

2023 THIRA/Stakeholder Preparedness Review

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

City of Frederick, Maryland



PROJECT DETAILS

DIFFICULTY: Medium

COST: \$50,000

TIMEFRAME: Ten (10) Months

DELIVERABLES: A THIRA/SPR document for the City of Frederick to serve as a guide for planning, preparedness, response, and funding activities or efforts for hazards/threats which have the greatest potential to strain the City's capabilities.

CORE COMPETENCIES

- Risk Analysis
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Inter-Departmental Cooperation
- Disaster Planning
- Plan Integration
- Gap Assessment

PROJECT TEAM

Vision Planning & Consulting

CLIENT CONTACT

Nathan Hupp - Emergency Manager - Office of Emergency Management
The City of Frederick
101 N Court Street,
Frederick, MD 21701
301.600.1495

nhupp@cityoffrederickmd.gov

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Vision Planning and Consulting (VPC) was engaged to develop the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment and Stakeholder Preparedness Review (THIRA/SPR) report for Frederick, Maryland. The THIRA serves as a guide for planning, preparedness, response, and funding activities for the City to make important decisions on how to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risks.

PROJECT SUMMARY

VPC identified all threats and hazards of concern for the City based on a document review of: the most recent Frederick County and City of Frederick's Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP), Emergency Operations Plans (EOP), Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP), the City's Dam Assessment. The identified threats and hazards were organized into three categories: 1) Natural, 2) Technological, and 3) Human-caused hazards/incidents. All hazards were based on (1) the likelihood of a threat or hazard affecting the community; and (2) the challenge presented by the impacts of that threat or hazard, should it occur.

VPC worked with the City to score and rank each identified hazard to select the four (4) hazards of chief concern - those most likely to stretch the capabilities of the City - to be used in realistic and challenging planning scenarios. VPC worked with Emergency Management and Public Works to develop scenarios giving context to these top hazards and to provide the background and descriptions necessary to evaluate the City's level of capability during the SPR process.

VPC conducted a series of workshops with Emergency Management and Lead/Support Department groups, to identify the potential impacts of each of the four hazard scenarios, based on FEMA's Guidance for Standardized Impact Language.

During the workshop, participants discussed, identified, and validated the Capability Targets and identified the resources, training, plans and procedures, and/or staffing necessary to meet the Capability Target. VPC designed worksheets for the Departments to identify and document the City's: Beginning, Lost, Sustained, and Built capabilities over the past four years to garner a snapshot of the City's Current Capabilities. VPC also assisted with the City's current and target capabilities. VPC worked with Emergency Management to identify which of the 32 FEMA Core Capabilities are solely the responsibility of the County, versus the responsibility of the City.

VPC documented the City's planning and response capabilities as well as funds used to build a new capability or sustain an existing capability. VPC also mapped these funding sources to the capabilities they supported over the past four years. Finally, VPC documented if and how these funded capabilities were applied in real world events.

The THIRA/SPR process supports a variety of emergency management efforts, including: assisting with the identification of new mitigation action items for the HMP, aiding in budget planning, and assisting with personnel /staffing plans. In addition to a THIRA/SPR Report, VPC also included a description of the THIRA process, a participation tracker, and a list of recommended next steps for the City.