



Dane County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

August 17, 2009

**Developed by Dane County with professional planning assistance from
AMEC Earth and Environmental**





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Plan Overview

Each year in the United States, disasters take the lives of hundreds of people and injure thousands more. Nationwide, taxpayers pay billions of dollars annually to help communities, organizations, businesses, and individuals recover from disasters. These monies only partially reflect the true cost of disasters, as additional expenses to insurance companies and nongovernmental organizations are not reimbursed by tax dollars. Many disasters are predictable, and much of the damage caused by these events can be alleviated or even eliminated.

Dane County's Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan is an effort to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on citizens and property in Dane County by outlining actions that will mitigate the hazards' effects and break the cycle of repetitive disaster losses. Hazard mitigation is defined by FEMA as "any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to human life and property from a hazard event." Hazard mitigation planning is the process through which hazards that threaten communities are identified, likely impacts of those hazards are determined, mitigation goals are set, and appropriate strategies to lessen impacts are determined, prioritized, and implemented. The Dane County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan documents Dane County's hazard mitigation planning process, identifies relevant hazards and risks, and outlines the strategy the County and participating jurisdictions will use to decrease hazard vulnerability and increase resiliency and sustainability. This plan was updated in 2009, building off of the framework of the 2004 version of this plan and incorporates the 2003 Dane County Flood Mitigation Plan.

Information in this plan will be used to help guide and coordinate mitigation activities and decisions for local land use policy in the future. Proactive mitigation planning will help reduce the cost of disaster response and recovery to the community and its property owners by protecting critical community facilities, reducing liability exposure, and minimizing overall community impacts and disruption. The Dane County planning area has been affected by hazards in the past and is thus committed to reducing future disaster impacts and maintaining eligibility for federal funding.

This plan is divided into 6 chapters, 13 appendices, and 39 annexes as follows:

Chapter 1 – Introduction

This chapter contains background information regarding the planning scope and federal planning requirements.

Chapter 2 – Planning Process

This chapter describes the planning process used to develop a hazard mitigation strategy including how local units of governments, stakeholder groups, and members of the public were involved.

Chapter 3 – Dane County Profile

This chapter contains background information and a profile of Dane County, including geographic and demographic information.

Chapter 4 – Risk Assessment

This chapter describes the threat of 13 natural hazards – dam failure, drought, flood, fog, hail, landslide/sinkholes/erosion, lightning, severe cold, severe heat, severe winter storm, tornado, wildfire, and windstorms. This chapter has four sections. The Hazard Identification section explains how the natural hazards were chosen to be profiled in this plan. The Hazard Profiles describes the nature of and major impacts of these hazards. The Vulnerability Summary lists the overall property, populations, and critical facilities exposed to the hazards. Finally the Capability Assessment describes those plans, policies and procedures that the County has already in place to mitigate hazard impacts.

Chapter 5 – Mitigation Strategy

This chapter describes the goals, objectives, and actions that Dane County will take to mitigate the hazards as described in Chapter 4, and the process used to review, select and prioritize viable mitigation alternatives.

Chapter 6 – Plan Implementation and Maintenance

This chapter describes the plan adoption process, how the plan will be implemented, maintained and updated every 5 years in compliance with federal planning regulations.

Appendix A - Mitigation Objectives

This appendix contains the detailed action steps regarding how Dane County will implement the recommendations of this plan, and ultimately make progress towards meeting the plan's goals.

Appendix B - Mitigation Alternatives in Dane County

This appendix contains background and reference information on mitigation strategies, and the common alternatives that could be used in Dane County.

Appendix C - Plan Participants

This appendix contains the list of all Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee members and their contact information.

Appendix D - Planning Process Documentation

This appendix contains materials that document the planning meetings, public meetings, and other activities that occurred during the development of this plan.

Appendix E - Public Participation Plan

This appendix contains a separate plan used to involve the public during the creation of this plan.

Appendix F - Public Workshop Questionnaire

This appendix contains the public workshop questionnaire used to gather input from the public regarding hazard issues and priority hazard mitigation strategies in Dane County.

Appendix G - Critical Facilities Map

This appendix contains maps of the critical facilities within Dane County.

Appendix H - 2009 Goals Revision

This appendix contains a table illustrating how Dane County's goals for the 2009 plan update were revised from the 2004 plan.

Appendix I - Objective Prioritization Table

This appendix contains a table of commonly used mitigation strategies utilized in Wisconsin, annotated with Dane County's planning team and citizen priorities.

Appendix J - Funding Sources

This appendix contains an explanation of existing program and funding sources available to Dane County and its jurisdictions that could be leveraged for funding hazard mitigation projects and programs.

Appendix K - References

This appendix contains material referenced in the creation of the Plan.

Appendix L - Records of Adoption

This appendix contains the adoption records of this plan.

Annexes 1-39

These annexes contain additional detail on hazards, vulnerability, and critical facilities for each participating city, village, and town. The annexes include strategies specific to each jurisdiction intended to mitigate the impacts of hazards, including existing capabilities, proposed objectives, and action steps.



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