

Richmond–Crater Multi-Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Hazard mitigation is the effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the potential impact of future disasters. Mitigation planning is a key process to break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage. The 26 localities of the Richmond and Crater regions are working together to update the *Richmond-Crater Multi-Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan* to identify vulnerabilities associated with natural disasters

IDENTIFY
THE HAZARDS

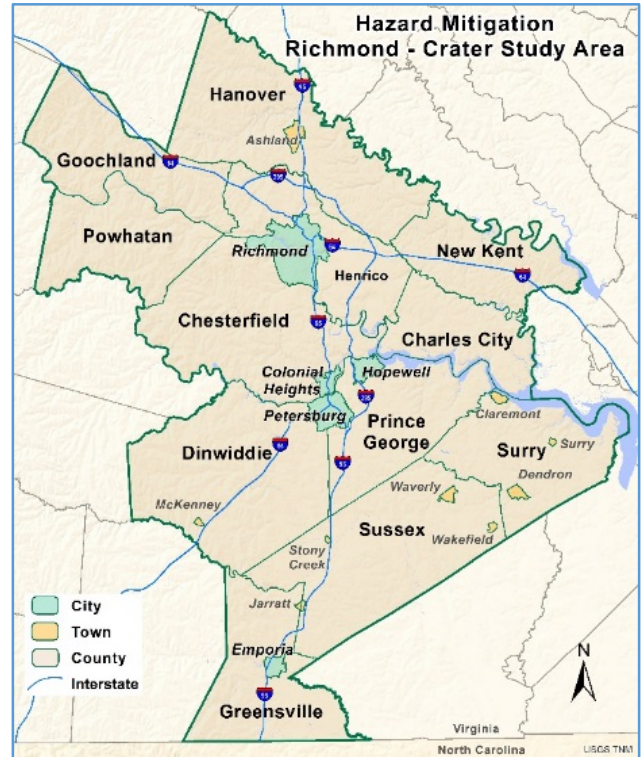
ASSESS
VULNERABILITIES

REDUCE
THE RISKS

and develop long-term strategies to reduce or eliminate long-term risks.

The federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires state and local governments to adopt and update hazard mitigation plans as a precondition for

receiving certain non-emergency disaster assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Federal law allows local governments to develop their own plan or participate in a multi-jurisdictional plan. Since 2003, Virginia has encouraged localities to develop regional plans within their respective regional planning district.



Benefits of hazard mitigation planning:

- Protects public safety and prevents injury and loss of life.
- Reduces harm to existing and future development.
- Prevents damage to the community's unique economic, cultural, and environmental assets.
- Minimizes operational downtime and accelerate recovery of government and business after disasters.
- Reduces the costs of disaster response and recovery.
- Reduces risks to first responders.

Hazard mitigation planning uses local knowledge and expertise to allow local leaders to take action now to reduce the risks of impacts from a disaster. The mitigation planning process encourages communities to integrate mitigation into day-to-day decision-making.

While nothing can be done to prevent natural hazard events from occurring, the *Richmond-Crater Multi-Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan* allows our region to minimize the disruption and devastation that so often accompanies disasters.

Local Mitigation Planning Process

Public Involvement

Involving emergency management experts and local stakeholders is essential to building community-wide support for the plan. As part of the planning process, the staff will solicit input from the public and host three public meetings in the region (see info on back or online at www.richmondregional.org/HMP).

Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment

The Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA) lays out the region's vulnerability to natural hazards so that mitigation strategies, activities, and projects can be developed to minimize hazard risks. It includes the identification of natural hazards and risks that are likely

to impact the region based on historical experience, an estimate of the frequency and magnitude of potential disasters, and an assessment of potential loss.

The 2017 plan update will place emphasis on the following hazards with a high likelihood of occurring, significant level of impact, or both:

- severe wind events;
- winter storms;
- thunderstorms; and
- flooding.

Capability Assessment

A capability assessment will evaluate the current capacity of the communities of the Richmond-Crater region to mitigate the effects of the natural hazards identified in the HIRA.

Mitigation Strategy

The strategy will outline mitigation activities that are technically feasible, environmentally-sound, and cost-effective, while allowing strategic investment of limited resources.

Mitigation Strategy Goals

- Goal 1: Reduce loss of life, injuries, and personal property loss.
- Goal 2: Develop and maintain public and private infrastructure to ensure continued service delivery.
- Goal 3: Educate and train residents regarding their vulnerability to regional hazards.
- Goal 4: Enhance the capabilities of local government to influence and lessen the impacts of hazards.

Adoption, Implementation and Monitoring

Each local government must adopt the 2017 update to the *Richmond-Crater Multi-Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan* to remain eligible for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant programs. Hazard mitigation planning and risk-reduction activities can significantly reduce the



physical, financial, and emotional losses caused by disasters. Putting the plan into action will be an ongoing process. The 2017 plan update will outline a procedure for implementation, maintenance, and plan updates.

FAQs

What will the Hazard Mitigation Plan cost?

This project is funded by a grant from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. Staffing support by the RRPDC and Crater PDC is supported through the annual local contributions to the RRPDC and Crater PDC. As such, the only cost to the 26 localities is the dedication of committee members' time and energy.



Is this different from other emergency plans?

Although there is some overlap, different plans serve different functions

in helping a community cope with natural hazards. A Hazard Mitigation Plan focuses on reducing exposure to

risk before a natural disaster occurs, while other emergency plans focus on response during and recovery after an emergency or disaster event.

What about man-made hazards or terrorism?

The Richmond-Crater HIRA focuses on mitigating risks of *natural* disasters. A Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) is a broader tool that includes all hazards – natural, human-caused, and technological.

In addition to this hazard mitigation planning process, the RRPDC will be developing a THIRA for the Central Virginia Emergency Management Alliance (CVEMA) area over the next 18 months under a separate grant from FEMA.

Contact Information

For more information on the 2017 update to the *Richmond-Crater Multi-Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan* go to www.richmondregional.org/HMP or contact your local emergency manager or your respective regional project manager.



Jackie Stewart
Richmond Regional Planning District Commission
jstewart@richmondregional.org
(804) 323-2033



Mark Bittner
Crater Planning District Commission
mbittner@craterpdc.org
(804) 861-1666 x237

Public Meetings

Tuesday 12/13 (6 p.m. to 8 p.m.)
Appomattox Regional Library
209 East Cawson Street
Hopewell VA 23860

Friday 12/16 (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.)
Richmond Regional PDC, Board Room
9211 Forest Hill Ave, Suite 200
Richmond VA 23235

Monday 12/19 (6 p.m. to 8 p.m.)
Libbie Mill Library
2100 Libbie Lake East Street
Henrico VA 23230