

Washington Township, Lehigh County Annex

Hazard Mitigation Plan Points-of-Contact

Primary:

Sherry Graver
Emergency Management Coordinator
7951 Center Street, Emerald, PA 18080
610-462-5249
washtwpemc@ptd.net

Alternate:

Todd Weidman
Township Manager
7951 Center Street, Emerald, PA 18080
610-767-8108

Municipal Profile

Washington Township is a rural township located in the northeastern part of Lehigh County, along the border of Carbon and Northampton Counties. The township encompasses a land area of 23.8 square miles, and has a population of 6,624 (2010 Census). Washington Township is bordered by; Carbon County to the north; Slatington Borough, Walnutport Borough, and Lehigh Township (both Northampton County) to the east; North Whitehall Township to the south and Heidelberg Township to the west.

Washington Township lies within the Lehigh River Basin of the Lehigh River Watershed. The Lehigh River forms the boundary between Washington Township and Northampton County (except areas where Slatington Borough lies between the township and the river). The major Lehigh River tributaries draining the township are; Trout Creek, running east across the township and through Slatington Borough to the Lehigh River; and Mill Creek, draining the southwest corner of the township in a southerly flow into Jordan Creek in Lowhill Township, then proceeding southeast through South Whitehall Township, Whitehall Township, and the City of Allentown before emptying into the Lehigh River.

Washington Township is served by PA Route 873, which crosses north-to-south from PA 248 in Lehigh Gap to major splits, first with PA 329 (points east), and shortly thereafter with PA 309 (points south), both originating in North Whitehall Township. Interstate 476 also traverses the township north-south, accessing points north in Carbon County and points south through eastern PA. An important east-west thoroughfare is Mountain Road, which proceeds west from PA 873 in Lehigh Gap across northern Washington Township, heading west towards PA 309.

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.

Sherry Graver, Emergency Management Coordinator
Role:

Todd Weidman, Township Manager
Role:

Municipal Participation – *continued*

- 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.

Fire, Emergency Management Services, Northern Lehigh School District

- 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.

Information will be posted for public meetings on the township website and the township’s emergency management Facebook page.

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)?		
When was the most recent Community Assistance Visits (CAV) or Community Assistance Contact (CAC)?		
Is a CAV or CAC scheduled or needed?		
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	
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	

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

Topic	Identify source of information, if different from the one listed.	Additional Comments
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	
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	
How many structures are exposed to flood risk within the community?	Community FPA or GIS Analyst	
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.

Group Home, Slatedale
Group Home, Slatington

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

Community Assets – continued

2. Economy

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

Agriculture is the primary business.

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.

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.

Many of the homes in the township are from the early 1920's.
 We also have a large mobile home park in the township – Glencrest Mobile Home Park.

- Infrastructure systems such as water and wastewater facilities, power utilities, transportation systems, communication systems, energy pipelines and storage.

Lehigh County Authority has a supply in western Washington Township and another system for Emerald / Slatedale.

- High potential loss facilities such as, dams, locations that house hazardous materials, military and / or civilian defense installations.

Dynamite is maintained at the Penn Big Slate Quarry in Slatedale.

- Critical facilities such as, hospitals, medical facilities, police and fires stations, emergency operations centers, shelters, schools and airports / heliports.

Citizen's Fire Co. #1, Slatedale	Star Hose Co. #1, Emerald
Frieden Fire Co., Frieden	Peters Elementary School, Northern Lehigh School District

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

Eagle's Nest Park, township-owned park

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								Joint plan with Slatington, Heidelberg, Lowhill, Lynn, Weisenberg townships
	Capital Improvement Plan	X								part of Comprehensive plan
	Economic Development Plan	X								part of Comprehensive plan
	Continuity of Operations Plan			X	Emergency Management Coordinator					
	Stormwater Management Plan / Ordinance			X	Township					
	Open Space Management Plan (or Parks/Rec., Greenways Plan)	X								part of Comprehensive plan
	Natural Resource Protection Plan	X								part of Comprehensive plan
	Transportation Plan	X								part of Comprehensive plan
	Historic Preservation Plan	X								part of Comprehensive plan
	Floodplain Management Plan	X								part of Comprehensive 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	Farmland Preservation	X							part of Comprehensive plan	
	Evacuation Plan			X	Emergency Management Coordinator					
	Disaster Recovery Plan			X	Emergency Management Coordinator					
	Hazard Mitigation Plan	X						N/A		
	Emergency Operations Plan	X			Emergency Management Coordinator					
	Zoning Regulations	X			Zoning Officer					
	Floodplain Regulations	X								
	NFIP Participation	X								
	Building Code	X								
	Fire Code									
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		Township			
	Planners or engineers (with natural and / or human-caused hazards knowledge)	X		contractor - Keystone Consulting Engineers			
	Engineers or professionals trained in building and / or infrastructure construction practices (including building inspectors)	X		Township - residential; Barry Isett Associates - commercial			
	Emergency Manager	X		Township			
	Floodplain administrator / manager	X					
	Land surveyors	X		contractor - Keystone Consulting Engineers			
	Staff familiar with the hazards of the community	X		Township			
	Personnel skilled in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and / or FEMA's HAZUS program	X		GIS - Township			
	Grant writers or fiscal staff to handle large / complex grants	X		contract out			
	Other						

Capability Assessment – continued

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

Capability	✓ Program ✓ Organization	Yes	No	Department / Agency	Change since 2013 Plan? + Positive - Negative	How can these capabilities be expanded and improved to reduce risk?	Additional Comments
4. Education & Outreach	Firewise Communities Certification						
	StormReady Certification	X		Lehigh County			
	Natural disaster or safety-related school programs	X		Township Emergency Management and Lehigh County			
	Ongoing public education or information programs such as, responsible water use, fire safety, household preparedness, and environmental education.	X		Township Emergency Management and Lehigh County			
	Public-private partnership initiatives addressing disaster related issues.	X		Township Emergency Management and Lehigh County			
	Local citizen groups or non-profit organizations focused on environmental protection, emergency preparedness, access and functional needs populations, etc.	X		Township Emergency Management and Lehigh County			
	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
Marketplace	Commercial	1	Rt. 873, Slatington	Was in flood zone, then removed	Increase to 250,000 sq. ft. retail space

Natural & Non-Natural Event History Specific to Washington Township

Type of Event and Date(s)	FEMA Disaster # (if applicable)	Local Damage(s) or Loss(es)
Wildfire – 4/2014		No structural damage, but acres of mountain were destroyed.
Winter Storm Jonas – 1/2016	DR-4267-PA	30 inches of snow - There was a declaration, no damage or loss.
Pennsylvania COVID-19 Pandemic – 1/2020	DR-4506-PA	Emergency Protective measures to combat COVID-19 Pandemic.

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	Maintain adequate fleet of vehicles and equipment to handle anticipated emergency response in the Township			X			Fire Service continually updating equipment and vehicles.
2	Work with local electric utilities to improve line clearing during severe wind/winter weather storms			X			Utility companies have been clear-cutting to remove tree limbs from wires.
3	Continue to support the implementation, monitoring, maintenance, and updating of this Plan, as defined in Section 7.0			X			
4	Complete the ongoing updates of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans		X				Continue to update plan, review annually.
5	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		County has offered training in damage assessment. Action is carried through to the 2018 Action Plan.

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 adequate fleet of vehicles and equipment to handle anticipated emergency response in the Township	Structure & Infrastructure	All	High	Medium	Township Budget; available public protection and emergency services grant programs	Township Public Works	Ongoing	N/A
2	Work with local electric utilities to improve line clearing during severe wind/winter weather storms	Structure & Infrastructure	Windstorm/ Tornado, Winter Storm, Utility Interruption	High	Medium	Township Budget	Township and electric utilities	Ongoing	Existing
3	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
4	Complete the ongoing updates of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans	Local plans & Regulations	All Hazards	High	Low	Municipal Budget	Township with support from Lehigh County EMA	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
5	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	Municipal budget, FEMA HMA grant programs	Township with support from Lehigh County and PEMA	Short-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