

North Whitehall Township, Lehigh County Annex

Hazard Mitigation Plan Points-of-Contact

Primary:

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Municipal Profile

North Whitehall Township is a suburban township in northeastern Lehigh County on the border of Northampton County. It encompasses an area of 28.9 square miles, and has a population of 15,703 (2010 Census). The township is bordered by Whitehall Township (Lehigh County) to the east and southeast; South Whitehall and Upper Macungie townships (both in Lehigh County) to the south; Lowhill and Heidelberg townships (both in Lehigh County) to the west; Washington Township (Lehigh County) and Lehigh Township (Northampton County) to the north; and Allen Township (Northampton County) to the northeast.

The Lehigh River runs along the northeast boundary of the North Whitehall Township, creating the border between the township and Northampton County. The township is drained by the Coplay Creek, running south parallel to Route 476 through the western part of the township; and by Spring Creek, flowing east along the northeastern border with Whitehall Township. These and other smaller tributary creeks are all drained by the Lehigh River, which separates the northern part of the township from Northampton County.

Several major roadways serve North Whitehall Township. State Route 329 runs east-west from Whitehall Township and the Borough of Northampton, through North Whitehall, and turns north as Route 873 into Washington Township. SR 4014 runs east-west through the northern part of the township as Neffs Laurys Road, providing access to SR 873 in the west, and terminating at SR 145 to the east. Main Street / Levans Road, running locally east-west between SR 309 and SR 329, connect the southern part of the township. Interstate 476 runs north-south, parallel to Coplay Creek, in the western part of the township. PA Route 309 runs parallel to the west of 476, but veers west when it splits with SR 873 (connecting to SR 329) in the northwestern part of the township. State Route 145 cuts through the northeast corner of the township, running along and crossing the Lehigh River, and continuing north of Northampton County. SR 145 is the main arterial from points north into the City of Allentown to the southeast. Another main north-south route in the township is Mauch Chunk Road, which runs to the east of I-476 from 329 in Balliettsville, south into Allentown.

Municipal Participation

1. Identify municipal stakeholders to be involved in the planning process such as, floodplain administrator, public works, emergency management, engineers, planners, etc., and include their specific role in the process.

Richard Deemer, Public Works
Role: Facilities operations

Nelson Fogel, Emergency Management Coordinator
Role: Emergency Incident Command

Steve Gitch, Keystone Consulting Engineers, Township Engineer
Role: Floodplain / Stormwater

2. Identify community stakeholders such as; neighborhood groups, religious groups, major employers / businesses, etc., that will be informed and / or involved in the planning process and describe how they will be involved.

Jaindl Farms – Info provided to them regarding process and concerns they may have.

3. Describe how the public **will be engaged** in the current planning process examples, newsletters, social media, etc., **and how they were engaged** since the 2013 Hazard Mitigation Plan.

We will notify residents through newsletter and discussion at public meetings.

Compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

Topic	Identify source of information, if different from the one listed.	Additional Comments
1. Staff Resources		
Is the Community Floodplain Administrator (FPA) or NFIP Coordinator certified?	Community FPA	
Is floodplain management an auxiliary function?	Community FPA	
Provide an explanation of NFIP administration services (e.g., permit review, GGIS, education or outreach, inspections, engineering capability)	Community FPA	
What are the barriers to running an effective NFIP program in the community, if any?	Community FPA	
2. Compliance History		
Is the community in good standing with the NFIP?	State NFIP Coordinator, FEMA NFIP Specialist, or community records	
Are there any outstanding compliance issues (i.e., current violations)?		No
When was the most recent Community Assistance Visits (CAV) or Community Assistance Contact (CAC)?		December 1 st , 2017
Is a CAV or CAC scheduled or needed?		No

Compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) – *continued*

Topic	Identify source of information, if different from the one listed.	Additional Comments
3. Regulation		
When did the community enter the NFIP?	NFIP Community Status Book	
Are the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) digital or paper? How are residents assisted with mapping?	Community FPA	Paper and Digital
Do floodplain regulations meet or exceed FEMA or State minimum requirements? If so, in what ways?	Community FPA	
Describe the permitting process	Community FPA, State, FEMA NFIP	
4. Insurance Summary		
How many NFIP policies are in the community? What is the total premium and coverage?	State NFIP Coordinator or FEMA NFIP Specialist	Approximately 30
How many claims have been paid in the community? What is the total amount of paid claims? How many substantial damage claims have there been?	FEMA NFIP or Insurance Specialist	Unknown
How many structures are exposed to flood risk within the community?	Community FPA or GIS Analyst	54 structures
Describe any areas of flood risk with limited NFIP policy coverage	Community FPA or FEMA Insurance Specialist	
5. Community Rating System (CRS)		
Does the community participate in CRS?	Community FPA, State, or FEMA NFIP	
If so, what is the community's CRS Class Ranking?	Flood Insurance Manual (http://www.fema.gov/floodinsurancemanual.gov)	
What categories and activities provide CRS points and how can the Class be improved?		
Does the plan include CRS planning requirements?	Community FPA, FEMA CRS Coordinator, or ISO representative	

Community Assets

Community assets are defined to include anything that is important to the character as well as the function of a community, and can be described in four categories, they are; people, economy, natural environment and built environment. Please identify the community assets and location under each category.

1. People

- Concentrations of vulnerable populations such as the elderly, physically or mentally disabled, non-English speaking, and the medically or chemically dependent.

KidsPeace Hospital and Treatment Facility

Community Assets – continued

- Types of visiting populations where large numbers of people are concentrated such as visitors for special events and students.

Lehigh Valley Zoo
Trexler Nature Preserve

Lehigh Carbon Community College
Schnecksville Fire Company Annual Fair

2. Economy

Major employers, primary economic sectors such as agriculture and commercial centers where losses would have a severe impact on the community.

Independence Drive Business Park including North Valley Trade Center Warehouse (under construction)
Jaindl Farms Corporate Headquarters
Turkey Farms and processing facility

3. Natural Environment

Those areas / features that can provide protective functions that reduce the magnitude of hazard events such as, wetlands or riparian areas, and other environmental features important to protect.

Trexler Nature Preserve

4. Built Environment

- Existing structures such as, concentrations of buildings that may be more vulnerable to hazards based on location, age, construction type and / or condition of use.
- Infrastructure systems such as water and wastewater facilities, power utilities, transportation systems, communication systems, energy pipelines and storage.

NBMA Water Treatment Facility
NBMA Water Tower

Numerous cell towers

- High potential loss facilities such as, dams, locations that house hazardous materials, military and / or civilian defense installations.
- Critical facilities such as, hospitals, medical facilities, police and fires stations, emergency operations centers, shelters, schools and airports / heliports.

4 fire stations
1 ambulance station

2 elementary schools
1 community college

Community Assets – continued

- Cultural / historical resources such as, museums, parks, stadiums, etc.

Trexler Nature Preserve
Lehigh Valley Zoo

4 community parks

Capability Assessment

Capability	✓ Regulatory ✓ Tools ✓ Programs	Status			Department / Agency Responsible	Effect on Hazard Loss Reduction: -Supports -Neutral -Hinders	Change since 2013 Plan? + Positive - Negative	Has the 2013 Plan been integrated into the Regulatory Tool/Program ? If so, how?	How can these capabilities be expanded and improved to reduce risk?	Additional Comments
		In Place	Date Adopted or Updated	Under Development						
1. Planning & Regulatory	Comprehensive Plan	X	2009		Administration	S				
	Capital Improvement Plan									
	Economic Development Plan									
	Continuity of Operations Plan									
	Stormwater Management Plan / Ordinance	X	2001		Administration	S				
	Open Space Management Plan (or Parks/Rec., Greenways Plan)	X	2009		Administration	S				
	Natural Resource Protection Plan									
	Transportation Plan									
	Historic Preservation Plan									
	Floodplain Management Plan									
	Farmland Preservation									
	Evacuation Plan									
	Disaster Recovery Plan									

Capability Assessment – continued

Capability	✓ Regulatory ✓ Tools ✓ Programs	Status			Department / Agency Responsible	Effect on Hazard Loss Reduction: -Supports -Neutral -Hinders	Change since 2013 Plan? + Positive - Negative	Has the 2013 Plan been integrated into the Regulatory Tool/Program ? If so, how?	How can these capabilities be expanded and improved to reduce risk?	Additional Comments
		In Place	Date Adopted or Updated	Under Development						
1. Planning & Regulatory	Hazard Mitigation Plan	X	2013					N/A		
	Emergency Operations Plan									
	Zoning Regulations	X	2002			S				
	Floodplain Regulations									
	NFIP Participation	X								
	Building Code	X	State UCC							
	Fire Code	X	State UCC							
	Other									

Capability Assessment – continued

Capability	✓ Staff ✓ Personnel ✓ Resources			Department / Agency	Change since 2013 Plan? + Positive - Negative	How can these capabilities be expanded and improved to reduce risk?	Additional Comments
		Yes	No				
2. Administrative & Technology	Planners (with land use / land development knowledge)	X		Planning & Zoning	No		
	Planners or engineers (with natural and / or human-caused hazards knowledge)	X		Planning & Zoning	No		
	Engineers or professionals trained in building and / or infrastructure construction practices (including building inspectors)	X		Zoning & Code Enforcement	No		
	Emergency Manager	X		Fire Department	No	On-going training	
	Floodplain administrator / manager	X		Township Manager	No		
	Land surveyors						
	Staff familiar with the hazards of the community	X		Public Works	No		
	Personnel skilled in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and / or FEMA's HAZUS program	X		Zoning	No	Additional GIS training	
	Grant writers or fiscal staff to handle large / complex grants	X		Township Manager	No		
	Other						

Capability Assessment – continued

Capability				Department / Agency	Change since 2013 Plan? + Positive - Negative	How can these capabilities be expanded and improved to reduce risk?	Additional Comments
		Yes	No				
3. Financial Resources	Capital improvement programming	X		Manager	No		
	Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)		X				
	Special purposes taxes	X		Twp	Yes		Farmland Preservation Tax
	Gas / Electricity utility fees		X				
	Water / Sewer fees	X		Manager	No		
	Stormwater utility fees		X				
	Development impact fees	X		Manager	No		
	General obligation, revenue, and / or special tax bonds		X				
	Partnering arrangements or intergovernmental agreements		X				
Other							

Capability	✓ Program ✓ Organization			Department / Agency	Change since 2013 Plan? + Positive - Negative	How can these capabilities be expanded and improved to reduce risk?	Additional Comments
		Yes	No				
4. Education & Outreach	Firewise Communities Certification		X				
	StormReady Certification		X				
	Natural disaster or safety-related school programs		X				
	Ongoing public education or information programs such as, responsible water use, fire safety, household preparedness, and environmental education.	X		Manager	No	Additional public presentation / education programs	
	Public-private partnership initiatives addressing disaster related issues.		X				
	Local citizen groups or non-profit organizations focused on environmental protection, emergency preparedness, access and functional needs populations, etc.	X		Local Volunteer Fire Company			
	Other						

Capability Assessment – continued

Capability		Degree of Capability			Change since the 2013 Hazard Mitigation Plan? If so, how?	Additional Comments
		Limited	Moderate	High		
5. Self – Assessment	Planning and Regulatory		X			
	Administrative and Technical		X			
	Financial		X			
	Education and Outreach	X				

Known or Anticipated Future Development / Redevelopment

Development / Property Name	Type of Development	Number of Structures	Location	Known Hazard Zone	Description / Status
Ridings at Parkland	Residential	50	Schneck Road, Schnecksville		In planning
Scenic Vistas	Residential	13	Egypt Road, Laurys Station		In planning
Maryann Plaza	Commercial	2	Rt. 873, Schnecksville		Pre-construction
Fairland Farms III	Residential	25			Approved
Timber Ridge Luxury Apartments	Residential	80 units	Levans Road		Approved
North Valley Trade Center Warehouse	Commercial	2	Independence Drive		Under Construction 2-buildings = 1,300,000sf
Strawberry Acres	Residential	90 units	Overlook Road		Planning
Kings Business Park	Commercial	+/-6	Schneck Road & Rt. 873		Planning

Natural & Non-Natural Event History Specific to North Whitehall Township

Type of Event and Date(s)	FEMA Disaster # (if applicable)	Local Damage(s) or Loss(es)
Winter Storm Jonas – 1/2016	DR-4267-PA	Extraordinary snow removal required
Pennsylvania COVID-19 Pandemic – 1/2020	DR-4506-PA	Emergency Protective measures to combat COVID-19 Pandemic.
Tropical Storm Isaias – 8/2020	N/A	Aug. 4 th , 2020 – Tropical Storm Isaias, damage to multiple township assets.

2013 Municipal Action Plan Status

Existing Mitigation Action (from 2013 Hazard Mitigation Plan)		Status					Additional Comments
		No Progress / Unknown	In Progress	Continuous	Completed	Discontinued	
1	Work with Lehigh County EMA to install backup power at the Neffs Volunteer Fire Company, 3755 Park Avenue. This project part of the Lehigh Countywide Generator Project, funded through 2008 LPDM				X		Action not carried through to the 2018 Action Plan.
2	Maintain fleet of vehicles and equipment to handle anticipated emergency response			X			
3	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. Further, continue to meet and/or exceed the minimum NFIP standards and criteria through the following NFIP-related continued compliance actions identified below.			X			
4	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide and maintain links to the HMP website, and regularly post notices on the County/municipal homepage(s) referencing the HMP webpages. • Work with neighborhood associations, civic and business groups to disseminate information on flood insurance and the availability of mitigation grant funding. • Provide community members with training opportunities on Basic Emergency Preparedness, Hazard Mitigation and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) 			X			
5	Continue to support the implementation, monitoring, maintenance, and updating of this Plan, as defined in Section 7.0			X			
6	Complete the ongoing updates of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans		X				
7	Create/enhance/ maintain mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities for continuity of operations.			X			
8	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			X			
9	Work with regional agencies (i.e. County and PEMA) to 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).			X			

Notes:

1. Actions not carried through to the 2018 Action Plan are so noted.
2. To maintain National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) compliance, actions related to the NFIP were carried through to the 2018 Action Plan even if identified by the municipality as completed.

2018 Mitigation Action Plan

Mitigation Action		Mitigation Technique Category	Hazard(s) Addressed	Priority (H / M / L)	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding	Lead Agency / Department	Implementation Schedule	Applies to New and / or Existing Structures
1	Maintain fleet of vehicles and equipment to handle anticipated emergency response	Structure & Infrastructure	All	High		Township Budget	Township	Ongoing	N/A
2	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. Further, continue to meet and/or exceed the minimum NFIP standards and criteria through the following NFIP-related continued compliance actions identified below.	Local plans & Regulations	Flood	High	Low - Medium	Municipal Budget	Municipality (via Municipal Engineer/NFIP Floodplain Administrator) with support from PEMA, ISO FEMA	Ongoing	New & Existing

2018 Mitigation Action Plan – continued

Mitigation Action		Mitigation Technique Category	Hazard(s) Addressed	Priority (H / M / L)	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding	Lead Agency / Department	Implementation Schedule	Applies to New and / or Existing Structures
3	<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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide and maintain links to the HMP website, and regularly post notices on the County/municipal homepage(s) referencing the HMP webpages. • Work with neighborhood associations, civic and business groups to disseminate information on flood insurance and the availability of mitigation grant funding. • Provide community members with training opportunities on Basic Emergency Preparedness, Hazard Mitigation and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) 	Education & Awareness	All Hazards	High	Low-Medium	Municipal Budget	Municipality with support from Planning Partners, PEMA, FEMA	Short-term	N/A
4	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)	Municipal 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	Ongoing	New & Existing
5	Complete the ongoing updates of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans	Local plans & Regulations	All Hazards	High	Low	Municipal Budget	Municipality with support from PEMA	Ongoing	New & Existing

2018 Mitigation Action Plan – continued

Mitigation Action		Mitigation Technique Category	Hazard(s) Addressed	Priority (H / M / L)	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding	Lead Agency / Department	Implementation Schedule	Applies to New and / or Existing Structures
6	Create/enhance/maintain mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities for continuity of operations.	All Categories	All Hazards	High	Low	Municipal Budget	Municipality with support from Surrounding municipalities and County	Ongoing	New & Existing
7	Develop and maintain capabilities to process FEMA/PEMA paperwork after disasters; qualified damage assessment personnel – Improve post-disaster capabilities – damage assessment; FEMA/PEMA paperwork compilation, submissions, record keeping.	Education & Awareness	All Hazards	Medium	Medium	Municipal Budget	Municipality with support from County, PEMA, FEMA	Short-term	N/A
8	Work with regional agencies (i.e. County and PEMA) to 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).	Education & Awareness	All Hazards	Medium	Medium	Local budget, FEMA HMA grant programs	Municipality with support from County, PEMA	Short-, long-term (depending on funding)	N/A

Notes:

Estimated Costs:

- Where actual project costs have been reasonable 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 Funding (FEMA HMA):

- **BRIC** = Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities
- **FMA** = Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program
- **HMGP** = Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
- **HSGP** = Homeland Security Grant Program
- **EMPG** = Emergency Management Performance Grant

Implementation Schedule:

- **Short Term** = 1 to 5 years
- **Long Term** = 5 years or greater
- **DOF** = Depending on Funding

Applies to New and/or Existing Structures:

- **N/A** = Not Applicable