Appendix B – Risk Assessment Supplement
Appendix C – Capability Assessment Supplement
Appendix D – 2024 SHMP Mitigation Action Plan
Appendix E – Mitigation Action Prioritization Tool (MAP-T)
Appendix F – Meeting Documentation
Appendix G – Enhanced Dam Risk Assessment
Appendix H – Mitigation Strategy Supplement
Appendix I – Annual Review Checklist
Appendix J – Executive Order #344

1.0-4 CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information on the SHMP please contact:

Lt. Dinan Amin,
State Hazard Mitigation Officer
New Jersey Office of Emergency Management
Division of State Police
P. O. Box 7068
1040 River Road
West Trenton, NJ 08628-0068

Telephone: (609) 963-6900, ext. 6208

Fax: (609) 882-2025

Email: Mitigation@njsp.gov or Dinan.Amin@njsp.gov

Website: state.nj.us/njoem

The State of New Jersey HMP and Office of Emergency Management (NJOEM) mitigation handouts can be found at: www.ready.nj.gov