



Managing Director's Office of Emergency Management City of Philadelphia Hazard Mitigation Planning

Q. What is natural hazard mitigation?

A. Natural hazard mitigation is any cost-effective and sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life or property from natural hazards.

Q. What is a Hazard Mitigation Plan?

A. The Hazard Mitigation Plan contains geographic and demographic information, together with a citywide risk and vulnerability assessment to outline a mitigation strategy. The plan details goals, objectives, and specific tasks or actions to reduce risk.

Q. Why develop a Hazard Mitigation Plan?

A. Several reasons for us to develop a plan include:

- Protecting Philadelphia residents, businesses and built environment;
- Creating a city resilient to natural hazards;
- Breaking the “Preparedness, Response, Recovery Cycle” related to emergencies;
- Fulfilling the planning requirement for the City to be eligible for future hazard mitigation grant funding.

Q. Who is developing Philadelphia's plan?

A. Many governmental and non-governmental representatives are working closely with MDO-OEM to develop the plan. These agencies include:

- Office of Emergency Management
- Philadelphia Gas Works (PGW)
- Philadelphia Water Department
- Pennsylvania Electric Company (PECO)
- Philadelphia Office of Innovation and Technology
- Veolia Energy
- Streets Department
- Licenses and Inspections
- Parks and Recreation/Fairmount Park
- PENNDOT
- Philadelphia Fire Department
Emergency Medical Services
- Philadelphia Fire Department
Hazardous Materials
- Philadelphia Police Department
- Philadelphia City Planning Commission
- Philadelphia Department of Public Health
- Philadelphia International Airport
- Southeast Pennsylvania Transportation Authority
- Amtrak

Q. What are the hazards considered in this plan?

A. The following natural hazards are addressed in the plan:

- Drought
- Earthquakes
- Flooding
- Winter Storms
- Extreme Heat
- Extreme Cold
- Hurricanes, Tropical Storms,
Nor'easter
- Windstorms/Tornadoes

Q. What is Philadelphia doing to make it more resilient to natural hazards?

A. Part of the plan development process includes identifying what initiatives the City is taking or could take to reduce the effects of natural hazards. These initiatives are called “mitigation strategies.”

Q. How can I prepare for Natural Hazards?

A. Prepare now for any kind of emergency, including Natural Hazards.

1. First, develop a Family Emergency Plan for everyone, including pets, in your household.
2. Next, develop a Family Communication Plan to stay in touch with family if you are separated during the emergency.
3. Put together a 3-day kit of emergency supplies for all family members and pets.
Visit www.phila.gov/ready for a more detailed list of emergency supplies to include in your kit.

Q. How can I stay informed when a Natural Hazard affects Philadelphia?

A. You can stay informed during Natural Hazards by:

- Listening to local news or NOAA weather radio;
- Watching Government Access Station Channel 64;
- Calling Philly 311;
- Visiting www.phila.gov/ready;
- Following Office of Emergency Management on Twitter, MySpace, FaceBook, Blogger, and LinkedIn;
- Signing up for emergency text alerts from ReadyNotifyPA

Q. How can I comment on the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan for Philadelphia?

All comments and questionnaires must be received by February 16, 2012.

- Fill out and return the feedback questionnaire:
 - At one of the public meetings
 - Mail the questionnaire to Office of Emergency Management, 240 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123
 - Email OEM at oem@phila.gov

Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Public Meetings will be held:

Thursday, December 15, 2011, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Salvation Army Roxborough Corps, 6730 Ridge Avenue
(Snow Date: Saturday, December 17, 10:00 a.m.-noon)

Saturday, January 7, 2012, 10:00 a.m.-noon
Federation Housing Inc., Rieder House
10102 Jamison Avenue
(Snow Date: Tuesday, January 17, 6:00-8:00 p.m.)

Tentative – Location to be determined
Tuesday, January 24, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Snow Date: Saturday, January 28, 10:00 a.m.-noon)

Wednesday, February 8, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Free Library of Philadelphia – Central Branch
Skyline Room, 4th Floor
1901 Vine Street
(No Snow Date)

Thursday, February 16, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Salvation Army Tabernacle Corps.
3150 North Mascher Street
(No Snow Date)

