

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

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Howard County, Maryland



PROJECT DETAILS

DIFFICULTY: Medium

COST: \$50,000 - \$75,000

TIMEFRAME: Nine (9) Months

DELIVERABLES: A County-Wide Man-made Hazards Mitigation Plan Annex and a Historic and Cultural Resources Annex.

CORE COMPETENCIES:

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

PROJECT TEAM

Vision Planning and Consulting

CLIENT CONTACT

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

VPC worked closely with Emergency Management officials, stakeholders, including 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 SUMMARY

Manmade Hazards Annex - 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. Hazards considered include: Transportation Hazard, Active Assailant, Chemical Attack, Civil Unrest, Cyber Attack, Dam Failure, Disease Epidemic, Explosives, and Structure Fire.

The Annex aims to reduce the human, social, environmental, and economic losses from man-made and technological disasters. Sixteen hazards were analyzed and detailed hazard profiles and a corresponding risk assessment was developed. New goals and objectives were created, and a strategy and implementation plan were developed to reduce the impacts from these hazard events.

Historic Resource Annex - 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 used 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 photos and important architectural information.

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 hazard analysis, VPC developed a detailed list of mitigation actions for the properties, to reduce risk to floods and other hazards.

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