

Alburtis Borough, Lehigh County Annex

Hazard Mitigation Plan Points-of-Contact

Primary:

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Municipal Profile

Alburtis Borough is located in the southwestern part of Lehigh County. It encompasses an area of 0.7 square miles and has a population of 2,361 (2010 Census). The borough is located within the boundaries of Lower Macungie Township, which borders Berks County to the southwest; Upper Milford Township to the south; Salisbury Township and South Whitehall Township to the east and northeast; and Upper Macungie Township to the northwest. Macungie Borough is also located within Lower Macungie Township, just east of Alburtis Borough.

The Swabia Creek, a tributary of the Little Lehigh Creek runs through Berks and Lehigh Counties, and traverses the borough. Swabia Creek runs north to Alburtis through Lock Ridge Park, and then turns east, running roughly parallel to the Norfolk Southern Rail tracks.

Alburtis Road, an eastward extension of Longswamp Road in Lower Macungie Township, is the primary east-west route through the borough. Alburtis Road generally parallels the Norfolk Southern Rail throughout the borough, running south of tracks in the western part of the borough, and crosses the tracks when Alburtis Road splits north and Front Street continues east. Local Route 39023 runs north-south through the borough, becoming SR 3001 / Franklin Street as it proceeds south through the Borough. The Norfolk Southern Rail line still actively runs through the borough several times a day.

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.

Matthew Trexler, Emergency Management Agency
Role: Emergency Management Agency

Chief Robert Palmer, Police Chief
Role: Police Chief

Sharon Trexler, Borough Manager
Role: Borough Manager

Robert George, Fire Chief
Role: Fire Chief

Ron Delaco, Council President
Role: Council President

Ryan Trexler, Deputy Fire Chief
Role: Fire

Kathleen Palmer, Mayor
Role: Mayor

Jeff Ott, Ott Consulting
Role: Engineer

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.
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.

Current: Newsletters, social media, SWIFT 911 Notifications
Past: Same

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	No
Is floodplain management an auxiliary function?	Community FPA	Yes
Provide an explanation of NFIP administration services (e.g., permit review, GIS, education or outreach, inspections, engineering capability)	Community FPA	Floodplain Management is enforced through the permitting process with the Zoning Ordinance: Article 10, Section 21, 1001-1004 Flood Plain and Environmental Protection Areas. The Flood Plain Conservation Area is an overlay district.
What are the barriers to running an effective NFIP program in the community, if any?	Community FPA	Funding
2. Compliance History		
Is the community in good standing with the NFIP?	State NFIP Coordinator, FEMA NFIP Specialist, or community records	Community does not participate in the NFIP.
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)?		Not known.
Is a CAV or CAC scheduled or needed?		No
3. Regulation		
When did the community enter the NFIP?	NFIP Community Status Book	N/A
Are the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) digital or paper? How are residents assisted with mapping?	Community FPA	Paper FIRMs / Zoning Officer provides zoning assessment service through the borough for determination of floodplain prone properties.
Do floodplain regulations meet or exceed FEMA or State minimum requirements? If so, in what ways?	Community FPA	MEETS, Borough is required by state to adopt floodplain regulations that comply with FEMA regulations.
Describe the permitting process	Community FPA, State, FEMA NFIP	Zoning Officer makes determination if property is in Flood Plain Area. This may involve further review involving the Borough Engineer for final approvals.

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	0
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	0
How many structures are exposed to flood risk within the community?	Community FPA or GIS Analyst	2
Describe any areas of flood risk with limited NFIP policy coverage	Community FPA or FEMA Insurance Specialist	N/A
5. Community Rating System (CRS)		
Does the community participate in CRS?	Community FPA, State, or FEMA NFIP	No
If so, what is the community's CRS Class Ranking?	Flood Insurance Manual (http://www.fema.gov/floodinsurancemanual.gov)	N/A
What categories and activities provide CRS points and how can the Class be improved?		N/A
Does the plan include CRS planning requirements?	Community FPA, FEMA CRS Coordinator, or ISO representative	N/A

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

Alburtis Elementary School, Alburtis Fire Department and Alburtis Community Center

2. Economy

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

Main Street Downtown Businesses

Community Assets – *continued*

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

Sewer interceptor
Norfolk Southern Railroad
PPL Electric

Well houses with chlorine for our water supply
UGI Gas

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

Well houses with chlorine for our water supply
Sewer interceptor

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

Alburtis Police Department
Alburtis Borough Hall

Alburtis Fire Department
Alburtis Elementary School

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

Lockridge Historical Church
Lehigh County's Lock Ridge Park
Alburtis Mountain Road Tract (bird sanctuary)

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	10/2017		Borough Manager					
	Capital Improvement Plan									
	Economic Development Plan	X			Borough Manager					
	Continuity of Operations Plan									
	Stormwater Management Plan / Ordinance	X								
	Open Space Management Plan (or Parks/Rec., Greenways Plan)									
	Natural Resource Protection Plan									
	Transportation Plan									
	Historic Preservation Plan	X								
	Floodplain Management Plan									
	Farmland Preservation									
	Evacuation Plan									
	Disaster Recovery Plan									
	Hazard Mitigation Plan	X	2013		Borough			N/A		
	Emergency Operations Plan	X			Emergency Management Agency					
	Zoning Regulations	X	7/2012		Zoning Officer					
	Floodplain Regulations	X			Zoning Officer					
	NFIP Participation									
Building Code	X			Property Maintenance						
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		Planning Commission			
	Planners or engineers (with natural and / or human-caused hazards knowledge)						
	Engineers or professionals trained in building and / or infrastructure construction practices (including building inspectors)	X		Codes Enforcement			
	Emergency Manager	X		Emergency Management Agency			
	Floodplain administrator / manager	X		Zoning			
	Land surveyors	X		Engineering	X		
	Staff familiar with the hazards of the community						
	Personnel skilled in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and / or FEMA's HAZUS program	X		Zoning			
	Grant writers or fiscal staff to handle large / complex grants			Borough Manager			
	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						
	Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)		X		Borough Manager		
	Special purposes taxes		X		Fire Tax, Alburtis Fire Department	X	
	Gas / Electricity utility fees			X			
	Water / Sewer fees		X		Borough Manager		
	Stormwater utility fees						
	Development impact fees						
	General obligation, revenue, and / or special tax bonds						
	Partnering arrangements or intergovernmental agreements		X		Zoning	Yes	Lot #9
	Other						

Capability Assessment – continued

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		X				
	StormReady Certification	X		Lehigh County			
	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		Borough Manager, Alburtis Fire Department			
	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				
	Other		X				

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
Lot #9	Warehouses	1	Spring Creek Rd		
Apartment Building	Residential	8	315 E Stone Alley		Completed
Lot #85 & 86	Light Industrial		Hills of Lockridge		
Hills of Lockridge	Residential	97	Racite Road, Seip Road & Furnace Dr	-----	Completed

Natural & Non-Natural Event History Specific to Alburtis Borough

Type of Event and Date(s)	FEMA Disaster # (if applicable)	Local Damage(s) or Loss(es)
Winter Storm Jonas – 1/2016	DR-4267-PA	snow storm
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 fleet of vehicles and equipment for emergency response.			X			
2	Work with electric utility to improve primary and secondary line clearing.			X			
3	Drainage improvement on West Penn Avenue				X		Completed – West Penn Avenue Completed – Storm Sewer, Curb & Sidewalk, Walnut St 2021/2022 – Franklin St, Curb & Sidewalk from School St to Lockridge Park 2021/2022 – Bicentennial Village, Street, Curb & Sidewalk Replacement 2021 – Balance of Sewer Lateral inspections in borough laterals.
4	Continue to support the implementation, monitoring, maintenance, and updating of this Plan, as defined in Section 7.0			X			
5	Complete the ongoing updates of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans			X			
6	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 for emergency response.	Structure and Infrastructure	All Hazards	High	Medium	Borough budget; available public protection & emergency services grant programs	Borough	Ongoing	N/A
2	Work with electric utility to improve primary and secondary line clearing.	Structure and Infrastructure	Windstorm/ Tornado, Winter Storm, Utility Interruption	High	Medium	Borough Budget	Borough working with electric utilities	Short-term	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)	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	Ongoing	New & Existing
4	Complete the ongoing updates of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans	Local Plans and Regulations	All Hazards	High	Low	Local Budget	Municipality with support from PEMA	Ongoing	New & Existing
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 and Awareness	All Hazards	Medium	Medium	Local budget, FEMA HMA grant programs	Municipality with support from County, PEMA	Short-, long term (depending upon funding)	N/A

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	Coordinate with the County Emergency Management Agency and PA Department of Health, which is responsible for setting up points of distribution and providers for immunizations.	Education and Awareness	Pandemic and Infectious Disease	Medium	Low	Municipal Budget	Municipality, working with County EMA and PA Department of Health	Ongoing	N/A
7	Devise a municipal continuity of operations plan to keep essential services running in the event that a significant portion of the workforce is affected.	Local Plans and Regulations	Pandemic and Infectious Disease	Medium	Low	Municipal Budget	Municipality	Short-term	N/A
8	Devise a public education and outreach plan regarding disease prevention.	Education and Awareness	Pandemic and Infectious Disease	Medium	Low	Municipal Budget	Municipality	Ongoing	N/A
9	Provide education and outreach to residents regarding how to prevent the spread of invasive species, including quarantine procedures.	Education and Awareness	Invasive Species	High	Low	Municipal Budget	Municipality	Ongoing	N/A
10	Provide training and education for first responders to ensure effective emergency care.	Education and Awareness	Drug Overdose Crisis	High	Low	Municipal Budget	Municipality	Ongoing	N/A
11	Provide education and outreach, especially in K-12, regarding drug abuse prevention.	Education and Awareness	Drug Overdose Crisis	High	Low	Municipal Budget	Municipality/ School District	Ongoing	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 reappropriation 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