

9.13 Lowhill Township

This section presents the jurisdictional annex for the Lowhill Township.

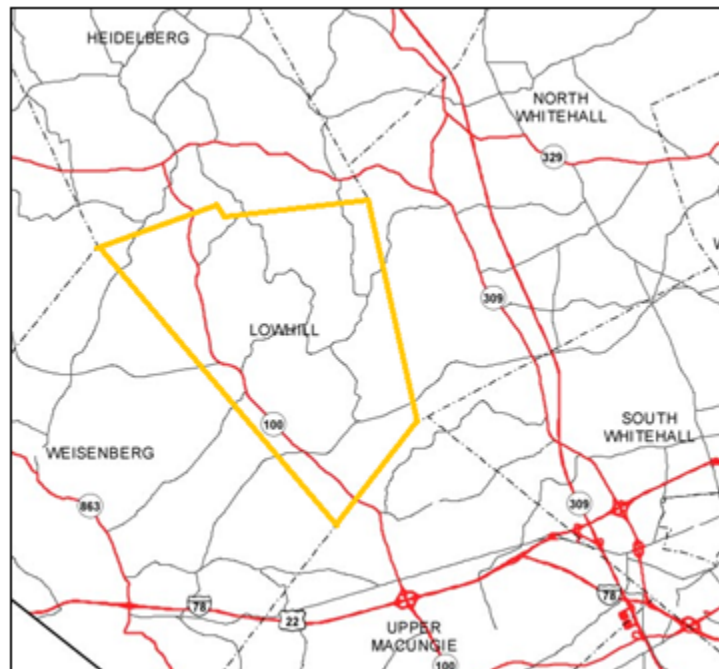
A. HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN POINT OF CONTACT

Primary Point of Contact		Alternate Point of Contact	
<u>Name</u>	Frank Bartholomew	<u>Name</u>	
<u>Title/</u>	Emergency Management Coordinator	<u>Title/</u>	
<u>Department</u>		<u>Department</u>	
<u>Address</u>	9721 Bartholomew Court, Breinigsville,	<u>Address</u>	
<u>Telephone</u>	PA 18031	<u>Telephone</u>	
<u>Fax</u>		<u>Fax</u>	
<u>Email</u>		<u>Email</u>	

B. MUNICIPAL PROFILE

Lowhill Township is a suburban township in the central part of Lehigh County covering 14 square miles, with an estimated population of 2,173 (2010 Census). As shown in Figure 1, the Township is surrounded by other Lehigh County municipalities, and is bordered by North Whitehall Township to the east; Heidelberg Township to the north; Lynn Township to the northwest; Weisenberg Township to the southwest; Upper Macungie Township to the south; and South Whitehall Township to the southeast. The villages of Lowhill include Claussville, Leather Corner Post, Lowhill, Lyon Valley, and Weidasville.

Figure 1



(Source: <http://www.lvpc.org/pdf/maps/baseMap-LehighNorthamptonCounties.pdf>)

Lowhill Township is drained by the Jordan Creek, which flows west to east and into the Lehigh River.

State Route 100 crosses through Lowhill Township from north to south, and is the main transportation route to access Routes 22 and Highway 78, south of the Township, connecting east towards Allentown and/or points north and south along Highway 476. Major east-west roads through the township include Clauseville Road/SR 4003 and Kernsville Road, which also connect east through North Whitehall Township towards Allentown.

B.1 Known or Anticipated Future Development

No new development has been identified in the Township at this time.

C. NATURAL HAZARD EVENT HISTORY SPECIFIC TO LOWHILL TOWNSHIP

Type of Event and Date	FEMA Disaster # (if applicable)	Local Damage and Losses

D. HAZARD RISK/VULNERABILITY RISK RANKING

The following relative ranking of natural and non-natural hazard risks in this municipality was developed using PEMA's Risk Factor methodology described in Section 4, "Risk Assessment"

HAZARD RISK	NATURAL HAZARDS	RISK ASSESSMENT CATEGORY					RISK FACTOR (RF)
		PROBABILITY	IMPACT	SPATIAL EXTENT	WARNING TIME	DURATION	
HIGH	Winter Storm	3	2	4	1	3	2.7
	Flood	3	2	2	3	3	2.5
MODERATE	Radon Exposure	4	1	2	1	4	2.4
	Extreme Temperatures	4	1	2	1	3	2.3
	Drought	2	1	4	1	4	2.2
	Wildfire	3	1	2	3	3	2.2
	Hailstorm	3	1	3	2	1	2.1
	Wind, incl. Tornado	1	3	2	4	1	2.1
	Lightning	4	1	1	2	1	2
LOW	Earthquake	1	1	4	4	1	1.9
	Subsidence / Sinkholes	2	1	1	2	1	1.4
	Landslide	1	1	1	4	1	1.3

HAZARD RISK	MAN-MADE HAZARDS	RISK ASSESSMENT CATEGORY					RISK FACTOR (RF)
		PROBABILITY	IMPACT	SPATIAL EXTENT	WARNING TIME	DURATION	
HIGH	Fire (Urban/Structural)	4	2	1	4	2	2.6
	Environmental Hazard and	3	2	2	4	3	2.6
	Utility Interruption	3	1	3	4	3	2.5
MODERATE	Transportation Accident	4	1	1	4	1	2.2
	Mass Gathering and Civil Disturbance	3	1	1	4	2	2
	Terrorism	1	3	1	4	1	1.9
LOW	Building Collapse	1	3	1	4	1	1.9
	Dam Failure	1	2	2	4	2	1.9
	Nuclear Incident	1	1	1	4	2	1.4
	Levee Failure	0	0	0	0	0	0

E. CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT

This section identifies the following capabilities of the local jurisdiction:

- Planning and Regulatory Capability
- Administrative and Technical Capability
- Fiscal capability
- Community Classifications

E.1 Planning and Regulatory Capability

Tool / Program	Status			Dept./Agency Responsible	Effect on Loss Reduction: + Support O Neutral - Hinder	Change Since Last Plan: + Positive - Negative	Comments
	In Place	Date Adopted or Updated	Under Development				
Hazard Mitigation Plan	X	2006			+		Updating 2012
Emergency Operations Plan	X	11/2012					
Disaster Recovery Plan							
Evacuation Plan							
Continuity of Operations Plan							
NFIP							
NFIP – Community Rating System							
Floodplain Regulations (spec. NFIP Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance)	X	10/7/2010					
Floodplain Management Plan							
Zoning Regulations	X	5/1/2008					
Subdivision Regulations	X	10/7/1998					
Comprehensive Land Use Plan (or General, Master or Growth Mgt. Plan)	X	1/6/2005					
Open Space Management Plan (or Parks/Rec or Greenways Plan)	X	7/2/2009					
Stormwater Management Plan /	X	4/5/2007					

Tool / Program	Status			Dept./Agency Responsible	Effect on Loss Reduction: + Support O Neutral - Hinder	Change Since Last Plan: + Positive - Negative	Comments
	In Place	Date Adopted or Updated	Under Development				
Ordinance							
Natural Resource Protection Plan							
Capital Improvement Plan							
Economic Development Plan							
Historic Preservation Plan							
Farmland Preservation							
Building Code	X	7/1/2004					
Fire Code							
Firewise							
Storm Ready							
Other							

E.2 Administrative and Technical Capability

Staff/Personnel Resources	Yes	No	Department/Agency	Comments
Planners (with land use / land development knowledge)				
Planners or engineers (with natural and/or human caused hazards knowledge)	X		Keystone Consulting Engineers	
Engineers or professionals trained in building and/or infrastructure construction practices (includes building inspectors)	X		Barry Isett & Associates	
Emergency Manager	X		Frank Bartholomew	
NFIP Floodplain Administrator	X		Brian Carl	
Land Surveyors				
Scientists or staff familiar with the hazards of the community				
Personnel skilled in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and/or FEMA's HAZUS program				
Grant writers or fiscal staff to handle large/complex grants				
Staff with expertise or training in Benefit-Cost Analysis				
Other				

E.3 Fiscal Capability

Instructions: Please indicate whether your jurisdiction has access to or is eligible to use the following local financial resources for hazard mitigation purposes (including as a match for State or Federal mitigation grant funds). Then, identify the primary department or agency responsible for its administration or allocation and provide any other comments you may have in the space provided.

Financial Resources	Yes	No	Department/Agency	Comments
Capital Improvement Programming				
Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)				
Special Purpose Taxes				
Gas / Electric Utility Fees				
Water / Sewer Fees				
Stormwater Utility Fees				
Development Impact Fees				
General Obligation, Revenue, and/or Special Tax Bonds				
Partnering Arrangements or Intergovernmental Agreements				
Other				

E.4 Community Classifications

Program	Classification	Date Classified
Community Rating System (CRS)	NP	N/A
Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS)	TBD	TBD
Public Protection	TBD	TBD
Storm Ready	Lehigh County	TBD
Firewise	NP	N/A

N/A = Not applicable. NP = Not participating. TBD = To Be Determined.

The classifications listed above relate to the community's effectiveness in providing services that may impact its vulnerability to the natural hazards identified. These classifications can be viewed as a gauge of the community's capabilities in all phases of emergency management (preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation) and are used as an underwriting parameter for determining the costs of various forms of insurance. The CRS class applies to flood insurance while the BCEGS and Public Protection classifications apply to standard property insurance. CRS classifications range on a scale of 1 to 10 with class one (1) being the best possible classification, and class 10 representing no classification benefit. Firewise classifications include a higher classification when the subject property is located beyond 1000 feet of a creditable fire hydrant and is within 5 road miles of a recognized Fire Station. Storm Ready communities are better prepared to save lives from the onslaught of severe weather through advanced planning, education and awareness.

Criteria for classification credits are outlined in the following documents:

- The Community Rating System Coordinators Manual
- The Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule
- The ISO Mitigation online ISO's Public Protection website at <http://www.isomitigation.com/ppc/0000/ppc0001.html>
- The National Weather Service Storm Ready website at <http://www.weather.gov/stormready/howto.htm>
- The National Firewise Communities website at <http://firewise.org/>

F. MITIGATION STRATEGY

F.1 Past Mitigation Activities/Efforts

None identified at this time.

F.2 Hazard Vulnerabilities Identified

It is estimated that in Lowhill Township, 25 residents live within the 1% annual chance flood area (NFIP Special Flood Hazard Area). Of the municipality's total land area, 7.1% is located within the 1% annual chance flood area. \$3,995,586 (1.1%) of the municipality's general building stock replacement cost value (structure and contents) is located within the 1% annual chance flood area.

There are 6 NFIP policies in the community. While there are 10 structures located within the 1% annual chance flood area, there are only 2 policies issued to property owners in the 1% annual chance flood area. FEMA has identified no Repetitive Loss (RL) or Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) properties in the municipality.

HAZUS-MH estimates that for a 1% annual chance flood, \$640,899 (.2%) of the municipality's general building stock replacement cost value (structure and contents) will be damaged, 71 people may be displaced, 5 people may seek short-term sheltering, and an estimated 883 tons of debris could be generated.

The following vulnerabilities have been identified by the community, within the risk assessment, or in other plan, reports and documents (e.g. FEMA Flood Insurance Studies, Act 167 Stormwater Management Plans):

- None identified at this time.

Please refer to the Hazard Profiles for additional vulnerability information relevant to this jurisdiction.

F.3 Hazard Mitigation Strategy

Note some of the identified mitigation initiatives in Table F are dependent upon available funding (grants and local match availability) and may be modified or omitted at any time based on the occurrence of new hazard events and changes in municipal priorities.

Action No.	Action	Mitigation Technique Category	Hazard(s) Addressed	Priority (H/M/L)	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding Sources	Lead Agency / Department	Implementation Schedule	Applies to New and/or Existing Structures*
1	<p>Retrofit structures located in hazard-prone areas to protect structures from future damage, with repetitive loss and severe repetitive loss properties as priority.</p> <p>Phase 1: Identify appropriate candidates for retrofitting based on cost-effectiveness versus relocation.</p> <p>Phase 2: Where retrofitting is determined to be a viable option, work with property owners toward implementation of that action based on available funding from FEMA and local match availability.</p>	Property Protection	Flood	Medium	High	FEMA Mitigation Grant Programs and local budget (or property owner) for cost share	Municipality (via Municipal Engineer/NFIP Floodplain Administrator) with support from PEMA, FEMA	Long Term DOF	Existing
2	<p>Purchase, or relocate structures located in hazard-prone areas to protect structures from future damage, with repetitive loss and severe repetitive loss properties as priority.</p> <p>Phase 1: Identify appropriate candidates for relocation based on cost-effectiveness versus retrofitting.</p>	Property Protection	Flood	Medium	High	FEMA Mitigation Grant Programs and local budget (or property owner) for cost share	Municipality (via Municipal Engineer/NFIP Floodplain Administrator) with support from PEMA, FEMA	Long Term DOF	Existing

Action No.	Action	Mitigation Technique Category	Hazard(s) Addressed	Priority (H/M/L)	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding Sources	Lead Agency / Department	Implementation Schedule	Applies to New and/or Existing Structures*
	Phase 2: Where relocation is determined to be a viable option, work with property owners toward implementation of that action based on available funding from FEMA and local match availability.								
3	<p>Maintain compliance with and good-standing in the NFIP including adoption and enforcement of floodplain management requirements (e.g. regulating all new and substantially improved construction in Special Hazard Flood Areas), floodplain identification and mapping, and flood insurance outreach to the community.</p> <p>Further, continue to meet and/or exceed the minimum NFIP standards and criteria through the following NFIP-related continued compliance actions identified below.</p>	Property Protection	Flood	High	Low	Municipal Budget	Municipality (via Municipal Engineer/NFIP Floodplain Administrator) with support from PEMA, ISO FEMA	On-going	New & Existing
4	<p>Conduct and facilitate community and public education and outreach for residents and businesses to include, but not be limited to, the following to promote and effect natural hazard risk reduction: Provide and maintain links to the HMP website, and regularly post notices on the County/municipal homepage(s) referencing the HMP webpages. Prepare and distribute informational letters to flood vulnerable property owners and neighborhood associations, explaining the availability of mitigation grant funding to mitigate their properties, and instructing them on how they can learn more and implement mitigation. Use email notification systems and newsletters to better educate the public on flood insurance, the availability of mitigation grant funding, and personal natural hazard risk reduction measures. Work with neighborhood associations, civic and business groups to disseminate information on flood insurance and the availability of mitigation grant funding.</p>								
	See above.	Public Education and	All Hazards	High	Low-Medium	Municipal Budget	Municipality with support from Planning	Short Term	N/A

Action No.	Action	Mitigation Technique Category	Hazard(s) Addressed	Priority (H/M/L)	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding Sources	Lead Agency / Department	Implementation Schedule	Applies to New and/or Existing Structures*
		Awareness					Partners, PEMA, FEMA		
5	Begin the process to adopt higher regulatory standards to manage flood risk (i.e. increased freeboard, cumulative substantial damage/improvements).	Prevention	Flood	High	Low	Municipal Budget	Municipality (via Municipal Engineer/NFIP Floodplain Administrator) with support from PEMA, FEMA	Short Term	New & Existing
6	Determine if a Community Assistance Visit (CAV) or Community Assistance Contact (CAC) is needed, and schedule if needed.	Prevention, Property Protection	Flood	Medium	Low	Municipal Budget	NFIP Floodplain Administrator with support from PADEP, PEMA, FEMA	Short Term	N/A
7	Have designated NFIP Floodplain Administrator (FPA) become a Certified Floodplain Manager through the ASFPM, and pursue relevant continuing education training such as FEMA Benefit-Cost Analysis.	Public Education and Awareness	Flood	High	Low	Municipal Budget	NFIP Floodplain Administrator	Short Term DOF	N/A
8	Participate in the Community Rating System (CRS) to further manage flood risk and reduce flood insurance premiums for NFIP policyholders. This shall start with the submission to FEMA-DHS of a Letter of Intent to join CRS, followed by the completion and submission of an application to the program once the community's current compliance with the NFIP is	Prevention, Property Protection, Public Education and Awareness	Flood	Medium	Low	Municipal Budget	NFIP Floodplain Administrator with support from PADEP, PEMA, FEMA	Short Term	NA

Action No.	Action	Mitigation Technique Category	Hazard(s) Addressed	Priority (H/M/L)	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding Sources	Lead Agency / Department	Implementation Schedule	Applies to New and/or Existing Structures*
	established.								
9	Archive elevation certificates	Public Education and Awareness	Flood	High	Low	Municipal Budget	NFIP Floodplain Administrator	On-going	NA
10	Continue to support the implementation, monitoring, maintenance, and updating of this Plan, as defined in Section 7.0	All Categories	All Hazards	High	Low – High (for 5-year update)	Local Budget, possibly FEMA Mitigation Grant Funding for 5-year update	Municipality (via mitigation planning point of contacts) with support from Planning Partners (through their Points of Contact), PEMA	On-going	New & Existing
11	Complete the ongoing updates of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans	Emergency Services	All Hazards	High	Low	Local Budget	Municipality with support from PEMA	On-going	New & Existing
12	Create/enhance/ maintain mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities for continuity of operations.	Emergency Services	All Hazards	High	Low	Local Budget	Municipality with support from Surrounding municipalities and County	On-going	New & Existing
13	Identify and develop agreements with entities that can provide support with FEMA/PEMA paperwork after disasters; qualified damage assessment personnel – Improve post-disaster capabilities – damage assessment; FEMA/PEMA paperwork compilation, submissions, record-keeping	Public Education and Awareness, Emergency Services	All Hazards	Medium	Medium	Municipal budget	Municipality with support from County, PEMA, FEMA	Short Term	NA
14	Work with regional agencies (i.e. County and PEMA) to	Public Education	All Hazards	Medium	Medium	Municipal budget,	Municipality with support	Short Term DOF	NA

Action No.	Action	Mitigation Technique Category	Hazard(s) Addressed	Priority (H/M/L)	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding Sources	Lead Agency / Department	Implementation Schedule	Applies to New and/or Existing Structures*
	help develop damage assessment capabilities at the local level through such things as training programs, certification of qualified individuals (e.g. code officials, floodplain managers, engineers).	and Awareness, Emergency Services				FEMA HMA and HLS grant programs	from County, PEMA		

Notes:

*Does this mitigation initiative reduce the effects of hazards on new and/or existing buildings and/or infrastructure? Not applicable (NA) is inserted if this does not apply.

Costs:

Where actual project costs have been reasonably estimated:

Low = < \$10,000

Medium = \$10,000 to \$100,000

High = > \$100,000

Where actual project costs cannot reasonably be established at this time:

Low = Possible to fund under existing budget. Project is part of, or can be part of an existing on-going program.

Medium = Could budget for under existing work-plan, but would require a reapportionment of the budget or a budget amendment, or the cost of the project would have to be spread over multiple years.

High = Would require an increase in revenue via an alternative source (i.e., bonds, grants, fee increases) to implement. Existing funding levels are not adequate to cover the costs of the proposed project.

Potential FEMA HMA Funding Sources:

PDM = Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program

FMA = Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program

RFC = Repetitive Flood Claims Grant Program

SRL = Severe Repetitive Loss Grant Program

HMGP = Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

Timeline:

Short = 1 to 5 years. Long Term = 5 years or greater. OG = On-going program.

DOF = Depending on funding.



G. ANALYSIS OF MITIGATION ACTIONS

Municipal mitigation actions were evaluated and prioritized primarily using the PA STEEL methodology discussed in Section 6 of this plan. Per the cost-benefit weighted PA STEEL methodology, those actions receiving 20 or more favorable ratings were generally considered high-priority actions. However, other factors beyond the PA STEEL numeric ranking may have been considered by the municipality during project prioritization. For example, a project might be assigned a medium priority because of the uncertainty of a funding source, and could be changed to high once a funding source has been identified such as a grant.

Mitigation Action		PA STEEL CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS																				Results			
		(+) Favorable					(-) Less favorable					(N) Not Applicable													
		P Political			A Administrative			S Social		T Technical			E Economic			E Environmental				L Legal			SUMMARY (EQUAL WEIGHTING)	SUMMARY (BENEFITS & COSTS PRIORITIZED)	
Political Support	Local Champion	Public Support	Staffing	Funding Allocation	Maintenance / Operations	Community Acceptance	Effect on Segment of Population	Technically Feasible	Long-Term Solution	Secondary Impacts	Benefit of Action (x3)	Cost of Action (x3)	Contributes to Economic Goals	Outside Funding Required	Effect on Land / Water	Effect on Endangered Species	Effect on HAZMAT / Waste Site	Consistent w/ Community Environmental Goals	Consistent w/ Federal Laws	State Authority	Existing Local Authority	Potential Legal Challenge			
1	Retrofit Vulnerable Structures	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	N	+	N	+	+	18 (+) 3 (-) 2 (N)	22 (+) 3 (-) 2 (N)
2	Acquire Vulnerable Structures	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	N	+	+	17 (+) 5 (-) 1 (N)	21 (+) 5 (-) 1 (N)
3	Maintain NFIP compliance	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	N	+	+	N	+	-	19 (+) 2 (-) 2 (N)	23 (+) 2 (-) 2 (N)
4	Public Education and Outreach	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	N	N	N	N	N	N	+	+	17 (+) 0 (-) 6 (N)	21 (+) 0 (-)

H. FUTURE NEEDS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND RISK/VULNERABILITY

A more detailed flood loss analysis could be conducted on a structural level (versus the Census block analysis conducted for the HMP). The location of each building, details regarding the building (see additional data needed below) and the assessed or fair market value could be included in HAZUS-MH. The FEMA DFIRM boundaries, FEMA Flood Insurance Study detailed studies, base flood elevations and available Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) data or digital elevation models (DEM) could be used to generate a more accurate flood depth grid and then integrated into the HAZUS model. The flood depth-damage functions could be updated using the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer damage functions for residential building stock to better correlate HAZUS-MH results with FEMA benefit-cost analysis models. HAZUS-MH would then estimate more accurate potential losses per structure.

Additional data needed to perform the analysis described above:

- Specific building information – first-floor elevation (elevation certificates), number of stories, foundation type, basement, square footage, occupancy type, year built, type of construction etc.
- Assessed or fair market value of structure
- LiDAR or high resolution DEM

Regional risk maps are provided in the hazard profiles within Section 4, Volume I of this Plan.

I. HAZARD AREA EXTENT AND LOCATION

A hazard area extent and location map has been generated and is provided below for Lowhill Township to illustrate the probable areas impacted within Lowhill Township. This map is based on the best available data at the time of the preparation of this Plan, and is considered to be adequate for planning purposes. Maps have only been generated for those hazards that can be clearly identified using mapping techniques and technologies, and for which Lowhill Township has significant exposure. The Planning Area maps are provided in the hazard profiles within Section 4, Volume I of this Plan.

J. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

No additional comments at this time.

