



Executive Summary

The vision for the Virginia's Region 2000 Partnership Local Government Council's Hazard Mitigation Plan is to lessen the impacts from natural and manmade hazards, prepare the region to respond to future events, and encourage regional collaboration by pursuing funding and promoting mitigation actions focusing on structural projects, education, information and data development, and policy and planning.

The Region 2000 Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan was developed in 2004 and 2005 to satisfy local planning requirements of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA2K). The DMA2K legislation (Public Law 106-390) brought increased emphasis on pre-disaster planning and funding to reinforce the importance of mitigation planning and emphasizes planning for disasters before they occur. As such, DMA2K established a pre-disaster hazard mitigation program and new requirements for the national Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). States and local governments are now required to adopt FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plans in order to qualify for pre and post disaster federal hazard mitigation funding, such as HMGP.

For Region 2000, HMGP planning funding from Hurricane Isabel provided funds to develop a multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan for the participating communities of Amherst County (including Town of Amherst), Appomattox County (including the Towns of Appomattox and Pamplin City), Bedford City, Bedford County, Campbell County (including Towns of Altavista and Brookneal), and Lynchburg City. The Region 2000 Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan followed the FEMA guidelines and publications with separate sections devoted to the following:

- I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
- II. INTRODUCTION
- III. COMMUNITY PROFILE
- IV. PLANNING PROCESS
- V. HAZARD IDENTIFICATION AND RISK ASSESSMENT (HIRA)
- VI. MITIGATION
- VII. IMPLEMENTATION AND PLAN MAINTENANCE
- VIII. REFERENCES
- IX. APPENDICES



Sections I through III provide background information on the mitigation plan and communities in Region 2000 Regional Commission. Section IV on the planning process highlights how Region 2000 contracted with the Virginia Tech Center for Geospatial Information Technology (CGIT) and the various meetings that were held through the plan development and adoption process. Section V gives a detailed account of the various hazards (primarily natural) that impact Region 2000. The table below summarizes the severity of these hazards by listing priority rank (developed by the regional steering committee) and the impact of the hazard (location in Region 2000 with highest vulnerability and overall \$ loss when estimated).

| Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment Results | | |
|--|--------|--|
| Hazard Type | Rank | High Vulnerability Areas and \$ Loss |
| Winter Storms (Ice/Snow) | High | Snow: Western Bedford and Amherst Counties; Ice: Region wide |
| Flood (Hurricane) | High | Bedford County (Smith Mountain Lake), Lynchburg (James River), Town of Altavista (flood and stormwater drainage); <i>Total Annualized Regional Loss: \$2,194,531</i> |
| Drought | High | Area served by wells only region wide, especially Bedford and Campbell Counties |
| Wind (Hurricane/Tornado) | Medium | Hurricane Wind: Densely populated areas of Bedford and Lynchburg Cities and Lynchburg suburbs in Bedford and Campbell Counties; <i>Total Annualized Regional Loss: \$1,421,500</i> Tornado: US 460 Corridor in Bedford County, Bedford City, and Campbell County |
| Wildfire | Medium | Heavily forested areas in southern Amherst County, northern Campbell County, western Bedford County, and pockets throughout Appomattox County |
| Landslide and Land Subsidence | Low | Steep slope road cuts region wide, slightly higher vulnerability in Campbell and Appomattox Counties |
| Terrorism | Low | Specific locations throughout region as denoted by local emergency operations plans |
| Earthquake | None | Relatively low vulnerability region wide |

Section VI presents the different mitigations actions developed by each community to address these hazards. As listed in the Plan’s vision, the actions focused on structural projects, education, information and data development, and policy and planning. Communities also developed regional and jurisdictional actions, which bridged action categories and involved inter-community coordination. The table below summarizes the mitigation actions for the Region:

| Mitigation Action Summary | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Mitigation Action Type | Highest Ranked Action(s) | Comments |
| Education and Outreach | 1. Weather Related Hazards Education | Almost all communities included a weather related hazards education action, with 6 communities also having a specific drought education action. |
| | 2. Drought Mitigation Education | |
| Information and Data | 1. Floodplain Map Updates | Most communities included a mitigation action |





| Mitigation Action Summary | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| Mitigation Action Type | Highest Ranked Action(s) | Comments |
| Development | | concerning the need for new information to aid efforts to update floodplain maps for the region. |
| Policy and Planning | 1. Integrating Human Caused Hazards into EOPs | Almost all communities included the mitigation action of integrating human caused hazards into community emergency operations plans (EOPs). |
| Structural Mitigation | 1. Maintaining Critical Facilities during Power Disruptions 2. Monitoring and Maintain areas near Right of Ways 3. Evaluate and establish adequate drainage systems | Power outages from primarily winter storms were seen as one of the most prevalent hazard related problems for the region. Structural actions for maintaining critical facility power and maintaining right of ways were ranked high by most communities. A number of communities also expressed the need to evaluate and establish better drainage systems to address stormwater issues. |
| Regional | 1. Expand Regional Water Supply | All communities in the region ranked high having better regional water supply and distribution systems. |
| Jurisdictional | Varied | Additional mitigation actions added by communities included specific water system improvements, developing or expanding GIS systems, and establishing regional or Local Emergency Planning Commissions (LEPCs). |

Section VII details the process each community plans to take to implement their mitigation actions listed in the Plan. In some cases, the mitigation actions listed are already underway in some form in the communities and will be integrated into existing plans and operations. This section also provides information about how each community adopted this Plan.

The Region 2000 Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan provides the region with a valuable tool to expand hazard mitigation and prepare communities to better address the impacts of hazards.