

## Weisenberg Township, Lehigh County Annex

### Hazard Mitigation Plan Points-of-Contact

#### Primary:

Brian Carl  
Township Administrator and Fire Chief  
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610-285-6660  
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#### Alternate:

Frank Bartholomew  
Emergency Management Coordinator  
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### Municipal Profile

Weisenberg Township is a rural township located in the western part of Lehigh County, along the border of Berks County. The township encompasses a land area of 26.8 square miles, and has a population of 4,923 (2010 Census). Weisenberg Township is bordered by; Berks County to the west and southwest; Lynn Township to the northwest; Heidelberg Township to the north; Lowhill Township to the east; and Upper Macungie Township to the southeast.

Weisenberg Township is in the Delaware River watershed and is drained by the Jordan Creek and Little Lehigh Creek into the Lehigh River and by the Maiden Creek into the Schuylkill River. Jordan Creek has two main tributaries whose headwaters are located in Weisenberg Township. Switzer Creek originates in Lynn and Weisenberg Townships and flows northeast to the confluence with the main stem in Lowhill Township. Lyon Creek forms in Weisenberg Township just south of Hynemansville, proceeding north to its confluence with the Jordan Creek in Lowhill Township. The source of Haasen Creek is also located in Weisenberg Township; however, it first flows east to Upper Macungie Township and then northeast to the confluence with Jordan Creek in the west end of South Whitehall Township. Maiden Creek drains a small portion of the western corner of Weisenberg Township, before flowing west into Berks County and into the Schuylkill River.

The southern portion of Weisenberg Township is crossed east-west by Interstate 78, which has an interchange with Route 863 in the south-central part of the township. Route 863 runs northwest-southeast from Route 143 in the center of Lynn Township in the north to the western edge of Upper Macungie Township and an intersection with Route 222 in the south. Primary local east-west routes include Holbens Valley Road, running across the northern corner of the township from Lynn Township in the northwest to Route 100 and Lowhill Township in the east; Lyon Valley Road, originating in the center of the township at Route 863 and continuing east to Route 100 in Lowhill Township; and Claussville Road, originating in the southern part of the township and continuing east through Lowhill Township, North and South Whitehall Townships, and terminating at Whitehall Township where it intersects with Route 329. Werleys Corner Road / Sweitzer Road is the main route from Weisenberg Township to points northeast, as it originates near Route 863 in the center of the township, and runs northeast through Lowhill Township to Heidelberg Township, and other points east.

## 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.

Tony Werley, Road master / Supervisor  
Role: Public Works

Chris Noll, Engineer  
Role: Floodplain data

Brian Carl, Administrator and Fire Chief  
Role: coordinating, emergency response, pre-planning, hazard identification

Frank Bartholomew, Emergency Management Coordinator  
Role: coordinating, emergency response, pre-planning, hazard identification

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.

Evacuation Points and Public Education

Cornerstone Living

Northwestern School District

Churches – Weisenberg, Cornerstone, Lighthouse, Ziegels, Seiberlingsville

Emergency Response

Weisenberg Volunteer Fire Department

Cetronia EMS

Pennsylvania State Police

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.

Newsletters

Website

Information posted at public places

## Compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

Topic	Identify source of information, if different from the one listed.	Additional Comments
<b>1. Staff Resources</b>		
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, GGIS, education or outreach, inspections, engineering capability)	Community FPA	Application and plot plans are reviewed against FEMA maps.
What are the barriers to running an effective NFIP program in the community, if any?	Community FPA	N/A
<b>2. Compliance History</b>		
Is the community in good standing with the NFIP?	State NFIP Coordinator, FEMA NFIP Specialist, or community records	Yes
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)?		I just called FEMA to discuss required info.
Is a CAV or CAC scheduled or needed?		No
<b>3. Regulation</b>		
When did the community enter the NFIP?	NFIP Community Status Book	10/15/1985
Are the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) digital or paper? How are residents assisted with mapping?	Community FPA	Paper / Online
Do floodplain regulations meet or exceed FEMA or State minimum requirements? If so, in what ways?	Community FPA	Meet, based on ordinance requirements and amendments
Describe the permitting process	Community FPA, State, FEMA NFIP	Permit applied for – maps checked
<b>4. Insurance Summary</b>		
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	Info unavailable
Describe any areas of flood risk with limited NFIP policy coverage	Community FPA or FEMA Insurance Specialist	? We typically do not have flooding in the township.

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

Topic	Identify source of information, if different from the one listed.	Additional Comments
<b>5. Community Rating System (CRS)</b>		
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 ( <a href="http://www.fema.gov/floodinsurancemanual.gov">http://www.fema.gov/floodinsurancemanual.gov</a> )	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.

Weisenberg Elementary School  
Circle of Seasons School

Cornerstone Living Assisted Living

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

Students at two elementary schools

**2. Economy**

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

Schools  
Warehouses along I-78

Farms and vineyards throughout township  
Township property and fire station

## 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.

Hassen Creek  
Iron Run  
Lyon Creek  
Mill Creek

Schafer Run  
Switzer Creek  
Misc. unnamed waters and wetlands

### 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.

N/A

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

I-78

Arcadia Treatment Plant (Lehigh County Authority)

Met-Ed Substation

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

N/A

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

Weisenberg Fire Station

Weisenberg Elementary School

Circles of Seasons School

Cornerstone Living

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

Weisenberg / Lowhill Historically Society

**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	5/9/2005		Administration		+			
	Capital Improvement Plan	X			Administration		+			
	Economic Development Plan									
	Continuity of Operations Plan									
	Stormwater Management Plan / Ordinance	X	1/5/1989 4/2/2001		Administration		+			
	Open Space Management Plan (or Parks/Rec., Greenways Plan)	X	6/8/2009		Administration		+			
	Natural Resource Protection Plan									
	Transportation Plan									
	Historic Preservation Plan									
	Floodplain Management Plan	X	3/11/2		Administration					
	Farmland Preservation	X								Lehigh County
	Evacuation Plan									
	Disaster Recovery Plan									
	Hazard Mitigation Plan	X	8/12/13						N/A	
	Emergency Operations Plan	X	10/8/12							
	Zoning Regulations	X	2/8/16							
	Floodplain Regulations	X	3/11/2							
	NFIP Participation	X	10/15/85							
Building Code	X	5/10/4								
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				
<b>2. Administrative &amp; Technology</b>	Planners (with land use / land development knowledge)						
	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		Administration	Same		
	Emergency Manager	X		Administration	Same		
	Floodplain administrator / manager						
	Land surveyors	X		Administration	Same		
	Staff familiar with the hazards of the community	X		Administration/Public Works	Same		
	Personnel skilled in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and / or FEMA's HAZUS program	X		Administration	Same		
	Grant writers or fiscal staff to handle large / complex grants	X		Administration	Same		
Other							

Capability			Department / Agency	Change since 2013 Plan? + Positive - Negative	How can these capabilities be expanded and improved to reduce risk?	Additional Comments
	Yes	No				
<b>3. Financial Resources</b>	Capital improvement programming		X			
	Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)		X			
	Special purposes taxes		X			
	Gas / Electricity utility fees		X			
	Water / Sewer fees		X			
	Stormwater utility fees		X			
	Development impact fees					Project specific
	General obligation, revenue, and / or special tax bonds		X			
	Partnering arrangements or intergovernmental agreements	X				
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						
	StormReady Certification						
	Natural disaster or safety-related school programs	X		Fire Department / Emergency Management Coordinator	same	More \$	
	Ongoing public education or information programs such as, responsible water use, fire safety, household preparedness, and environmental education.	X		Fire Department / Administration / Emergency Management Coordinator	same	More \$	
	Public-private partnership initiatives addressing disaster related issues.	X		Fire Department / Administration / Emergency Management Coordinator	same	More \$	
	Local citizen groups or non-profit organizations focused on environmental protection, emergency preparedness, access and functional needs populations, etc.	X		Fire Department / Admin	same	More \$	
	Other						

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	No	
	Administrative and Technical			X	No	
	Financial			X	No	
	Education and Outreach		X		No	



**Known or Anticipated Future Development / Redevelopment**

Development / Property Name	Type of Development	Number of Structures	Location	Known Hazard Zone	Description / Status
None					

**Natural & Non-Natural Event History Specific to Weisenberg 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	Heavy snow and drifting
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 to handle anticipated emergency response			X			
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.			X			
3	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 Township 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) Training.			X			
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	Create/enhance/ maintain mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities (Heidelberg, Lynn and Weisenberg) for continuity of operations.			X			
7	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			
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).			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
3	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 Township 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) Training.	Education & Awareness	All Hazards	High	Low-Medium	Municipal Budget	Municipality with support from Planning Partners, PEMA, FEMA	Short-term	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
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
6	Create/enhance/maintain mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities (Heidelberg, Lynn and Weisenberg) for continuity of operations.	All Categories	All Hazards	High	Low	Municipal Budget	Municipality w/ 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	Municipal budget, FEMA HMA grant programs	Municipality with support from County, PEMA	Short-term (depending on 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
9	Devise an employee vaccination and immunization plan to prevent an outbreak within the municipal employee ranks.	Local plans & Regulations	Pandemic and Infectious Disease	Low	Unknown	Municipal Budget	County EMA	Unknown at this time	N/A
10	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 & Regulations	Pandemic and Infectious Disease	Low	Unknown	Municipal Budget	County EMA	Unknown at this time	N/A
11	Provide education and outreach to residents regarding how to prevent the spread of invasive species, including quarantine procedures.	Education & Awareness	Invasive Species	Medium	Unknown at this time	Municipal Budget	Agriculture Department	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