

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Millions of dollars are spent each year on 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 impacts 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 the state to those hazards, and recommend actions to reduce vulnerability using the technical and programmatic 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.

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 were developed in 2005 and updated in 2008. 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 a future 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:

1. Minimize human, economic and environmental disruption and reduce the potential for injury and loss of life from natural hazards.
2. Enhance public education about disaster preparedness and resilience, and expand public awareness of natural hazards.
3. Encourage and promote continued comprehensive hazard mitigation planning and implementation of the plan.
4. Support coordination and collaboration among federal, state, and local authorities, and non-governmental organizations 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 and identifies the regulations 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.

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, federal, and other agencies and how the plan will be integrated with other state and federal planning efforts [201.4(b) and 201.4(c)(1)].

Section 3, the Wisconsin Risk Assessment [201.4(c)(2)] provides the following:

- 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 top natural hazards of flooding, tornadoes/high winds, coastal erosion, and wildfires;
- Describes jurisdictions most threatened by and vulnerable to 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 discussion of the state's lifelines.

Section 4, the Mitigation Strategy, identifies the State's strategy 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 2011 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. The State Capability Assessment was updated by meeting with individual members of the Wisconsin Hazard Mitigation Team. 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. New actions were also included. In the previous plan update, the action items were listed according to which goal they satisfied. This update lists them according to lead agency. 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 5 describes the State's process for supporting, 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-hazards mitigation planning. In addition, the section highlights some of the recent trends and best practices in Wisconsin for local mitigation planning.

Section 6 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 reviews progress on achieving the goals of the Plan as well as the activities and projects in the Mitigation Strategy [201.4(c)(5)].

Section 7 describes and details the State's Comprehensive Hazard Mitigation Program [201.5(b)].

The conclusion of the Plan, Section 8, acknowledges the adequacy of state hazard mitigation programs, which were tested and matured during a succession of disasters since the 1990's. Mitigation programs have reduced the number of flood-damaged and repetitive loss properties. At the same time, many challenges remain. Basement and stormwater flooding remain common, and flood insurance is widely misunderstood and underutilized. 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.

This plan update includes a new Rural Electric Cooperative Annex. This annex ensures that participating Rural Electric Cooperatives will be eligible to apply for hazard mitigation funds to prevent loss of function and damages in rural areas of the state.

Appendix M 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, the State Administrative Plan for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, state and federal authorities for the Plan and other reference materials.

Extensive organizational changes were made in the 2011 Plan update. Several sections included duplicate information. This update has attempted to eliminate some of that duplication. Section 3, Mitigation in Wisconsin, has now been incorporated into Section 7, State's Comprehensive Hazard Mitigation Program. Several previous appendices were deleted (C: Capability Assessment Form; H: Managing State MOU; I: Household Survey; and O: 44 CFR Parts 201 and 206) and several added (G: Rural Electric Cooperative Annex; H: State-Owned and Operated Building Vulnerability Assessment Questionnaire; I: Loss Avoidance Study; and J: Evaluating Losses Avoided.) The matrix on the following pages briefly summarizes the changes made in the 2011 Plan update to each section and appendix in Wisconsin's Hazard Mitigation Plan.

<b>2011 STATE PLAN UPDATE SUMMARY</b>	
<b>Plan Section</b>	<b>Description of Update</b>
<b>Section 1:</b> Introduction	Updated planning process participants and demographic data; reorganized and truncated state background information
<b>Section 2:</b> Planning Process	Updated planning process including information about the WHMT, facts, figures, and statistics; discussion of the Wisconsin Recovery Task Force moved to Section 7
<b>Section 3:</b> Risk Assessment	Updated all hazard profiles, occurrences, and probabilities, and all risk assessments; integrated local risk assessments and risk summary; included state-owned facility inventory and risk assessment
<b>Section 4:</b> Mitigation Strategy	Revised goals, state and local hazard mitigation goal alignment, and strategy; updated State Capability Assessment and the Mitigation Action Plan; reorganized action items by lead agency
<b>Section 5:</b> Coordination of Local Mitigation Planning	Updated programs, local mitigation plan progress, planning costs, planning guidance, and planning maps; highlighted best practices
<b>Section 6:</b> Plan Maintenance	Updated plan maintenance process and future plan update schedule
<b>Section 7:</b> Comprehensive State Hazard Mitigation Program	Updated comprehensive mitigation programs, regional and other planning initiatives, assessment of mitigation actions, and integration with FEMA mitigation programs and initiatives; incorporated the former Section 3, Mitigation in Wisconsin, into this section
<b>Section 8:</b> Conclusion	Updated of data, statistics, and programs
<b>Appendix A:</b> Annual Natural Disaster Report	Updated to include disasters 2008-2011
<b>Appendix B:</b> Federal Declarations	Updated to include declarations 1933, 1944, and 1966
<b>Appendix C:</b> Mitigation Projects	Updated to include grants funded since 2008
<b>Appendix D:</b> Repetitive Loss Report	Updated repetitive loss report
<b>Appendix E:</b> WI Hazard Mitigation Team (WHMT)	Updated to include current members
<b>Appendix F:</b> HMGP Administrative Plan	Included May 2011 Administrative Plan
<b>Appendix G:</b> Rural Electric Cooperative Annex	New
<b>Appendix H:</b> State Structure Inventory Form	New
<b>Appendix I:</b> Loss Avoidance Study: Wisconsin Property Acquisition and Structure Demolition	September 2009 loss avoidance study for Jefferson, Kenosha and Crawford County
<b>Appendix J:</b> Evaluating Losses through Acquisition Projects	Loss avoidance study for Milwaukee County
<b>Appendix K:</b> Authorities	No changes
<b>Appendix L:</b> Acronyms	No changes

*State of Wisconsin Hazard Mitigation Plan*

<b>Plan Section</b>	<b>Description of Update</b>
<b>Appendix M:</b> State Agency Concurrences	Updated with current state agency concurrences
<b>Appendix N:</b> Standard Plan Crosswalk	Crosswalk based on 2011 update
<b>Appendix O:</b> Enhanced Plan Crosswalk	Crosswalk based on 2011 update