

# Albany Dougherty Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan

## IV. Local Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability (HRV) Summary

Identifying the hazards that face our community is the first step in reducing the community's vulnerability. Hazard analysis involves identifying all of the hazards that potentially threaten our community and analyzing them individually to determine the degree of threat they pose. A comprehensive hazard analysis determines:

- What hazards threaten the community;
- How often they are likely to occur;
- How severe the situation is likely to get;
- Their likely effect on the community; and
- How vulnerable is the community to the threat.

The information identified in the hazard analysis is used to develop both mitigation plans and emergency response plans. A typical hazard analysis consists of five objectives:

- Identify the hazards.
- Profile each hazard.
- Develop a community profile.
- Compare and prioritize the hazards.
- Create and apply scenarios.

Dougherty County is located in southwest Georgia, a southern state. Southern states are defined as the following: Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Florida, Virginia, Kentucky, **Georgia**, Tennessee, South Carolina, and North Carolina. Within these southern states, the following are considered the hazards that are most prevalent.

- Coastal Erosion
- Droughts
- Earthquakes
- Expansive Soils
- Extreme Heat
- Floods
- Hurricanes
- Land Subsidence
- Storm Surges
- Thunder and Lightning
- Tornadoes
- Windstorms

### Hazard Rating Process

During the development of this hazard analysis, all events which could pose a threat to Dougherty County were analyzed and rated according to history,

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vulnerability, maximum threat, and probability of occurrence. The events which were identified as high priority in terms of significant threat, and for which preparedness, planning, and mitigation efforts are required, are:

- Drought (Agricultural)
- Floods
- Hazardous Materials
- Tornadoes

### **Local Mitigation Goals and Objectives**

Plan goals are broad statements describing the principles that guide the actions suggested in this document. The plan goals set County priorities for reducing susceptibility to natural, man-made or technological hazards. The goals serve as the basis for development of the more specific plan objectives. These goals are:

- Educate the citizenry about hazards.
- Reduce exposure to natural, man-made or technological Hazards.
- Protect public infrastructure and critical facilities from Hazards.
- Improve warning to the public during disasters.

Plan objectives are more targeted statements that define strategies and implementation steps to attain the goals; they serve as a “measuring stick” upon which individual Hazard Mitigation projects can be evaluated. Specific objectives will be defined in Chapters 4 and 5.