

University of Delaware 2021 and 2023 Hazard Mitigation Plan Updates

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

University of Delaware – Newark and Lewes Campuses



PROJECT DETAILS

DIFFICULTY: Medium

COST: \$16,000

TIMEFRAME: 24 Months

DELIVERABLES: One (1) HMP for the Lewes Campus (Sussex County) and one (1) HMP for the Newark (New Castle County) Campuses.

CORE COMPETENCIES:

- GIS Analysis
- Consensus Building
- Disaster Preparedness
- Hazard Mitigation Planning
- Public Outreach and Education
- Inter-Departmental Cooperation

PROJECT TEAM

Vision Planning and Consulting

CLIENT CONTACT

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Plan Updates (New Castle-2021/Sussex County-2023) provide a continuous mechanism for the University of Delaware to become better prepared to face the evolving threats from natural and technological hazards and to maintain a framework for future efforts. The University comprises the Newark flagship campus, the Hugh R. Sharp Campus in Lewes, and the Carvel Campus in Georgetown, as well as serving southern Delaware as the research and teaching base for faculty in UD's School of Marine Science and Policy.

PROJECT SUMMARY

VPC developed the 2017 joint Campus mitigation plan, giving us valuable insight into the University's challenges and operations. The campus locations Plans were then updated individually (2021 and 2023) to allow for a comprehensive review of previous actions and the development of new actions based on evolving hazards/threats.

VPC worked with several departments in the update of the plan, including: UD Office of Emergency Management; UD Environmental Health and Safety; Maintenance Operations - Lewes (DE) Campus; UD Facilities, Real Estate, and Auxiliary Services; Carvel Research Center - Georgetown (DE) Campus; Information Technology; Office of Residence Life; and Student Health Services.

Additionally, schools such as the College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment and the Science, Technology, and Advanced Research (STAR) Campus were also involved in the planning process. Other stakeholders include: Sussex County Emergency Operations, New Castle County representatives, the Lewes City Manager, a Professor/Delaware State Climatologist, Delaware Sea Grant, and the Delaware Emergency Management Agency.

These stakeholders played a critical role in providing background information to inform various components of the Plan Update.

Stakeholders worked as a team to re-rank hazards for both Sussex County campuses (Georgetown/Lewes). VPC identified the status of all past hazard mitigation actions from the previous Plan, and provided key input to inform the development of new mitigation actions and a updated hazard mitigation strategy. All Team members were also provided an opportunity to review and comment on the final updated Plan.

Key issues included: implementing retrofit, redevelopment, and abatement programs to strengthen structures vulnerable to wind, flooding, and other hazards; Elevation of structures in flood prone areas or the design and installation of flood proofing retrofits; and access to required annual safety training for faculty, staff, and students as well as tracking laboratory activities such as lab inspections, chemical inventory, etc.

Key recommendations included: alleviating water infiltration/flooding-taking place within four University buildings on the Newark campus; developing documentation and procedures for the IT staff to ensure seamless operation of the Disaster Recovery site; and increasing the occurrence of joint trainings and exercises between the State of Delaware, New Castle County, the City of Newark, and the University to strengthen the response partnership among agencies.