



5 PLAN MAINTENANCE PROCESS

This chapter provides an overview of the overall strategy for plan maintenance and outlines the method and schedule for monitoring, updating, and evaluating the plan. The chapter also discusses incorporating the plan into existing planning mechanisms and how to address continued public involvement.

5.1 Monitoring, Evaluating, and Updating the Plan

44 CFR Requirement 201.6(c)(4): The plan maintenance process shall include a section describing the method and schedule of monitoring, evaluating, and updating the mitigation plan within a five-year cycle.

5.1.1 Local Emergency Planning Committee

With adoption of this plan, the Montgomery County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) will be tasked with plan monitoring, evaluation, and maintenance of the plan. The LEPC includes many of the same agencies and organizations as the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC). The participating jurisdictions and agencies, led by the Montgomery County Emergency Management, agree to:

- Meet annually to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the plan;
- At their discretion, meet after a disaster event to evaluate the plan;
- Act as a forum for hazard mitigation issues;
- Disseminate hazard mitigation ideas and activities to all participants;
- Pursue the implementation of high priority, low- or no-cost recommended actions;
- Maintain vigilant monitoring of multi-objective, cost-share, and other funding opportunities to help the community implement the plan's recommended actions for which no current funding exists;
- Monitor and assist in implementation and update of this plan;
- Keep the concept of mitigation in the forefront of community decision making by identifying plan recommendations when other community goals, plans, and activities overlap, influence, or directly affect increased community vulnerability to disasters;
- Report on plan progress and recommended changes to the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners and governing bodies of participating jurisdictions; and
- Inform and solicit input from the public.

The primary duty of the LEPC in relation to this plan is to see it successfully carried out and to report to the community governing boards and the public on the status of plan implementation and mitigation opportunities. Other duties include reviewing and promoting mitigation proposals,

hearing stakeholder concerns about hazard mitigation, passing concerns on to appropriate entities, and posting relevant information on the County website.

5.1.2 Plan Maintenance Schedule

The LEPC agrees to meet annually and, at their discretion after a hazard event to monitor progress and update the mitigation strategy. The Montgomery County Emergency Manager is responsible for initiating these plan reviews. In conjunction with the other participating jurisdictions, a five-year written update of the plan will be submitted to the Kansas Division of Emergency Management and FEMA Region VII per Requirement §201.6(c)(4)(i) of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and adopted by participating jurisdictions within a five-year period from the final approval of this plan unless disaster or other circumstances (e.g., changing regulations) require a change to this schedule.

5.1.3 Plan Maintenance Process

Evaluation of progress can be achieved by monitoring changes in vulnerabilities identified in the plan. Changes in vulnerability can be identified by noting

- Decreased vulnerability as a result of implementing recommended actions,
- Increased vulnerability as a result of failed or ineffective mitigation actions, and/or
- Increased vulnerability as a result of new development (and/or annexation).

Updates to this plan will

- Consider changes in vulnerability due to action implementation,
- Document success stories where mitigation efforts have proven effective,
- Document areas where mitigation actions were not effective,
- Document any new hazards that may arise or were previously overlooked,
- Incorporate new data or studies on hazards and risks,
- Incorporate new capabilities or changes in capabilities,
- Incorporate growth and development-related changes to inventories, and
- Incorporate new action recommendations or changes in action prioritization.

In order to best evaluate any changes in vulnerability as a result of plan implementation, the participating jurisdictions will undergo the following process:

- A representative from the responsible office identified in each mitigation action will be responsible for tracking and reporting to the jurisdictional lead annually on action status. The representative will also provide input on whether the action as implemented meets the defined objectives and is likely to be successful in reducing vulnerabilities.
- If the action does not meet identified objectives, the jurisdictional lead will determine what additional measures may be implemented, and an assigned individual will be responsible for

defining action scope, implementing the action, monitoring success of the action, and making any required modifications to the plan.

Changes will be made to the plan to accommodate actions that have failed or are not considered feasible after a review of their adherence to established criteria, time frame, community priorities, and/or funding resources. Actions that were not ranked high but were identified as potential mitigation activities will be reviewed during the monitoring and update of this plan to determine feasibility of future implementation. Updating of the plan will be enacted through written changes and submissions, as Montgomery County Emergency Management deems appropriate and necessary, and as approved by the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners and the governing boards of the other participating jurisdictions.

5.2 Incorporation into Existing Planning Mechanisms

44 CFR Requirement §201.6(c)(4)(ii):[The plan shall include a] process by which local governments incorporate the requirements of the mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms such as comprehensive or capital improvement plans, when appropriate.

Where possible, plan participants will use existing plans and/or programs to implement hazard mitigation actions. Based on the capability assessments of the participating jurisdictions, communities in Montgomery County will continue to plan and implement programs to reduce loss of life and property from hazards. This plan builds upon the momentum developed through previous related planning efforts and mitigation programs, and recommends implementing actions, where possible, through the following means:

- Montgomery County Basic Operations Plan
- General or master plans of participating jurisdictions
- Ordinances of participating jurisdictions
- Capital improvement plans and budgets
- Community wildfire protection plans and other wildfire planning efforts
- Other community plans within the County, such as water conservation plans, stormwater management plans, and parks and recreation plans

The governing bodies of the jurisdictions adopting this plan will encourage all other relevant planning mechanisms under their authority to consult this plan to ensure minimization of risk to natural hazards as well as coordination of activities.

The risk assessment in this plan will provide information for the hazard analysis in the next update of the Montgomery County Basic Operations Plan. In the future, the annual review and update of both the multi-hazard mitigation plan and the emergency operations plan will occur at the same time to promote the integration of the two plans.

LEPC members involved in updating these existing planning mechanisms will be responsible for integrating the findings and actions of the mitigation plan, as appropriate. The LEPC is also responsible for monitoring this integration and incorporating the appropriate information into the five-year update of the multi-hazard mitigation plan.

5.3 Continued Public Involvement

44 CFR Requirement §201.6(c)(4)(iii): [The plan maintenance process shall include a] discussion on how the community will continue public participation in the plan maintenance process.

The update process provides an opportunity to publicize success stories from the plan's implementation and seek additional public comment. Information will be posted in the *Coffeyville Journal and Independence Daily Reporter* newspapers and on the County website following the annual review of the mitigation plan. A public hearing(s) to receive public comment on plan maintenance and updating will be held during the update period. When the HMPC reconvenes for the update, it will coordinate with all stakeholders participating in the planning process, including those who joined the HMPC after the initial effort, to update and revise the plan. Public notice will be posted and public participation will be invited, at a minimum, through available website postings and press releases to local media outlets.