

# 2010 Bi-County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan and 2014 Update

Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties, Pennsylvania

HAZARD MITIGATION



## PROJECT DETAILS

**DIFFICULTY:** Medium

**COST:** \$175,000 - \$200,000

**TIMEFRAME:** Nine (9) Months Each

**DELIVERABLES:** A 2010 Bi-County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan and a 2014 Countywide Mitigation Plan Update for Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties.

## CORE COMPETENCIES:

- Meeting Coordination and Facilitation
- Consensus Building
- Plan Integration
- Hazard Mitigation Planning
- Public Outreach and Education
- Inter-Departmental Cooperation

## PROJECT TEAM

Vision Planning and Consulting

## CLIENT CONTACT

Mary Liz Donato  
Regional Planning Manager  
Lackawanna County  
Dept. of Planning & Econ. Dev.  
135 Jefferson Avenue, 2nd Floor  
Scranton, PA 18503  
[donatoml@lackawannacounty.org](mailto:donatoml@lackawannacounty.org)  
570.963.6400 x 1354

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

The project involved the preparation of a multi-hazard plan update for Luzerne County, PA and its 76 municipalities as well as for Lackawanna County and its 40 municipalities as an integrated effort, in compliance with FEMA's DMA 2000 regulations. The Bi-County Plan was integrated into the Comprehensive Plan, Open Space and Recreation Plan and Regional Transportation Plan. In 2014, the plans for the two counties were updated separately, yet simultaneously.

## PROJECT SUMMARY

In 2010, Vision Planning and Consulting (VPC) contracted with the Luzerne and Lackawanna County Planning Commissions to develop a Bi-County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan for the two counties and their 116 municipalities. Key steps in the project included Hazard identification and vulnerability assessment; Mitigation assessment; Assessment of alternative mitigation measures; and an Implementation strategy.

Emphasis was laid on integrating the hazard mitigation plan with three other simultaneous regional planning efforts that were taking place in the two counties: the Comprehensive Plan, Open Space and Recreation Plan, and the Transportation Plan. Each of the four planning processes ran simultaneously and were integrated through their timelines, committees, recommendations, and goals.

The hazard mitigation planning process emphasizes better coordination between public works, planning, recreation, and emergency management departments, as well as better coordination between the two counties on regional issues.

In 2014-2015 VPC contracted with the two counties to develop individual Plan Updates. Both planning processes for Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties ran simultaneously, and the VPC Team worked closely with various departments in both counties and established

concurrence from all primary and support agencies (local, county, and regional).

Key steps in the process included reconvening the Steering Committees to re-establish the planning process; reassessing hazards and determining the vulnerability, and updating the risk assessment; reassessing mitigation capabilities; revisiting goals and objectives; reviewing and updating the mitigation strategy; and updating the plan implementation and plan maintenance sections.

Public involvement through open houses, municipal workshops and committee meetings formed an integral component of the planning process. Extensive efforts were made to involve all of the municipalities in both counties at various stages of the planning process by laying emphasis through participation via questionnaires, meetings, and review of materials.