

Union County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Public Meeting #1

**July 30, 2024
4:00 – 5:00 pm**

**Michael Baker
INTERNATIONAL**



Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Hazard Mitigation Overview
3. Plan Elements
 - Planning Process
 - Risk Assessment
 - Mitigation Strategy
4. Project Schedule and Next Steps
5. Open Discussion

UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD
MITIGATION PLAN

Final Plan Approval:
12/15/21
Expires:
12/14/26

Prepared for:
Union County
Division of Emergency Services
400 North Avenue East
Westfield, NJ 07090

Michael Baker
INTERNATIONAL

Prepared by:
Michael Baker International, Inc.
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Hamilton, NJ 08619

Last Union County Hazard Mitigation Plan was approved by FEMA on December 15, 2021

Welcome

Meet the Project Team!

Elizabeth Stamler
Client Project Manager
Emergency Services
County of Union



Brittany Dremluk, AICP, PP
Consultant Project Manager
Michael Baker International, Inc.



Hazard Mitigation Overview

Hazard Mitigation



Hazard mitigation is the effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters

State, tribal, and local governments engage in hazard mitigation planning **to identify risks and vulnerabilities** associated with disasters and **develop long-term strategies for protecting people and property** from future hazard events.

Six Step Planning Process

1

Gather input from stakeholders

2

Develop risk and vulnerability assessment

3

Capability assessment

4

Develop mitigation strategy

5

Determine plan maintenance process

6

Obtain mitigation plan approval and adoption

Changes from the Previous Plan Update

New FEMA Guidance

- Emphasizes outreach to **broader range of stakeholders** including nonprofits that support underserved communities.
- Emphasizes the use of the **community lifelines** construct.
- Considers the **effects of climate change and future conditions**.
- Highlights the **importance of building codes and development decisions** in risk reduction.



Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide

FP 206-21-0002

Released April 19, 2022, Effective April 19, 2023

OMB Collection #1660-0062



FEMA

*New FEMA Guidance became
effective April 19, 2023*

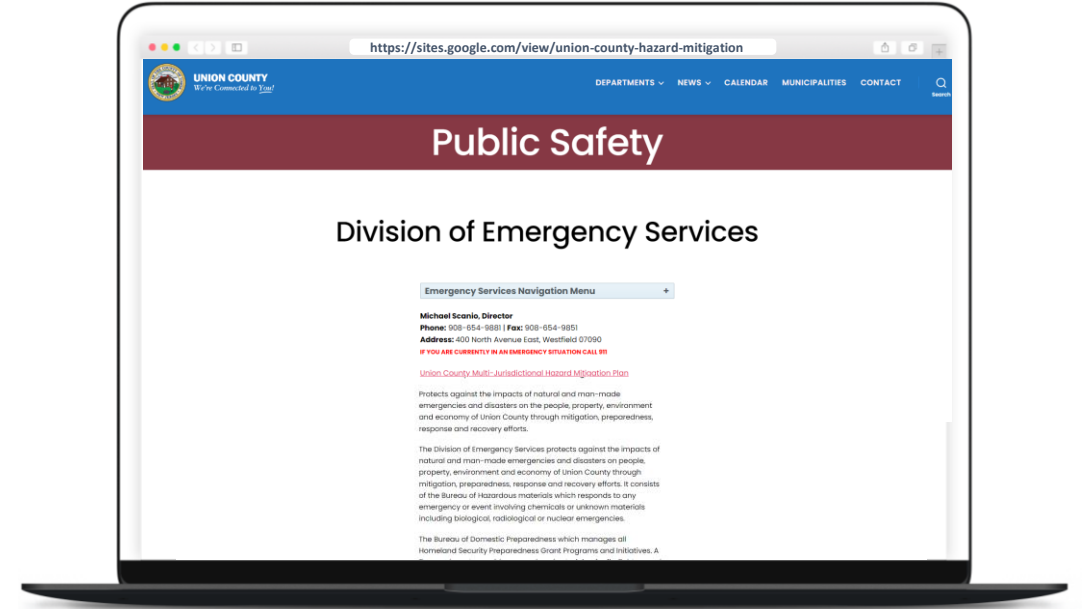
Union County Goals

- Goal 1* Improve **education and outreach** efforts regarding potential impacts of hazards and the identification of specific measures that can be taken to reduce their impact
- Goal 2* Improve **data collection, use, and sharing** to reduce the impact of hazards
- Goal 3* Improve **capabilities, coordination, and opportunities** at municipal and county levels to plan and implement hazard mitigation projects, programs, and activities
- Goal 4* Pursue **opportunities to mitigate** repetitive and severe repetitive loss properties and other appropriate hazard mitigation projects, programs, and activities
- Goal 5* Mitigate **High Hazard-Potential Dams** within the County

Plan Elements

Planning Process

- **Municipal Meeting Coordination**
- **Coordination with Regional Stakeholders**
- **Three Public Workshops**
 - Public Meeting #1
 - Kick-Off Meeting
 - Public Meeting #2
 - Risk Assessment Findings
 - Public Meeting #3
 - Draft HMP Review



Project Website:
<https://ucnj.org/public-safety/division-of-emergency-services/>

Planning Process

What is the Role of the Public?

Public Role

- Share local knowledge of hazards and previous events
- Provide feedback on goals, strategies, and priorities

Outcomes

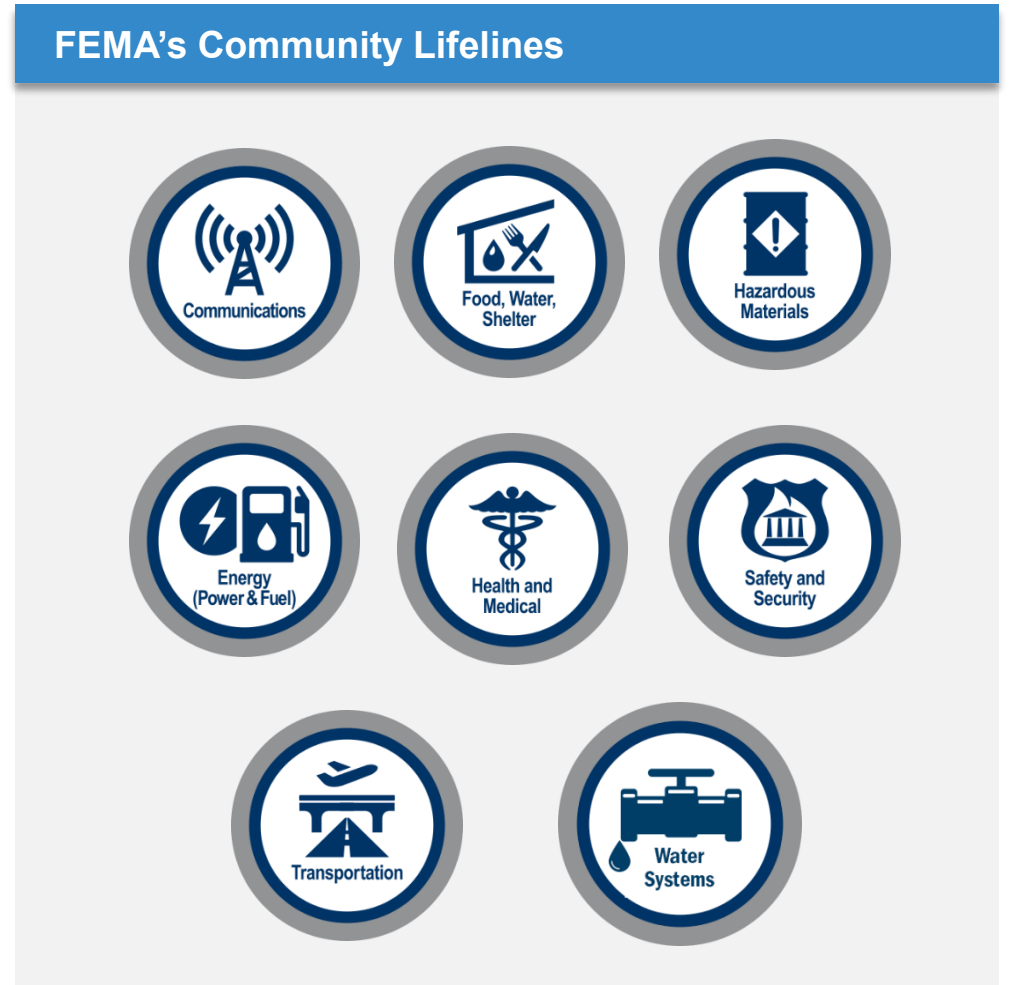
- Community is informed about the Hazard Mitigation Planning process and community risk from hazards
- Help the Project Team better understand risks, vulnerabilities, and impacts of natural hazards to the community
- Community needs and vision are incorporated into the final plan

Develop Risk & Vulnerability Assessment

- **Identify critical assets and systems** that are **vulnerable** under current and future conditions
- Tells a story about County's **risks** and tie it to the **capabilities** and **mitigation actions**
- Requires considering the effects of climate change, population change, and land use change

For more information on FEMA's community lifelines, visit:

<https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/lifelines>



Profiled Hazards

Natural Hazards	Human-Caused Hazards
Dam Failure	Hazardous Materials Release – Fixed Site
Drought	Hazardous Materials Release – Transportation
Earthquake/Geological	Animal Disease
Erosion – Hurricane/Nor’easter/Coastal Storm	Civil Unrest
Extreme Temperature - Cold	Cyber Attack
Extreme Temperature - Heat	Economic Collapse
Flood	Nuclear Hazards
Hail	Pandemic
High Wind – Straight Line Winds	Power Failure
High Wind - Tornado	Terrorism
Landslide (non-seismic)	
Severe Storm – Lightning	
Severe Storm – Winter Weather (includes Ice Storm)	
Storm Surge – Hurricane/Nor’easter/Tropical Storm	
Wildfire	

Note: Impacts from Climate Change and Sea Level Rise are addressed in each applicable hazard.

The Mitigation Strategy

Capability Assessment

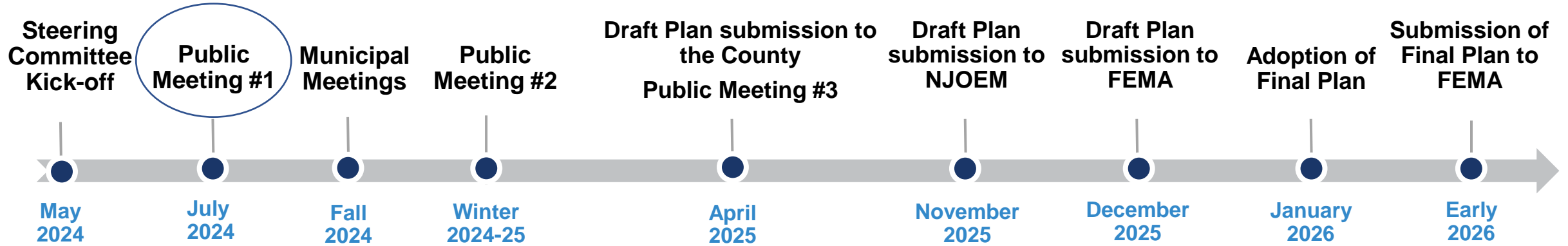
- Identifies pre- and post-disaster capabilities that could reduce losses and reduce risks in the community, including:
 - Planning and Regulations
 - Administrative and Technical Capabilities
 - Fiscal Capabilities
 - Education and Outreach
- The assessment also identifies regional, county, and local plan integration

Mitigation Actions

- Documents and analyzes a broad-range of potential actions for the County
- Must link actions to vulnerabilities
- Demonstrates how the action reduces risk
- Should include actions addressing underserved or socially vulnerable populations

Project Schedule and Next Steps

Project Schedule



Next Steps

- **Public Meeting #2 (Winter 2024-25)**
 - Risk Assessment Findings
- **Public Meeting #3 (Spring 2025)**
 - Review Draft HMP
- **Contact the Planning Team anytime**

Project Website:

<https://ucnj.org/public-safety/division-of-emergency-services/>

CONTACT US!



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Open Discussion

Open Discussion



- Is there a particular hazard you are concerned about?
- Where in the County is prone to natural hazards (flood, erosion, wildfire, drought)?
- Do you have any specific concerns or additional thoughts related to the County's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change?
- Are there mitigation projects or actions you propose to be part of this plan?



Thank You!

Brittany Dremluk, AICP, PP, LEED Green Associate
Project Manager

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