

Tillamook County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan

Final Draft

June 28, 2017

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Introduction

The dramatic increase in the costs associated with natural disasters over the past decades fostered interest in identifying and implementing effective means of reducing vulnerability. On February 26, 2002, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) published Interim Final Rule 44 CFR Part 201, which required all states and local governments to develop natural hazards mitigation plans to be eligible for certain hazard mitigation grant programs, and in the case of the states, to be eligible for certain categories of disaster assistance.

Disasters occur as a predictable interaction among three broad systems: natural systems (e.g., watersheds and continental plates), the built environment (e.g., cities and roads), and social systems (community organization infrastructure that includes demographics, business climate, service provision, etc.). What is not predictable is exactly when natural hazards will occur or the extent to which they will affect communities within the state. However, with careful planning and collaboration it is possible to minimize the losses that can result from natural hazards.

Hazard mitigation is defined at 44 CFR 201.2 as *any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from hazards*. Hazard mitigation is the responsibility of individuals, private businesses and industries, state and local governments, and the federal government. Engaging in mitigation actions provides the state, counties, cities, businesses, and citizens with a number of benefits: fewer injuries and deaths; less damage to buildings, critical facilities, and infrastructure; diminished interruption in essential services; reduced economic hardship; minimized environmental harm; and quicker, lower-cost recovery.

The 2017 Tillamook County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (MJNHMP, Plan) contains the most complete and up-to-date description of the natural hazards that impact each of the cities, ports, larger unincorporated communities, and unincorporated County. It assesses the probability of hazard occurrence and local vulnerabilities then establishes goals, objectives, and strategies for natural hazard mitigation. It identifies resources for implementing the mitigation strategies and also establishes processes, procedures, and responsibilities for periodically reviewing the plan, evaluating its effectiveness, and making adjustments throughout its five-year life. Every five years the plan must be reviewed in its entirety, updated as necessary, and re-approved by FEMA to maintain eligibility for FEMA's natural hazard mitigation grant programs.

Structure

Earlier editions of the Tillamook County Multi-Jurisdictional NHMP were approved by FEMA in 2006 and 2012. For the 2017 update, the entire plan was rewritten with new content and formatting, retaining only a few items from the 2012 Plan. The Steering Committee determined that the Plan would be stronger and better serve the County as a whole if it were integrated as much as possible. Therefore, the Plan is structured by content rather than by jurisdiction.

The Plan has three main components: Risk Assessment, Mitigation Strategy, and Planning Process.

Risk Assessment

The Risk Assessment also has three components in this Plan: Community Profile, Natural Hazards, and Community Risk Profiles.

The Community Profile discusses the unique geographic, demographic, economic, infrastructure, critical and essential facilities, built environment characteristics, and cultural and historic resources of the jurisdictions and larger unincorporated communities. This information is important for assessing local strengths and vulnerabilities with respect to natural hazard events and formulating mitigation strategies. For the first time, Tillamook County undertook an analysis of where new residential construction has occurred relative to the various natural hazard areas since the last edition of the Plan was written in 2011. It is anticipated that this first step will lead to additional or deeper analysis in future updates.

The Natural Hazards section introduces and characterizes each natural hazard that impacts the County. It documents historically significant natural hazard events, assesses probability of each hazard occurring, and provides exposure and loss estimates.

The Community Risk Profiles summarize the previous information by jurisdiction, providing statistics and maps that indicate the geographic extent and intensity of natural hazards potentially impacting each community. These Profiles also identify the critical or essential facilities located in each jurisdiction, identify potential vulnerabilities (“Areas of Mitigation Interest”) and suggest mitigation strategies.

Mitigation Strategy

The Mitigation Strategy establishes countywide goals and objectives for natural hazard mitigation. Each jurisdiction has identified and prioritized a set of mitigation actions with a strategy (leads, supporters, timeline, actual or potential funding sources) for implementing them. They are presented in a series of tables. Another table states the status of mitigation actions identified in the 2012 Plan. A discussion of the tools and assets available to each jurisdiction for implementing the NHMP is included, as is a system for integrating natural hazard mitigation with other planning documents and initiatives.

Planning Process

This chapter details the process of updating the Tillamook County MJNHMP, reports public comments received and responses to them, and identifies plan format and content revisions. It frames processes for tracking implementation progress, and for monitoring, evaluating, and eventually updating this edition of the Plan. Documentation of the Planning Process is presented in the Appendices.

Participating Jurisdictions

Tillamook County and its seven incorporated cities (Bay City, Garibaldi, Manzanita, Nehalem, Rockaway Beach, Tillamook, and Wheeler) participated in the previous Tillamook County MJNHMPs and in this update. The Port of Tillamook Bay and the Port of Garibaldi joined the planning process and developed their first NHMPs in 2017.