

2009 University of Maryland Eastern Shore Hazard Mitigation Plan

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES), Princess Anne, Maryland



PROJECT DETAILS

DIFFICULTY: Medium

COST: \$30,000 - \$50,000

TIMEFRAME: 18 Months

DELIVERABLES: A Campus-Wide Hazard Mitigation Plan and engineering analysis

CORE COMPETENCIES:

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

PROJECT TEAM

Vision Planning and Consulting
George, Miles & Buhr (GMB)
Eastern Shore Regional GIS
Cooperative (ESRGC)

CLIENT CONTACT

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

The purpose of the Plan was to provide a mechanism for the University through which the likelihood of threat to the land, structures, resources, and constituents from natural, and technological hazards, can be assessed, to devise an action plan to reduce the impact of those threats, and to develop a road map for future efforts.

The Plan requirements are based on the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000); and *Building a Disaster-Resistant University (FEMA 443)* and the project was funded by FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant.

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Plan comprises the following six tasks: 1) organizing the work group and facilitating the planning process; 2) hazard assessment and vulnerability analysis; 3) mitigation capability assessment; 4) developing a mitigation plan; 5) writing the mitigation plan document; and 6) implementing the plan which involved architectural and engineering evaluations of critical facilities along a major tributary that runs along the campus.

The UMES Plan was one of the first hazard mitigation plans in the nation to contain a Plan Integration element. The Plan Integration element comprised a review and summary of various documents at the University, Town, County, and State levels as they relate to land use, building construction, and floodplain management in and around the UMES campus. Each subsection included a gap analysis and potential options, insights and recommendations, for facility planners on how to better integrate hazard mitigation into future plans and activities. The FEMA reviewers said this about the plan: "Very Nicely Done!!! The best that I have seen in Region 3".

Major issues on campus included; protection of equipment, and data storage, procedures, backup

operations, HVAC systems and damage to flood-prone buildings.

Detailed engineering analysis was conducted for each building, resulting in the following actions: raising utilities, constructing floodwalls, berms, and levees, and abandoning specific buildings in the floodplain.

Other recommendations:

- Develop a training session for lab directors on hazard mitigation.
- Conduct a study to determine the shelter requirements and specifications and examining the feasibility of hardening the Henson Center and other shelter locations.
- Include information on the campus' website to prepare faculty, student, and staff for hazards events.
- Work closely with the Office of Community Relations to conduct a public outreach effort on campus.