

Executive Summary: Alamance County Hazard Mitigation

Purpose and Vision

The Alamance County Hazard Mitigation Plan, developed as part of the Eno-Haw Regional initiative, establishes a comprehensive framework to reduce the county's vulnerability to natural and human-made hazards. This forward-looking strategy is designed to protect lives, property, infrastructure, and the local economy. The plan satisfies FEMA requirements under the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, ensuring continued eligibility for federal hazard mitigation assistance programs.

Community Profile

The county includes a mix of urban centers and rural areas, with a steadily growing population. As of 2023, the estimated population according to the US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2019-2023 5-year estimates is 174,286. From 2010-2023, there has been an 18.6% increase in population in Alamance County. Alamance County's economic base consists of manufacturing, retail, education, and healthcare services. Critical infrastructure includes transportation corridors like I-85/I-40, utilities, and public facilities that must be protected to maintain operational continuity during emergencies.

Key Hazard Risks

Alamance County faces a range of hazards, with the most significant including:

- Flooding (particularly from heavy rainfall and localized events)
- Severe weather (thunderstorms, tornadoes, winter storms)
- Hurricanes and tropical storms
- Droughts and extreme heat
- Wildfires
- Earthquakes (less frequent but still a consideration)

Flooding poses the highest recurring risk, especially in vulnerable communities along riverbanks and low-lying areas.

Mitigation Strategy Highlights

The plan outlines goals and actions specific to Alamance County, focusing on:

- Upgrading stormwater systems and drainage infrastructure (Municipalities)
- Promoting public education and awareness on emergency preparedness
- Enhancing data sharing and GIS tools for better hazard mapping
- Encouraging resilient construction practices and enforcing updated building codes
- Acquiring or elevating properties in flood-prone zones
- Coordinating emergency response and recovery plans with municipalities and state agencies

Planning and Collaboration

Alamance County worked with local municipalities, public agencies, and all community stakeholders during the development of the plan to ensure comprehensive coverage and community engagement. The process included risk assessments, capability evaluations, and public outreach.

Benefits and Implementation

By adopting this plan, Alamance County remains eligible for FEMA's pre- and post-disaster grant funding, such as the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC). The plan emphasizes implementation through a five-year cycle, with periodic updates, progress tracking, and an emphasis on sustainability.