

Hardin County All-Hazards Mitigation Plan

2023

Hardin County Emergency Management Agency

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hardin County is dedicated to establishing and maintaining a safe community for the residents, businesses, and visitors. Situated east Lima in north central Ohio, Hardin County is home to many farms and small industries that employ local residents. The Hardin County EMA is dedicated to helping the county and its jurisdictions develop sustainable solutions to disaster threats through a progressive program of hazard mitigation and disaster preparedness.

The Hardin County All-Hazards Mitigation Plan was developed through community-wide participation in the assessment of risks and hazards, creation of mitigation strategies, and planning for implementation and sustainment of loss reduction efforts. Through a series of meetings and work sessions, the county, city, villages, and other jurisdictions came together to assess the current risks in Hardin County and formulate sustainable solutions to lessen those vulnerabilities. As a part of this action plan, they considered various regional, county, and local plans and documents that provide guidance to developers, regulators, and residents as they implement community and personal growth initiatives. They considered conservation of the environment as well as economic development and community growth.

This plan is intended to be a tool in comprehensive community development, construction of new facilities, and growth of residential areas. It documents Hardin County's history of disaster incidents and takes into account the unique characteristics of the county, such as its position along the Continental Divide and the unique drainage situation that position creates. The plan documents past casualties and property losses and identifies mitigation strategies that will effectively protect and preserve the county's many natural assets and built environment.

The process used to develop the Hardin County All-Hazards Mitigation Plan followed the guidance established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in March of 2013. The whole community was involved in the process as input and feedback was sought from county residents, workers, and visitors according to that guidance. This is evidenced by documentation of meetings included later in this plan.

As one of many ways to make Hardin County safe and resilient after catastrophic incidents, this mitigation plan provides a comprehensive review of communities and mitigation needs, including its unique vulnerabilities to natural, technological, and human-caused events. The mitigation strategies and planning process are intended to help community leaders implement projects and develop policies that make Hardin County resistant to long-term devastation and unnecessary rebuilding costs, as well as to facilitate rapid recovery when disasters occur.