

# Rensselaer County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update



## Planning Timeline

- The initial hazard mitigation plan was adopted in 2011
- Regular updates are required by FEMA
- The first plan update process began in October 2018 and is targeted for completion in 2019

Natural hazard events cannot be prevented from occurring. However, by implementing the hazard mitigation projects identified in the Plan, we can reduce vulnerabilities, risks, and future damage. Over time, our hazards will result in fewer disasters.

Natural hazards are a part of life throughout Rensselaer County. All of these hazard events have the potential to cause property loss, economic hardship, environmental degradation, and threats to public health and safety including loss of life. An important part of emergency management involves hazard mitigation

planning aimed at minimizing these impacts and improving resiliency. The Plan describes the hazard risks that can occur, identifies vulnerable community assets, and presents mitigation strategies comprised of actions and projects that will be implemented to reduce key hazard risks.

## Purpose and Need for the Plan

The Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan for Rensselaer County was adopted in 2011 to meet the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (or "DMA 2000"). The Plan allows for potential future Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding opportunities for participating jurisdictions to implement hazard mitigation projects. Its development was led by the County, and planning costs were offset by a FEMA planning grant. The County opted to use what FEMA calls a "multi-jurisdictional" approach as a form of municipal shared service, meaning that instead of just being a plan for the County government, every municipality participated as an equal partner. As such, the plan includes information

for each municipality that has been adopted at the local level. The Plan also includes a capability assessment, risk assessment, mitigation strategies, and utilization and maintenance guide. To remain in compliance with DMA 2000, and maintain eligibility to apply for FEMA mitigation project funding, the plan must be updated regularly. The County has once again obtained FEMA grant funding for this first plan update. Representatives from each municipality and various stakeholder groups within the County, as well as the public, will have opportunities to attend meetings and provide feedback throughout the plan update process.

## For More Information

For questions or other feedback, or to find out how you can become involved, please contact Jay Wilson, Director, and Rensselaer County Bureau of Public Safety at 518-266-7676 or at [JWilson@rensko.com](mailto:JWilson@rensko.com).

Information is also available on our web site at: <http://www.rensco.com/departments/public-safety/hazard-mitigation-planning/>

