



SOUTH BETHANY COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

AUGUST 15, 2014

The Town of South Bethany participates in the Sussex County Multi-jurisdictional All Hazard Mitigation Plan. The purpose of this plan is to provide guidance for hazard mitigation in Sussex County and the participating jurisdictions. It identifies hazard mitigation goals, objectives and recommended actions and initiatives for county and municipal government to reduce injury and damage from natural hazards.

This Plan meets the requirements for a local hazard mitigation plan under Final Rule, 44 CFR 201.4, published by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in September 2009.

This Plan was formulated in 2004 and the current update was completed in 2010 and adopted by Resolution by the South Bethany Town Council. The Plan Update continues to keep Sussex County and the Town of South Bethany qualified to obtain all disaster assistance to include all categories of Public Assistance, Individual Assistance and Hazard Mitigation grants available through the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, P.L. 93-288, as amended. Future enhancements of the State All Hazard Mitigation Plan will allow the State to obtain greater funding for hazard mitigation planning and projects (20 percent of federal Stafford Act disaster expenditures versus 7.5 percent for a standard state plan). It also keeps the state eligible for the annually funded Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program, and the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program.

Without this plan, all eligible local jurisdictions would be ineligible to receive a variety of disaster recovery programs, including the Public Assistance Program to repair or replace damaged public facilities and the Fire Management Assistance Program to help the state and communities recover the costs of major disasters. However, the State and local communities would remain eligible for certain emergency assistance and Human Services programs available through the Stafford Act.

Thirty-five jurisdictions participated in the Plan update to identify potential vulnerable facilities along with agency-specific goals to address their vulnerabilities through mitigation actions and initiatives. The Sussex County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazard Mitigation Plan will be reviewed, updated and adopted by county officials and submitted to FEMA for approval every five years.

The Plan will be revised more frequently if conditions under which the plan was developed materially change as a result of new or revised policy, a major disaster, or availability of funding. The Plan is available to the public on the Town of South Bethany website by following the local links to Sussex County Government.

As a participant in the Community Rating System, the Town of South Bethany is required to provide an annual update on the Locally-Specific Mitigation Actions for South Bethany. Below are four (4) Mitigation Action Items in the current Plan for South Bethany and the status of each area.

South Bethany Mitigation Action 1	Implement regular and emergency beach replenishment or re-nourishment as part of the DNREC/ Corps of Engineers 50-year plan.
Category:	Natural Resource Protection
Hazard(s) Addressed:	Flood
Priority (High, Moderate, Low):	High
Estimated Cost:	To be determined
Potential Funding Sources:	DNREC
Lead Agency/Department Responsible:	Town of South Bethany, Sussex County Environmental Services
Implementation Schedule:	Ongoing

Mitigation Action 1: The South Bethany beach received beach nourishment beginning in August of 2013 as part of the Coastal Risk Storm Reduction Project funded by Congress after Super Storm Sandy struck the east coast. This project was completed during the fall of 2013. Efforts to continue regular replenishment will be ongoing.

South Bethany Mitigation Action 2	Improve storm drainage throughout the Town.
Category:	Property Protection
Hazard(s) Addressed:	Flood
Priority (High, Moderate, Low):	High
Estimated Cost:	To be determined
Potential Funding Sources:	Flood Mitigation Assistance Program, Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
Lead Agency/Department Responsible:	Town of South Bethany, Sussex County Environmental Services
Implementation Schedule:	Ongoing

Mitigation Action 2: Several storm drainage projects were completed by the Town in 2013 in areas that suffered consistent street and/or property flooding. A test program involving flood/tide control valves is being conducted. This is an ongoing mitigation action item.

South Bethany Mitigation Action 3	Continue to identify and promote floodproofing/elevation solutions to at-risk homes throughout the Town in accordance with current FEMA regulations.
Category:	Property Protection
Hazard(s) Addressed:	Flood
Priority (High, Moderate, Low):	Moderate
Estimated Cost:	To be determined
Potential Funding Sources:	Flood Mitigation Assistance Program, Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
Lead Agency/Department Responsible:	Town of South Bethany
Implementation Schedule:	Ongoing

Mitigation Action 3: This is an ongoing project to assist homeowners who may be eligible for FEMA assistance to elevate flood prone residences. One project has been approved for funding and will be placed for bids in the near future.

South Bethany Mitigation Action 4	Upgrade the Town's Building and Zoning Ordinances to reflect NFIP and ISO requirements.
Category:	Property Protection
Hazard(s) Addressed:	Flood
Priority (High, Moderate, Low):	Moderate
Estimated Cost:	Unknown
Potential Funding Sources:	Flood Mitigation Assistance Program, Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Community Development Block Grant
Lead Agency/Department Responsible:	Town of South Bethany, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Delaware and International Building Code
Implementation Schedule:	12 months

Mitigation Action 4: The Town has formed a Sea Level Rise and Storm Surge (SLR & SS) Committee and a Charter and Code Committee. These committees are reviewing the Town code for any changes needed to reflect new flood maps that are scheduled to be adopted in 2014. Also, an elevation project/study has been completed which will assist in future mitigation projects and/or code changes. This is an ongoing mitigation action item.

On August 8, 2014, the Town Council passed Ordinance 172-14. This ordinance which is now part of the Town of South Bethany Code "substantially reduces the potential damage to homes and other buildings due to future floods by increasing the maximum house height allowed when homeowners incorporate freeboard in new home construction and in raising existing homes". This code change allows an additional two feet of height to the structure if the structure has two feet or greater freeboard above the base flood elevation (BFE). Ordinance 172-14 can be viewed on the Bulletin Board page of the Town's website, www.southbethany.org.

Other recommendations for new projects or revised recommendations have not been made as of yet, however, the Town of South Bethany Charter and Code Committee is working to revise the Town's floodplain ordinances to coincide with the adoption of the new FIRM maps that are to be adopted in 2015.