

Albany Dougherty Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan

Chapter 6 – Executing the Plan

I. Implementation Action Plan

The Albany Dougherty Emergency Management Agency (EMA) has the overall responsibility for emergency planning, coordination of state and local resources, and the direction of responding to agencies and organizations in the conduct of disaster operations. Also, the Emergency Management Agency (EMA) will provide assistance for disaster planning activities, is responsible for developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), maintaining emergency notification rosters including 24-hour telephone numbers for emergency notification, and resource data to ensure prompt and effective response to emergencies.

Dougherty County currently utilizes several mechanisms to guide development, including comprehensive land use planning as required by the Georgia State Standards for Comprehensive Planning, Flood Plain Management, Greenspace Program, capital improvement planning and building codes. Each of these mechanisms can also be utilized to meet the goals for the Albany Dougherty Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan. After adoption of the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan, a review will be conducted to identify any changes that need to be incorporated into existing plans.

Planning and Community Development Department is currently negotiating with a firm to assist in updating the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance. Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan will be among the documents reviewed for inclusion in these documents.

Administration of the Flood Plain Ordinance reduces the vulnerability of structures to flood damage by requiring elevation and other protective steps in construction as well as controlling what can be located in floodplain and floodway.

The Greenspace Program is centered on protecting water quality, but a consequence of this program is the protection from development of much of the Flint River corridor, including floodway and floodplain.

Capital improvement programs provide an opportunity for City/County Departments to identify projects that are consistent with Plan goals and to integrate them into long-range plans. Special Local Option Sales Tax projects will be proposed and voted on in 2004, presenting a timely method of financing important mitigation projects.

Albany and Dougherty County have adopted Georgia State Minimum Standard Codes for construction that is administered by inspectors on all construction projects permitted by local government. Residential construction also meets standards set in International Residential Code for One and Two Family

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Dwellings, 2000. Engineering Principles and Practices for Retrofitting Flood Prone Residential Buildings, January 1995, is referenced for buildings in the flood plain. Inspection protocols ensure that life/safety criteria are met for new construction and rehabilitation.

Within six months of the formal adoption of the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan, the policies listed above will be incorporated into the process of existing planning mechanisms.

In order for this plan to be effective, its contents must be known and understood by those who are responsible for its implementation. The Goals and Objective subcommittee was tasked to prioritize the alternative mitigation actions based on their perceived cost benefit, community benefit and/or support for the action, and the potential that the action will receive the necessary funding. See Appendix D Worksheet # 8. The EMA will brief the appropriate officials concerning their roles and responsibilities in emergency management and in this plan.

To assure that the Plan continues to provide an appropriate path for risk reduction in Dougherty County, it is necessary to regularly evaluate and update it. To that end, the EMA will convene a yearly meeting of the Albany Dougherty Pre-Disaster Mitigation Committee. It is crucial that representatives from each of the county's jurisdictions are involved in the plan update and monitoring process.

II. Evaluation

The Hazard Mitigation Committee will be responsible for evaluating the plan (see I. above). One of the first tasks of the committee will be to determine the criteria to be used for evaluation of the plan. Included among these criteria should be:

- Do the goals and objectives continue to address expected conditions in Dougherty County?
- Is the risk assessment still appropriate, or has the nature or magnitude of the hazard and/or vulnerability changed over time?
- Are current resources appropriate for implementing this plan?
- Have lead agencies participated as originally proposed?
- Have outcomes been adequate?
- What problems have occurred in the implementation process?
- Have member of the public been adequately involved in the process?
Are their comments being heard?

III. Multi-Jurisdictional Strategy and Consideration

The Emergency Management Agency (EMA) is the authorized agent of the City of Albany and Dougherty County for Pre-Disaster Mitigation planning. Both Albany and Dougherty County were working partners in the development of this Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan. Upon FEMA approval of the Albany Dougherty Pre-

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Disaster Plan, both City/County Commissions will publish their resolutions to adopt and plans to implement the actions prescribed in the Albany Dougherty Pre-Disaster Plan. This precludes the need for each jurisdiction to produce different/separate action plans in order to manage hazard risks.

IV. Plan Update and Maintenance

Revisions to the Albany Dougherty Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan will be considered on a five year cycle. The EMA will maintain, update and distribute changes to this plan as required based on deficiencies identified through drills and exercises, completion of proposed mitigation actions, identification of new mitigation projects, changes in local government structure, and to qualify for specific funding reviews after disasters.

Responsible officials of involved organizations and agencies should recommend revisions at any time and provide information periodically as to change of personnel and available resources which would bear on the provisions of this plan and its implementation.

To facilitate the goal of continued public involvement in the planning process, the EMA will assure that the following steps are taken:

- The public will be directly involved in the update and review of the plan as members of the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Planning Committee.
- Copies of the plan will be kept on hand at appropriate agencies throughout Dougherty County. Contained in the plan is the address and phone number of the EMA employee responsible for keeping track of public comments on the plan.
- The plan will be available on the City/County's website, and will contain an e-mail address and phone number the public can use for submitting comments and concerns about the plan.
- A public meeting will be held annually to provide the public with a forum for expressing concerns, opinions, and ideas. The EMA will set meeting schedules and dates and use County resources to publicize and host this meeting.

The EMA will be responsible for ensuring that an annual review of this plan is conducted by the Albany Dougherty Pre-Disaster Mitigation Committee. Additionally, any portion of this plan implemented during an actual emergency occurrence will be reviewed and updated at the termination of the emergency response activities. The EMA will coordinate all review and revision efforts.