



# **Mercer County 2022 Hazard Mitigation Plan**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Mercer County is dedicated to maintaining a safe and secure community for the residents and businesses in this rural west central Ohio county. Located west of Lima and on the Indiana border, Mercer County is home to a strong agricultural and manufacturing based economy. The Mercer County Emergency Management Agency is dedicated to helping the county and its jurisdictions develop sustainable solutions to natural disaster threats through hazard mitigation and disaster preparedness.

The Mercer County 2022 Hazard Mitigation Plan was developed through community-wide participation in assessing risks and hazards and developing appropriate mitigation strategies. Through the series of surveys and work sessions described in this plan, the jurisdictions officials, community leaders, and other stakeholders assessed the current risks in Mercer County and formulated sustainable solutions to lessen those vulnerabilities. In doing so, 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 also considered economic development and community growth issues.

This plan is intended to be a tool in comprehensive community development planning. It documents the history of disaster incidents in Mercer County and considers the unique characteristics of the county, including its position at the juncture of several watersheds. The plan documents past casualties and property losses and identifies mitigation strategies that will effectively protect and preserve the county's many natural and man-made assets.

The planning process used to develop this plan followed the guidance established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in March of 2013. The whole community was involved in the process and had the opportunity to provide through surveys, attendance at meetings, and review of plan documents. The public input process is documented and referenced throughout this plan.

As one of many ways to make Mercer County resilient to disasters and catastrophic incidents, this mitigation plan provides a comprehensive review of communities and mitigation needs and describes its unique vulnerabilities. The mitigation strategies are intended to help community leaders implement projects and develop policies that make life in Mercer County resistant to long-term devastation and unnecessary rebuilding costs, as well as to facilitate rapid recovery when disasters occur.