

Indianapolis/DPS/Division of Homeland Security  
201 N Shadeland Ave  
Indianapolis, IN 46219



September 11, 2013

Hon. Dennis Buckley, Mayor  
City of Beech Grove  
806 Main Street  
Beech Grove, IN 46107

Re: Request for Review and Adoption of the Marion County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan

Dear Mayor Buckley:

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) requires communities to prepare a Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (MHMP) to be eligible for mitigation funding through state or federal sources. In 2005, 30 representatives from various jurisdictions and agencies in Marion County formed a Marion County MHMP Planning Committee. The committee met three times towards the latter half of 2005 and during these meetings, the members identified critical facilities and local hazards; reviewed the State's mitigation goals and set local mitigation goals; reviewed hazard data and maps; identified and assessed the effectiveness of existing mitigation measures; established mitigation projects; and reviewed materials for public participation. The MHMP was completed in June 2006 by Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LTD. Through an Executive Order, the previous mayor of Indianapolis, Bart Peterson, formally adopted the Marion County MHMP on September 17, 2007. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) formally approved the MHMP in a letter sent to the State Mitigation Officer on August 21, 2008.

The Committee met again in October of 2010 to discuss current Mitigation Practices, and for committee members to make any changes to them if needed. No changes were reported, and the list remained as is. Recently, the Planning Committee has met several times in the past few months to discuss updates, and review the plan. Since the MHMP is a multi-jurisdictional plan, each jurisdiction must formally adopt the MHMP. Without a formal adoption, the City of Beech Grove will be unable to apply for or receive federal or state mitigation funds. I have attached a copy of the MHMP for your review and official adoption. Please contact me once the City of Beech Grove has formally adopted the MHMP. I will need a copy of a signed Executive Order or an equivalent legal document verifying formal adoption. I can be reached at 317-327-7500 or through email, Sara.Woodson@indy.org.

I respectfully request that you review the plan that is attached and provide any comments or changes that need to be made to us by October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013

Your attention to the aforementioned matters will be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

Sara Woodson  
Assistant to Chief Coons and Division Planner

## The Marion County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) defines the disaster life cycle as the process through which emergency managers respond to disasters when they occur; help people and institutions recover from them; reduce the risk of future losses; and prepare for emergencies and disasters. The Marion County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (MHMP) focuses on the mitigation phase of the disaster life cycle. According to FEMA, mitigation is most effective when it's based on an inclusive, comprehensive, long-term plan that is developed before a disaster occurs. The MHMP planning process identifies hazards, the extent that they affect the municipality, and formulates mitigation practices to ultimately reduce the social, physical, and economic impact of the hazards.



In order for National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) communities to be eligible for future mitigation funds, they must adopt either their own MHMP or participate in the development of a multi-jurisdictional MHMP. Further, it is required that local jurisdictions review, revise, and resubmit the MHMP every 5 years. As representatives from **Indianapolis, Beech Grove, Lawrence, Southport, and Speedway** have provided information, attended meetings, and participated in the planning process, the planning process used to update the Marion County MHMP satisfies the requirements of a multi-jurisdictional plan.

During Project Team and Planning Committee meetings, those in attendance revisited existing (in the 2006 MHMP) and identified new critical facilities and local hazards; reviewed the State's mitigation goals and updated the local mitigation goals; reviewed the most recent local hazard data, vulnerability assessment, and maps; evaluated the effectiveness of existing mitigation measures and identified new mitigation projects; and reviewed materials for public participation. Meetings were also conducted with key groups such as City Planners and various emergency responders and their information will continue to be incorporated into the MHMP update.

### Risk Assessment

The risk assessment conducted for the Marion County MHMP is based on the methodology described in the Local Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning Guidance published by FEMA in 2008 and is incorporated into the following sections:

1. **Hazard Identification** lists the natural, technological, and political hazards selected as having the greatest direct and indirect impact to the County as well as the system used to rank and prioritize the hazards.
2. **Hazard Profile** for each hazard, discuss the 1) historic data relevant to the municipalities where available; 2) vulnerability in terms of number and type of structures, repetitive loss properties (flood only), estimation of potential losses, and impacts based on an analysis of development trends; and 3) the relationship to other hazards identified.

3. **Hazard Summary** provides an overview of the risk assessment process; a table summarizing the relationship of the hazards; and a composite map to illustrate areas impacted by hazards.

When considering the hazards selected for study (drought; earthquake; extreme temperatures; flood; hailstorm, thunderstorm, & windstorm; tornado; winter storm & ice; dam & levee failure; hazardous materials incidents; structural fire; and civil disturbance) and the information obtained regarding the hazard profile and the hazard summary, the attached table identifies the hazards studied and ranking outcome. The ranking is completed utilizing the Calculated Risk Priority Index (CPRI), a tool by which individual hazards are evaluated and ranked according to an indexing system considering probability, magnitude, warning time, and duration for any hazard.

1. **Probability** is defined as the likelihood of the hazard occurring over a given period.
2. **Magnitude/Severity** is defined by the extent of the injuries, shutdown of critical infrastructure, the extent of property damage sustained, and the duration of the incident response.
3. **Warning Time** is defined as the length of time before the event occurs.
4. **Duration** is defined as the length of time that the actual event occurs. This does not include response or recovery efforts.











### **Mitigation Goals and Practices**

The overall goal of the Marion County MHMP is to reduce the social, physical, and economic losses associated with hazard incidents through emergency services, natural resource protection, prevention, property protection, public information, and structural control mitigation practices.

As part of the planning process the Project Team and Planning Committee discussed the strengths and weaknesses of existing mitigation practices and made recommendations for improvements, as well as suggested new practices. To provide further detail, information on the local status, local priority, benefit-cost ratio, project location, responsible entity, and potential funding source will be included with regard to each proposed practice. Those practices ranked by participants as a high priority are anticipated to be implemented within 5 years from the final Plan adoption and additional steps, or an implementation plan is included for each.

### **Plan Maintenance**

The successful implementation of the MHMP will require the participation and cooperation of the entire Planning Committee to successfully monitor, evaluate, and update the Marion County MHMP. Local jurisdictions are required to update and resubmit the MHMP every 5 years. Information gathered following individual hazard incidents and annual meetings will be utilized along with updated vulnerability assessments to assess the risks associated with each hazard common in Marion County.

Type of Hazard	Hazard	Weighted Overall Calculated Risk
NATURAL	DROUGHT	
	EARTHQUAKE	
	EXTREME TEMPERATURES	
	FLOODING	
	HAIL/THUNDER/WIND	
	TORNADO	
	SNOW/ICE	
TECHNOLOGICAL	DAM / LEVEE FAILURE	
	HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	
	STRUCTURAL FIRE	
POLITICAL	CIVIL DISTURBANCE	