

Albany Dougherty Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan

Chapter 5 – Local Technological Hazard Mitigation Goals and Objectives

Using the same procedure as in Chapter 4, the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee developed the following technological hazard mitigation goals, objectives, and action steps for implementation. Again 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 technological hazards identified in Chapter 3.

1. Hazardous Materials

A. Community Mitigation Goals. Hazardous materials are transported on the roads and railroad networks throughout the County. Some of these hazardous materials are stored and consumed by the community. In particular, gasoline for vehicles, propane for heating, and anhydrous ammonia for fertilizers. In a flood event, the potential is high for release or spill of hazardous material into floodwaters. This Plan's goal is to promote awareness of the importance to the community in the safeguard, handling, use and disposal of Hazardous materials.

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 hazardous material issues. Reducing the level of vulnerability (mitigation) requires our elected officials, City/County administrators, and the public to be fully integrated into the Hazardous materials management process. This may require modification or adoption of local ordinances/codes to provide guidance and regulations to manage Hazardous materials at the County level. Dougherty County must coordinate with state officials and other municipalities who share our common concern with the transportation, storage and use of Hazardous materials. Albany and Dougherty County officials shall enforce both local regulations/restrictions and state emergency orders.

C. Mitigation Strategy and Recommendation

- **Mitigation Goal # 9:** Reduce possibility of damage and loss to existing community assets including addressable structures, critical facilities and infrastructure due to Hazardous Material releases.

Objective # 1: Extend public awareness to Technological Hazards.

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Task A. Heighten public awareness of the full range of Man-made or Technological hazards by developing education and outreach programs.

Action Step: Educate the public about the Hazardous Materials to which they are most frequently exposed.

Action Step: Help homeowners identify Hazardous Materials from which they are at risk.

Action Step: Identify and publish Hazardous Materials disposal procedures.

D. Multi-Jurisdictional Mitigation Strategy. Hazardous materials are formulated, used and transported throughout Dougherty County. This Plan is a collaborative effort between the City of Albany and Dougherty County. Together each has experienced the effects of hazardous materials conditions and together each is working to mitigate future hazardous materials 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 Hazardous materials. 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.