



Section 9 Plan Monitoring and Maintenance

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9.1 IFR Requirements for Plan Monitoring and Maintenance

IFR §201.6(c)(4)(i): *[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*

IFR §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.*

IFR §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.*

9.2 Method for Monitoring the Plan

This Plan will be monitored by the Office of Emergency Management for several related purposes:

1. Maintain the currency of hazard and risk information.
2. Ensure that mitigation projects and actions reflect the priorities of the County, the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC) and the Stakeholders group.
3. To comply with FEMA and State of Maryland requirements for Plan maintenance, and maintain Anne Arundel County's eligibility for federal disaster assistance and mitigation grants.

The Office of Emergency Management is responsible for monitoring and maintaining this Plan. The Office of Emergency Management will continuously monitor the Plan with respect to the purposes noted above, and with respect to the update triggers noted in Section 9.4 below.



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Although the representatives filling the positions may change from year to year, the future HMPC and Stakeholders group will continue to be comprised of the same job functions or titles. However, the decision of specific job duties will be left to the Office of Emergency Management to be assigned as deemed appropriate.

9.3 Method and Schedule for Updating the Plan

The OEM will be responsible for overall Plan monitoring and maintenance. This Office will review the Plan every two years to consider changes in land development, population growth, or recent programs and activities that may affect mitigation initiatives. These activities will at least include:

- Evaluate progress made on plan recommendations during the previous 24 months,
- Update the Plan to reflect mitigation accomplishments in projects, programs, and policies,
- Identify new mitigation needs,
- Justify and cancel planned initiatives that will no longer be implemented.

Additionally, should Anne Arundel County be impacted by a disaster that receives a Presidential Disaster Declaration or as circumstances warrant, OEM will begin a review of the Plan to capture any “lessons learned” for the purpose of continuing development of this Plan. The biannual update process described above will also be used following a major disaster. However, post-disaster deliberations will also consider the following:

- Determine “Lessons Learned” from the disaster, and what new initiatives should be added to the plan to help reduce the likelihood of similar damage in the future,
- Evaluate follow-up needed on relevant items from any After Action Reports produced,
- Integrate mitigation into the recovery process.

Every five years, OEM will conduct a comprehensive review and update, with appropriate public involvement. The comprehensive review process will include the following:

- Announce that the plan is under review,
- Establish a work plan, budget, and time frame for updating the Plan,
- Review progress made on plan recommendations during the previous 60 months,
- Review hazards and risk analysis,
- Note the current status of the mitigation initiatives including actions undertaken to obtain funding, permits, approvals or other resources,
- Record mitigation initiatives that have been completed,
- Engage in public involvement activities,
- Justify and cancel planned initiatives that will no longer be implemented,
- Provide additional information or analysis that has been developed that would modify the priority originally assigned to the mitigation initiative when it was incorporated into the plan and may include new hazards that put the county at risk,
- Integrate relevant feedback and circulate revised Plan,
- If significant revisions are made to the Plan, it will be formally adopted again,
- If significant revisions are made to the Plan, submit revised Plan to FEMA via the Maryland State Hazard Mitigation Officer



9.4 Circumstances that will Initiate Plan Review and Updates

This section identifies additional circumstances or conditions, other than the scheduled 24 month review or a disaster event occurrence, under which the County will initiate Plan reviews and Updates.

1. On the recommendation of the Office of Emergency Management, or on its own initiative, the County Council may initiate a Plan review at any time.
2. When activities of Anne Arundel County, or other jurisdictions including the State, significantly alter the potential effects of natural hazards on County assets, operations and/or constituents. Examples include when mitigation projects are completed, when public works or building projects are initiated in other areas and negatively impact the County, and when laws or regulations are changed.
3. When new mitigation opportunities or sources of funding are identified.

9.5 Continued Public Involvement

The County will continue to utilize an open public process where public participation is encouraged. When changes are made to the plan in accordance with the method and schedule for updating the plan, OEM will post the changes in a location where the public can easily access the information, provide feedback and make comments. Postings will be made with at least 2 weeks advance notice of finalizations. When an update is required by FEMA and MEMA regulations, the County will continue to use the same process as used in past updates, and make changes as necessary to ensure the public's continued opportunity to be involved in the planning process.

A copy of the most recently approved Plan will stay posted on the County's website until a new update occurs or changes are made. A copy of the plan will also stay on file with OEM. Both locations of the plan will remain in place in order for the public to make comments and provide feedback at their convenience.

The County will continue to monitor opportunities for the public to become involved in Hazard Mitigation planning through attendance at local and neighborhood planning meetings, distribution of literature, and through public outreach if requested. Comments received by OEM will be catalogued appropriately.