

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Millions of dollars are spent each year for disaster response and recovery. By undertaking hazard mitigation – activities which will reduce the impact of future disasters – state and local governments and tribal organizations can reduce these costs and minimize the impact of potentially disastrous events. Hazard mitigation can also be considered disaster prevention and encourages the development of disaster resistant communities. Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) is the lead agency for the hazard mitigation program in Wisconsin, a key component of which is the State of Wisconsin Hazard Mitigation Plan. The purpose of the original Plan was to identify Wisconsin's major hazards, assess the risk and vulnerability of those hazards and take steps to reduce the vulnerability using the technical and program resources of Wisconsin State agencies. Ultimately, the Plan strives to help protect the health, safety, property, environment and economy of Wisconsin from the effects of natural hazards. In this three-year Plan update, all sections of the plan were reviewed and revised, and include updated data and demographics (where applicable), risk assessments, mitigation goals, strategies, action items, and other pertinent information.

Beginning in 2000, the State Hazard Mitigation Team with representatives from key state agencies met to develop the original State of Wisconsin Hazard Mitigation Plan that was published in 2001. In early 2003 the Team was renamed the Wisconsin Hazard Mitigation Team and key federal agencies as well as several other organizations joined the Team. Over the past year and a half, the Team has met to update the Enhanced Plan approved on December 14, 2005.

This version of the State of Wisconsin Hazard Mitigation Plan is a natural hazard mitigation plan. The Plan has evolved over time. This Plan update builds upon the Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategy that was developed in 2005. In addition, other plan elements were updated as needed to incorporate new information about hazards that threaten Wisconsin as well as changes to agency programs that address hazards. It is the hope of the Wisconsin Hazard Mitigation Team that technological hazards will be addressed in the next three-year plan update.

The following State Mitigation Goals were updated by the Wisconsin Hazard Mitigation Team and serve as the foundation for updated State Mitigation Strategy:

### **State Mitigation Goals:**

1. Minimize human, economic and environmental disruption from natural hazards.
2. Enhance public education about disaster preparedness and resistance, and expand public awareness of natural hazards.
3. Encourage hazard mitigation planning.
4. Support intergovernmental coordination and cooperation among federal, state and local authorities regarding hazard mitigation activities.
5. Improve the disaster resistance of buildings, structures, and infrastructure whether new construction, expansion or renovation.

The State of Wisconsin Hazard Mitigation Plan is organized to closely follow the planning requirements found in 44 CFR Parts 201.4 and 201.5.

Section 1 serves as an introduction to the Plan. It includes the purpose and scope of the plan as well as identifies the prerequisites and assurances [201.4(c)(6) and 201.4(c)(7)]. It further acknowledges and thanks the members of the Wisconsin Hazard Mitigation Team for their efforts in this ongoing process. Finally, included in the introduction is background information on the State of Wisconsin. Every effort has been made to use the best available data for the update. However, some demographic information may be dated due to the last census taken in 2000. The 2011 Update will provide more up-to-date demographics and data.

Section 2 describes and details the planning process used in update of the Plan including how it was prepared, who was involved, and how other agencies participated in the process. It describes the coordination among the state and federal agencies and others as well as how the plan will be integrated with other state and federal planning efforts. [201.4(b) and 201.4(c)(1)].

Section 3 provides an updated, detailed history of Wisconsin's hazard mitigation program and how it has evolved since 1990.

Section 4, the Wisconsin Risk Assessment [201.4(c)(2)] provides:

- An overview of the type and location of natural hazards that affect the State including updated information on previous occurrences of hazard events as well as the probability of future events;
- An overview and analysis of the State's vulnerability to the State's top natural hazards of Flooding, Tornadoes/High Winds, Coastal Erosion, and Wildfires;
- Describes jurisdictions most threatened and vulnerable of the above identified hazards;
- An updated overview and analysis of potential losses to vulnerable structures including state owned or operated buildings, critical facilities and infrastructure;
- An integration of the local hazard mitigation plan risk assessments into the State Hazard Mitigation Plan; and,
- A strategy for improving the Risk Assessment in future plan updates.

Section 5, the Mitigation Strategy, identifies the State's strategy or blueprint for reducing the losses identified in the Wisconsin Risk Assessment [201.4(c)(3)]. The Section identifies the State's mitigation goals to guide the selection of activities to mitigate and reduce losses. These goals were reviewed and revised during the 2008 plan update process. Included is a State Capability Assessment that provides a summary of state policies, laws, regulations, programs, and capabilities that exist and support mitigation throughout the state. The State Capability Assessment was updated using a survey instrument distributed to agencies of the Wisconsin Hazard Mitigation Team. Also included is a Local Capability Assessment that identifies policies, laws, regulations,

programs or other capabilities that support local mitigation efforts. Information from the local all-hazards mitigation plans were incorporated into the Local Capability Assessment. A major component of the Mitigation Strategy is the specific mitigation actions that state agencies will implement. The mitigation actions were reviewed by the WHMT and each action's status (i.e. deleted, completed, ongoing, etc.) is discussed. The section ends with an updated discussion regarding hazard mitigation funding and information regarding potential funding sources for implementing mitigation measures at the state and local levels.

Section 6 describes the State's process to support, through funding and technical assistance, the development of local hazard mitigation plans [201.4(c)(4)]. It highlights the progress Wisconsin has made over the last three years in local mitigation planning. It also describes how the State coordinates with local jurisdictions to encourage and support all-hazard mitigation planning.

Section 7 describes the Plan Maintenance Process and includes the method and schedule for monitoring, evaluating and updating the plan. It identifies how the State monitors project implementation closeouts, and a system for reviewing progress on achieving the goals of the Plan as well as the activities and projects in the Mitigation Strategy. [201.4(c)(5)]

Section 8 will be updated and submitted upon approval of the "standard" plan. This section will describe and detail the State's Comprehensive Hazard Mitigation Program [201.5(b)].

The conclusion of the Plan, Section 9, acknowledges the adequacy of state hazard mitigation programs, which were tested and matured during a succession of disasters since the 1990's. Flood mitigation programs have substantially reduced the number of flood damaged and repetitive loss properties. At the same time, many challenges remain. Basement and stormwater flooding remain common, flood insurance is widely misunderstood, and many communities' floodplain maps are out of date, even with the implementation of the Map Modernization program. A very important task will be to effectively promote local mitigation planning (and local plan updates) as disaster prevention. Community planning and development professionals should continue to evaluate local hazards in their plans and embrace the goal of making disaster resistance a Wisconsin way of life.

Appendix L contains the signature pages for agency concurrence with the Plan. Other Plan appendices contain documentation regarding a history of the State's federal disaster declarations, hazard mitigation projects completed in the State, the Wisconsin Repetitive Loss Report, State Administrative Plan for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, state and federal authorities for the Plan and other reference materials.

In order to highlight the 2008 plan updates, the following matrix briefly summarizes the changes made to each section and appendix in Wisconsin's Hazard Mitigation Plan:

**2008 State Plan Update Summary**

<b>Plan Section</b>	<b>Overview of Plan Update</b>
<b>Section 1:</b> Introduction	Update of recent disasters, planning process participants and demographic data*.
<b>Section 2:</b> Planning Process	Update of the planning process for the plan update including updated information about the WHMT, discussion of the Wisconsin Recovery Task Force, update of survey results, and the update of facts, figures and statistics.
<b>Section 3:</b> Mitigation in Wisconsin	Update of data and statistics, expansion of floodplain management efforts including the Map Modernization, expanded on Comprehensive planning, update of policies and programs including the Municipal Flood Control Program, Repetitive Flood Claims Program (RFC) and the Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) Program, and the update of mitigation projects.
<b>Section 4:</b> Risk Assessment	All hazard profiles, occurrences, and probabilities were updated. In addition, the risk assessments were updated. The wildfire risk assessment was added. Inclusion of the local risk assessment integration as well as an updated risk summary. State-owned facility risk assessment survey tool**
<b>Section 5:</b> Mitigation Strategy	Revised goals, state and local hazard mitigation goal alignment and strategy, update of the State Capability Assessment and added the RFC and SRL programs, update of the local capability assessment, and update of the Mitigation Action Plan.
<b>Section 6:</b> Coordination of Local Mitigation Planning	Update of programs (such as PDM and HMGP), local mitigation plan progress, planning costs, planning guidance, and planning maps.
<b>Section 7:</b> Plan Maintenance	Update of plan maintenance process and plan update schedule of activities.
<b>Section 8:</b> Comprehensive State Hazard Mitigation Program	Will be updated and submitted upon approval of the "standard" plan.
<b>Section 9:</b> Conclusion	Update of data, statics, and programs.
<b>Plan Appendix</b>	
<b>A:</b> Annual Natural Disaster Report	Updated to include disasters 2005-2008
<b>B:</b> Federal Declarations	Updated to include declarations 1719, 3285 and 1768
<b>C:</b> Capability Assessment Form	This appendix was reviewed during the 2008 plan update process and it was determined that this appendix is till valid. No changes have been made.
<b>D:</b> Mitigation Projects	Updated to include grants funded since 2005.

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<b>E:</b> Repetitive Loss Report	Due to difficulties accessing data through SQANet, data was not available to update this report in the time allowed. Will be updated in the future. Information regarding repetitive loss properties has been included in Section 3.
<b>F:</b> WI Hazard Mitigation Team (WHMT)	Updated to include current members.
<b>G:</b> HMGP Administrative Plan	Includes August 2008 Administrative Plan.
<b>H:</b> Managing State MOU	This appendix was reviewed during the 2008 plan update process and it was determined that this appendix is still valid. No changes have been made.
<b>I:</b> Household Survey	This appendix was reviewed during the 2008 plan update process and it was determined that this appendix is still valid. No changes have been made.
<b>J:</b> Authorities	Updated to include 44 CFR Parts 79 and 80; 2007 Wisconsin Acts 63, 205 and 347. 44 CFR Part 78 deleted.
<b>K:</b> Acronyms	Updated to include additional acronyms.
<b>L:</b> State Agency Concurrences	Updated with current State Agency concurrences.
<b>M:</b> Standard Plan Crosswalk	Crosswalk based on 2008 update.
<b>N:</b> Enhanced Plan Crosswalk	Will be completed with the submission of Section 8.
<b>O:</b> 44 CFR, Parts 201 and 206	Updated to include 44 CFR Part 201, Hazard Mitigation Planning; Interim Rule dated October 31, 2007; and 44 CFR 201, 204 and 206 Final Rule dated October 31, 2007 and effective November 30, 2007.

\* Every effort has been made to use the best available data for the update. However, some demographic information may be dated due to the last census taken in 2000. The 2011 Update will provide more up-to-date demographics and data.

\*\* Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) is currently in the process of completing a Statewide, State-owned and operated critical facility project. The completed project will allow WEM to do a more comprehensive risk assessment on State-owned and operated critical facilities.