

Executive Summary

The Henry County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan was developed in accordance with The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 with the purpose of ensuring that Henry County has existing goals and objectives for the mitigation of future damage caused by natural disasters. A core committee was organized to develop the plan.

The plan began by identifying the natural hazards that are most prevalent in Henry County. These natural hazards were determined to be tornadoes, winter storms/blizzards, thunderstorms, and floods. A profile of each one of these hazards was then conducted to determine the number and severity of the past disasters. To determine what structures are at risk from these natural disasters, a community profile was conducted to determine the location of critical facilities and structures in the floodplain. Critical facilities consist of structures such as hospitals, schools, police and fire stations, water and wastewater facilities, utilities, grain elevators, mobile home parks and elderly/handicap care facilities. Based on this information, all of the structures in Henry County are at risk from damage from tornadoes, winter storms/blizzards and thunderstorms, due to the randomness of these storms, and about 2.5% of the structures in Henry County are at risk to damage from floods.

By knowing what is at risk, the process of developing the mitigation plan began. This consisted of determining problem statements, goals, objectives and action items for each one of the natural hazards. State and local capability assessments were then completed to help determine what programs, policies, regulations, funding and practices are currently in place to facilitate, support or hinder the action items. With the state and local capability assessments complete, the mitigation actions were evaluated and prioritized for the development of the mitigation implementation strategy. The mitigation implementation strategy lists the actions along with the responsible parties, beneficiaries, cost and proposed timeline for completion.