

1.2 PLANNING PROCESS

According to 44CFR 201.4(c)(1) Ohio’s hazard mitigation plan must provide a “Description of the planning process used to develop the plan, including how it was prepared, who was involved in the process, and how other agencies participated.”

The SOHMP was initially developed in 2005 and was subsequently updated in 2008, 2011, 2012, and 2014. The process used for the initial plan development and subsequent updates are summarized in the 2014 version of the SOHMP.

The first Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch meeting regarding the 2019 plan update occurred prior to applying for a PDM grant to update the document in February 2017. Bi-weekly Mitigation Branch meetings to monitor plan update status started in July 2018 and continued until the draft mitigation plan document was completed in late April 2019. The 2019 SOHMP update process is summarized below.

The Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch is the primary author of the plan. The team that authored the 2019 plan update is:

2019 State of Ohio Hazard Mitigation Plan Primary Authors	
Name	Title
Steve Ferryman, CFM	Mitigation Branch Chief, State Hazard Mitigation Officer
Jacob Hoover, AICP, CFM	Mitigation Branch Supervisor
Luan Nguyen	State Hazard Mitigation Planner
Gary Penn	GIS Database Administrator
Maeve Hogel	Mitigation Branch Intern
Alex Strawser	Mitigation Branch Intern

Although this team was primarily responsible for authoring the plan text, many different people, organizations and agencies contributed to the plan direction, content, and review. These contributors and their role in the plan update process is outlined below.

STATE HAZARD MITIGATION TEAM (SHMT)

Prior to DMA 2000, Ohio had created a mitigation team, the SHMT, which serves two primary functions: To provide input / score applications for FEMA mitigation programs and to provide general input on the State of Ohio’s hazard mitigation policies. Today the SHMT continues to meet and is the lead advisory group involving mitigation project scoring and mitigation policy – which includes mitigation planning issues. The SHMT members provided general direction in some areas of the plan, reviewed and edited the plan text, and contributed mitigation action items.

Currently, the SHMT includes the following entities:

State Hazard Mitigation Team (2019)	
Agency	Name
Ohio EMA - Recovery Branch	Brigitte Bouska
Ohio DNR - Division of Water Resources	Dena Barnhouse
Ohio DNR - Division of Water Resources	Alicia Silverio
Ohio Development Services Agency	Timothy Allen
Ohio Public Works Commission	Linda Bailiff
Ohio Department of Administrative Services	Traci Heyer
Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District	Boris Slogar
US Army Corps of Engineers-Buffalo	Laura Ortiz
US Army Corps of Engineers-Huntington	Ashley Stephens
US Army Corps of Engineers-Huntington	JoAnn Combs
US Army Corps of Engineers-Louisville	Brandon Brummett
FEMA Region V	Pam Broviak
Emergency Management Association of Ohio	Sean Miller, Delaware Co. EMA
US Geological Survey	Dave Straub
Ohio EMA - Mitigation Branch (non-voting)	Steve Ferryman
Ohio EMA - Mitigation Branch (non-voting)	Jacob Hoover
Ohio EMA - Mitigation Branch (non-voting)	Keven Clouse
Ohio EMA - Mitigation Branch (non-voting)	Dan Clevidence
Ohio EMA - Mitigation Branch (non-voting)	Sharon Rolf
Ohio EMA - Mitigation Branch (non-voting)	Luan Nguyen
Ohio Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster	Erin Cordle

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION (ESF) PARTNERS

The Emergency Support Function Partners meet quarterly at Ohio EMA. These partners facilitate state agency support and input into the SOHMP. Current ESF Partner Leads are:

Emergency Support Function Leads (2017)		
Emergency Support Function	Agency	Name
#1 - Transportation	Ohio Dept. of Transportation	Leslie Bricker
#2 – Communications & I.T.	Ohio EMA	Dave Ford
#3 – Engineering & Public Works	Ohio DNR	Doug Johnson
#4 – Firefighting	Commerce/State Fire Marshall	Jeff Hussey
#5 – Information & Planning	Ohio EMA	Tyler Kempf
#6 – Mass Care	Ohio EMA	Rhonda Meggitt
#7 – Resources & Logistics	Ohio Dept. of Admin. Services	Jennifer Shaefer
#8 – Public Health & Medical	Ohio Dept. of Health	Tamara McBride
#9 – Search & Rescue	Ohio DNR	Doug Johnson
#10 – Hazardous Materials	Ohio EPA	Jim Mehl
#11 – Agriculture	Ohio Dept. of Agriculture	Terri Gerhardt
#12 – Energy	Public Utilities Comm. of Ohio	Lowell Miller
#13 – Law Enforcement	Dept. of Public Safety	Ken Kocab

#14 – Recovery & Mitigation	Ohio EMA	Laura Adcock-Elder
#15 – External Affairs	Ohio EMA	Jay Carey

The agencies that are part of ESF #14 have authority, programs, funding and expertise to supplement local mitigation and recovery actions after an event. The SOHMP update was coordinated with ESF #14 Partners. These agencies provided data that was incorporated into the state mitigation capability assessment. ESF#14 support agencies also contributed mitigation action items to the plan and provided review and comment on the document.

Current ESF #14 Partners are:

ESF #14 – Mitigation and Recovery Partners (2017)	
Adjutant General	Ohio Facilities Construction Commission
American Red Cross	Ohio Homeland Security
Board of Regents/Dept. of Education	Ohio Hospital Association
Corporation for National and Community Service	Ohio Housing Finance Agency
Department of Administrative Services	Ohio Public Works Commission
Ohio Attorney General’s Office	Ohio Rail Development Commission
Department of Aging	Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives
Department of Agriculture	Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council
Department of Commerce	Ohio Treasurer of State
Department of Developmental Disabilities	Secretary of State
Department of Health	Ohio VOAD
Department of Insurance	Ohio Water Development Authority
Department of Job and Family Services	Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
Department of Medicaid	Salvation Army
Department of Mental Health & Addiction	U.S. Small Business Administration
Ohio Department of Natural Resources	State Historic Preservation Office
Ohio Department of Public Safety	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and	U.S. EPA
Ohio Department of Transportation	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adm.
Department of Veteran’s Services	U.S. Department of Interior
Development Services Agency	U.S. Coast Guard
Ohio Emergency Management Agency	U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Emergency Management Association of Ohio	U.S. Geological Survey
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency	U.S. Housing and Urban Development
FEMA	U.S.D.A. Nat. Res. Conservation Service
Ohio Arts Council	U.S.D.A. Farm Services Agency
Office of Budget and Management	U.S.D.A. Rural Development
Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism	

THE OHIO SILVER JACKETS TEAM

The Ohio Silver Jackets Team is an interagency team dedicated to creating a collaborative environment to bring together all levels of government and other stakeholders to mitigate natural hazards by effectively combining available agency resources, programs, and technical expertise. The Ohio Silver Jackets team has funded multiple projects that were prioritized in the 2014 SOHMP. Some examples include: loss avoidance studies, HAZUS runs, and floodplain mapping projects. The Ohio Silver Jackets Team meets

quarterly and for the 2019 SOHMP update provided hazard specific technical expertise, mitigation action items, and overall plan review.

2019 PLAN UPDATE AND ADOPTION PROCESS

Agencies from all levels of government and multiple non-profits participated in the 2019 SOHMP. The public was given multiple opportunities to review and comment on the draft plan. Efforts were also made to solicit input and comments from businesses and the private sector through the Ohio Public Private Partnership. Following is a brief outline of the process followed to update and adopt the 2019 SOHMP.

STEP 1: REVIEW THE EXISTING STATE MITIGATION PLAN, OTHER PLANS, AGENCY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES, TRENDS, ETC.

The 2014 Enhanced SOHMP was reviewed to determine areas of focus for the 2019 SOHMP update. It was determined that the entire document would be updated with a focus on:

- Reducing the size of the plan by eliminating outdated and extraneous information, and
- Creating an interactive digital summary of the SOHMP to increase public awareness of the document.

STEP 2: APPLY FOR PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION GRANT

The Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch applied for and received a Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant from FEMA to help pay for the cost to update the plan and create the digital plan summary.

STEP 3: RESEARCH AND GATHER DATA

Significant time and effort was invested by the Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch to research data needed for the comprehensive plan update. In addition, subject matter experts in specific hazards were consulted and provided data and/or wrote portions of the plans risk analysis. Extensive research of current state mitigation laws, policies, and programs was also conducted to update the state capability portion of the plan document.

STEP 4: CREATE DRAFT PLAN AND OBTAIN STAKEHOLDER INPUT

Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch staff updated plan text based on information and data gathered from research and subject matter experts. Meetings to gather input on the draft document were held with the Ohio EMA Executive Office, the SHMT, ESF partners, and the Ohio Public Private Partnership. A draft version of the plan was also posted on the Ohio EMA website, in conjunction with a press release requesting public review and comment of the draft plan on February 28, 2019. As of April 16, 2019, six comments were received on the draft plan. Public input was evaluated and incorporated into the plan document.

STEP 5: SUBMIT DRAFT SOHMP TO FEMA FOR REVIEW

The draft SOHMP was submitted to FEMA for review and approval as meeting enhanced state mitigation plan requirements. Comments provided by FEMA on their review of the draft plan were incorporated into the final plan document.

STEP 6: SOHMP ADOPTION AND FINAL APPROVAL

The final SOHMP document was adopted according to state law and sent to FEMA for final review and approval. The SOHMP document was approved as meeting FEMA enhanced plan requirements in 44 CFR 201.5. The FEMA approval of the SOHMP as an enhanced plan enables the state to access additional mitigation funds after a major disaster declaration.