

# Albany Dougherty Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan

## Chapter 4 – Local Natural Hazard Mitigation Goals and Objectives

Using the findings from the risk assessment and the capabilities assessment as a guide the Albany Dougherty Pre-Disaster Mitigation Planning Committee developed the following mitigation goals, objectives, and action steps for implementation. Goals and objectives were developed in the subcommittees working sessions. Once the final goals and objectives were determined the Planning Committee met again to develop the action steps or mitigation strategies that would aid the County in meeting the goals and objectives identified in the plan. Action steps were selected using the information obtained from the capabilities assessment, which identified existing programs and shortfalls related to mitigation activities.

The following goal and objective, with action steps apply to the natural hazards identified in Chapter 2.

### **I. Drought**

**A. Community Mitigation Goals.** Promote awareness of the importance and value of water, by involving community participation in the efficient use of limited water resources.

**B. Identification & Analysis of Range of Mitigation Options.** The Albany Dougherty Pre-Disaster Mitigation Committee has identified structural and non-structural mitigation measures to ensure that the community adequately addresses all relevant drought issues. Reducing the level of vulnerability (mitigation) requires our elected officials, City/County administrators, and the public to be fully integrated into the drought management process in order to coordinate efforts during stages of drought preparation, water conservation and water emergencies. This may require modification or adoption of local ordinances/codes to provide guidance and regulations to manage Drought hazard at the County level. Dougherty County must coordinate with water supply systems, state officials and other municipalities who share our water systems. Albany and Dougherty County officials shall enforce both local regulations/restrictions and state emergency orders.

### **C. Mitigation Strategy and Recommendation**

- **Mitigation Goal #1:** Educate the citizenry about the effects of Drought on public health and safety, economic activity, and environmental resources.

**Objective # 1:** Manage available water resources.

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Task A. To sustain the community's water using industries requirements and protection of public health, safety and welfare.

Action Step: Heighten public awareness on actions they can take to conserve water.

Action Step: Utilize the media for the distribution and publication of Drought information.

Action Step: Update the Albany Dougherty website to provide Drought related information that is readily accessible.

Action Step: Ensure the reasonable allocation of supply during drought events through a coordinated and cooperative inter-agency response.

Action Step: Formulate policies for conservation of water during times of water shortage and Drought.

**D. Multi-Jurisdictional Mitigation Strategy.** Drought hazard is a county wide problem. This Plan is a collaborative effort between the City of Albany and Dougherty County. Together each experience the effects of Drought hazard conditions, and together each is working to mitigate future natural hazards.

**E. Local Public Information and Awareness strategy.** Outreach projects are effective first steps in orienting property owners to property protection issues and helping them seek out more information to protect themselves and their properties. A successful County information and education program involves both the public and private sectors. Public information and education activities advise and educate citizens, property owners, renters, businesses, and local officials about hazards and ways to protect people and property from Drought hazard. Public information activities are among the least expensive mitigation measures, and at the same time are often the most effective thing a community can do to save lives and property. All hazard mitigation activities (preventive, structural, property protection, emergency services, and natural resource protection) begin with public information and education.

## II. Flooding

**A. Community Mitigation Goals.** Dougherty County has suffered repetitive flood damage in a number of major flood incidents; 1994 and 1998 events resulted in tens of millions of dollars in property damage and the County remains prone to future Flooding hazard. This Plan's mitigation goals are avoidance and protection. Through an informed public and the enforcement of floodplain management, we will reduce the community's risk to people, property/environment and the economy from future flooding.

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**B. Identification & Analysis of Range of Mitigation Options.** The Albany Dougherty Pre-Disaster Mitigation Committee has identified structural and non-structural mitigation measures to ensure that the community adequately addresses all relevant flood issues. Reducing the level of vulnerability (mitigation) requires our elected officials, City/County administrators, and the public to be fully integrated into the flood management process in order to coordinate efforts during stages of flood preparation. This may require modification or adoption of local ordinances/codes to provide guidance and regulations to manage flood mitigation at the County level. Dougherty County must coordinate with region and state officials and other municipalities who share our common hazard flooding. Albany and Dougherty County officials shall enforce both local regulations/restrictions and state emergency orders.

### C. Mitigation Strategy and Recommendations

- **Mitigation Goal # 2:** Educate the citizenry about Flood hazards.

**Objective # 1:** Improve Flood hazard information dissemination.

Task A. Improve information dissemination using Albany Dougherty website, access channel and regular updates during emergencies.

Action Step: Utilize the media for the distribution and publication of Flood hazard information.

Action Step: Update the Albany Dougherty website to provide Natural hazards related information that is readily accessible.

**Objective # 2:** Identify the floodway.

Task A: Identify the floodway by posting signs on all streets at the location where the street intersects the floodway.

Action Step: Update and improve floodplain maps.

**Objective # 3:** Enforce floodplain management.

Task A: Continue to enforce floodplain management regulations.

Action Step: Review and update Albany Dougherty Building Codes to accurately reflect requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program.

Action Step: Develop a Stormwater Management Plan.

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- **Mitigation Goal # 3:** Reduce exposure to Flood hazards.

### **Objective # 1:** Develop Flood mitigation plans.

Task A: Continue to work with the Army Corps of Engineers to develop Flood mitigation plans to protect property in the County.

Action Step: Review existing regulations to ensure adequacy in reducing the amount of future development in identified Flood hazard areas.

Action Step: Build a bridge over the Flint River at Clark and Society Ave.

### **Objective # 2:** Floodway buyout program.

Task A: Buyout all structures located in the floodway and those vulnerable to Flooding in the floodplain.

Action Step: Distribute letters to all property owners in the county regarding potential flood hazards as required for participation in the Community Rating System (CRS).

Action Step: Obtain updated information on the number of National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policyholders in Dougherty County.

Action Step: Collect updated information of the number and location of all repetitive loss properties throughout the County.

Action Step: Develop a database of information on all repetitive loss properties including maps.

### **Objective # 3:** Elevate houses in the floodplain.

Task A: Elevate all houses in the floodplain where the lowest finished floor is below the Base Flood Elevation.

Action Step: Identify owners of repetitive loss properties that may be willing to participate in future property acquisition and relocation projects.

### **Objective # 4:** Improve the stormwater drainage system.

Task A: Improve the stormwater drainage system in Albany and Dougherty County.

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Action Step: Work with Georgia Department of Transportation to identify areas of frequent roadway Flooding and develop mitigation strategies.

Action Step: Construct nine retention ponds strategically located throughout Dougherty County to assist in Flood control.

Action Step: Upgrade three pump stations to increase Flood control capacity.

Action Step: Enhance existing pump stations capabilities with six new sites.

Action Step: Acquire rights of way for six new drainage canals.

- **Mitigation Goal # 4:** Protect public infrastructure and critical facilities from Flooding.

**Objective # 1:** Flood proof all critical facilities.

Task A: Identify buildings which would benefit from Flood hazard mitigation.

Action Step: Review all capital improvements plans to ensure that infrastructure improvements are not directed towards Flood hazard areas.

Action Step: Conduct a survey of all historic sites that are located in Flood hazard areas.

Action Step: Develop mitigation strategies to protect any at-risk historic properties.

Action Step: Flood proof pump stations to insure their continued operation.

**D. Multi-Jurisdictional Mitigation Strategy.** Flooding and the associated damages have impacted both the City of Albany and Dougherty County. This Plan is a collaborative effort between the City of Albany and Dougherty County. Together each experienced the effects of Flood hazard conditions, and together each is working to mitigate future natural hazards.

**E. Local Public Information and Awareness strategy.** Outreach projects are effective first steps in orienting property owners to property protection issues and helping them seek out more information to protect themselves and their properties. A successful County information and education program involves both the public and private sectors. Public information and education activities advise and educate citizens, property owners, renters, businesses, and local officials about hazards and ways to protect people and property from Flooding. Public information activities are among the least expensive mitigation measures, and at the same time are

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often the most effective thing a community can do to save lives and property. All hazard mitigation activities (preventive, structural, property protection, emergency services, and natural resource protection) begin with public information and education.

## III. Tornado

**A. Community Mitigation Goals.** Tornadoes are common to Southwest Georgia and they may strike at anytime. To be effective any hazard mitigation effort must have goals. This Plan's mitigation goals are avoidance and protection. Through an informed public and the enforcement of ordinances and building codes, we will reduce the community's risk to people, property/environment and the economy from future tornadoes.

**B. Identification & Analysis of Range of Mitigation Options.** The Albany Dougherty Pre-Disaster Mitigation Committee has identified structural and non-structural mitigation measures to ensure that the community adequately addresses all relevant tornado issues. Reducing the level of vulnerability (mitigation) requires our elected officials, City/County administrators, and the public to be fully integrated into the natural hazard management process in order to coordinate efforts during stages of tornado preparation. This may require modification or adoption of local ordinances/codes to provide guidance and regulations to manage tornado mitigation at the County level. Dougherty County must coordinate with region and state officials and other municipalities who share our common hazard tornadoes. Albany and Dougherty County officials shall enforce both local regulations/restrictions and state emergency orders.

## C. Mitigation Strategy and Recommendations

- **Mitigation Goal # 5:** Reduce risks and vulnerability of people in Tornado hazard-prone areas.

**Objective # 1:** To advise the public about tornado safety precautions.

Task A: Guard the public against injury and loss of life from Tornado hazards.

Action Step: Education program on personal emergency preparedness, i.e., emergency survival kits.

Action Step: Partner with local radio stations to assure that appropriate warning is provided to County residents of impending Tornado.

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Action Step: Develop an improved Tornado warning system using sirens located throughout the County.

Action Step: Encourage the American Red Cross to teach the Citizen's Disaster Course on a frequent basis.

- **Mitigation Goal # 6:** Reduce the potential impact of Tornado disaster on new and existing properties and infrastructure and the local economy.

**Objective # 1:** Make property more resistant to Tornado hazards.

Task A: Implement cost-effective activities that assist in protecting lives by making homes, businesses, infrastructure, critical facilities, and other property more resistant to Tornado hazards.

Action Step: Encourage a self-inspection program at critical facilities to assure that the building infrastructure is Tornado resistant.

Action Step: Encourage businesses to develop emergency plans.

Action Step: Encourage public and private identification of safe rooms.

**D. Multi-Jurisdictional Mitigation Strategy.** Tornadoes and the associated damages have impacted both the City of Albany and Dougherty County. This Plan is a collaborative effort between the City of Albany and Dougherty County. Together each has experienced the effects of Tornadoes hazard conditions and together each is working to mitigate future natural hazards.

**E. Local Public Information and Awareness strategy.** Outreach projects are effective first steps in orienting property owners to property protection issues and helping them seek out more information to protect themselves and their properties. A successful County information and education program involves both the public and private sectors. Public information and education activities advise and educate citizens, property owners, renters, businesses, and local officials about hazards and ways to protect people and property from Tornadoes. Public information activities are among the least expensive mitigation measures, and at the same time are often the most effective thing a community can do to save lives and property. All hazard mitigation activities (preventive, structural, property protection, emergency services, and natural resource protection) begin with public information and education.

## IV. Multi – Hazards