

3.5 COMMITMENT TO A COMPREHENSIVE STATE MITIGATION PROGRAM

The State of Ohio has had a long-standing commitment to a comprehensive mitigation program. Certainly, the action items in Section 3.2 reflect this commitment. This commitment has been exhibited through past, existing and future initiatives. This section provides a thorough discussion of different dimensions of the state's commitment, how each aspect has been implemented in the past and the state's plan to continue said implementation.

LOCAL MITIGATION PLANNING SUPPORT

Local mitigation planning has been and will continue to be supported significantly. All 88 counties in Ohio have had a FEMA approved local hazard mitigation plan at some point. Ongoing training on developing/updating a local mitigation plan is provided by the Mitigation Branch through the training program at Ohio EMA. In addition, Ohio EMA has developed and maintains the State Hazard Analysis Resource Planning Portal (SHARPP). The SHARPP houses every county mitigation plan, as well as a summary of the HIRA and mitigation action items.

SHMT IMPROVEMENT

The collaborative power of the SHMT is understood. Invitations were sent to additional organizations with the intent to expand the SHMT to allow for better program integration/utility.

OHIO SILVER JACKETS TEAM

The Ohio EMA is the state coordinator of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Silver Jackets program. The Ohio Silver Jackets Team is an interagency team dedicated to creating a collaborative environment to bring together Federal, State, local, and other stakeholders to develop and implement solutions to natural hazards and mitigation by combining available agency resources, which include funding, programs, and technical expertise. The Ohio Silver Jackets Team was the first state team in the Silver Jackets program. A team charter was signed in May 2005 and the team continues to meet on a quarterly basis. Some recent projects involving Silver Jackets funding and state match resources include:

- Marion County Floodplain Mapping
- HAZUS Level 2 Analysis
- The Great Ohio Flood of 1913 Awareness Campaign

PROVIDING NON-FEDERAL MATCH

Ohio has consistently provided state match for local HMGP projects, HMA funded state mitigation projects, and match to HMA management cost grants that support Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch staff salaries (see Appendix F). The current estimate of state funds spent to support HMA related mitigation efforts is \$26 million over a 28 year period.

USE AND PROMOTION OF NATIONAL BUILDING CODES

The current commercial building code for Ohio known as the Ohio Building Code (OBC) was adopted 9/30/2016, effective 1/1/2017 and then Amended 7/13/2018, effective 8/1/2018. This code is mandatory statewide for the construction, alteration, movement, enlargement, replacement, repair, equipment, use and occupancy, location, maintenance, removal and demolition of buildings under its purview. The OBC

is generally applicable to construction that is not detached one-, two-, or three-family dwellings. This current code is based upon the 2015 International Building Code.

The current residential building code for Ohio is known as the 2013 Residential Code of Ohio, passed 5/28/2012, effective 1/1/2013. This code is mandatory statewide for the construction, alteration, movement, enlargement, replacement, repair, equipment, use and occupancy, location, maintenance, removal, and demolition of every one-, two-, or three-family dwelling. This current code is based upon the 2009 International Residential Code. These building codes include provisions to meet flood and wind requirements, and simultaneously allow communities to adopt and enforce higher standards for floodplain management should they choose to do so.

SAFE ROOM REBATE PROGRAM

The Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch created the Safe Room Rebate Program to help property owners off-set the cost of constructing/installing residential tornado safe rooms. As of December 2018, the program has leveraged \$349,235 in property owner funds with \$1,008,474 in federal HMA funds to complete 184 residential safe rooms across the state.

INTEGRATION OF MITIGATION IN RECENT POST DIASTER RECOVERY OPERATIONS

Ohio EMA works cooperatively with FEMA after a disaster event in the state to ensure that post-disaster mitigation opportunities are incorporated into the recovery. There is comprehensive hazard mitigation strategy that is prepared by FEMA and the state after every event.

During FEMA DR-1805-OH, the Mitigation Branch was co-located in the JFO Mitigation Section with federal counterparts. As a result, this joint team crafted the hazard mitigation strategy for 1805 that included the following objectives and priorities: promotion of local mitigation planning, mitigation project application outreach, promotion of best practices and NFIP coordination with FEMA and ODNR.

FEMA DR-4077-OH included severe storms and straight-line winds which impacted many parts of Ohio. The Joint Field Office helped develop the hazard mitigation strategy for this event. The strategy identified the different activities that are to be conducted as a result of the disaster declaration. The Joint Hazard Mitigation Strategy for this event included deployment of a 406 specialist to the Joint Field Office that worked with state and local staff to maximize mitigation opportunities for public assistance projects.

FEMA DR-4098-OH was declared because of the impacts of super storm Sandy and the impacts were felt primarily in Northeast Ohio. The Joint Field Office again helped develop the hazard mitigation strategy.

FEMA DR-4360-OH was a flood event in southern and eastern Ohio. The greatest impact from this event was to infrastructure, specifically roads and bridges. The Ohio EMA Recovery Branch worked with FEMA Public Assistance staff to fund 406 mitigation through the new Public Assistance delivery model.