

2020 Howard County Man-Made Hazards and Historic Resources HMP Annexes

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Howard County, Maryland



CORE COMPETENCIES

- Project Management
- Meeting Coordination and Facilitation
- Field/Site Visits
- Risk Assessments
- Mitigation Strategy Development
- Report Preparation

PROJECT SUMMARY

VPC worked closely with Emergency Management officials, stakeholders, and the public, for the concurrent Flood/All-Hazard Mitigation Plan update process. While the planning process followed the required FEMA methodologies, new components were introduced based on recent county events and future hazard considerations. The incorporation of man-made hazards and historic and cultural resources makes Howard County's HMP one of the most robust in the State.

PROJECT DETAILS

Howard County is one of the first counties in Maryland to augment their HMP with a Manmade and Technological Hazard Mitigation Plan (MTHMP) and a Historic and Cultural Resources Hazard Mitigation Plan. Following completion and approval of the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP), VPC continued working with the County Office of Emergency Management to develop the County's first MTHMP Annex.

The Annex seeks to reduce the County's human, social, environmental, and economic losses from manmade and technological disasters. A total of 16 manmade and technological hazards, including explosions, dam failure, and civil unrest, were analyzed and detailed hazard profiles, and a corresponding risk assessment, were developed. New goals and objectives were created, and a mitigation strategy and implementation plan were developed to reduce the impacts resulting from these hazard events.

VPC also worked with the County to develop a County Historic and Cultural Resources Hazard Mitigation Annex, to be included as an addendum to the NHMP. This Annex was developed with input from the Department of Historic Preservation. VPC delivered a comprehensive look at flood and multi-hazard vulnerability of historic and cultural resources throughout the County.

Over 30 properties were identified as representative properties based on GIS analysis, architectural review, and hazard assessment.

Selected properties were geographically distributed throughout the County to provide a range of types, styles, and uses. As part of the Risk Assessment, VPC conducted site surveys to identify key hazard information, such as building foundation height and first floor elevation, and to collect important architectural information and photographs.

VPC conducted a vulnerability assessment of these buildings to identify estimated flood depths for all properties in the floodplain for a 100-year storm event. Based on site surveys, GIS results, architectural considerations, and additional hazard analysis, VPC developed a comprehensive list of mitigation actions for each property to help reduce long-term vulnerability to flood and other hazard damage.

Actions addressed the property's type, age, style, architectural features, building materials, and risk. VPC focused on Compliance with Section 106 of the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties to avoid and minimize potential adverse effects to historic properties when proposing hazard mitigation actions or alterations of any kind.