

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 resilient 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 five-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.

In 2016, the WHMT became a chapter of the national US Army Corps of Engineers Disaster Risk Management program, the Silver Jackets. The name was changed to the Wisconsin Silver Jackets Hazard Mitigation Team (WSJHMT). The core signatory agencies are:

- US Army Corps of Engineers
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Wisconsin Emergency Management
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- US Geological Survey
- National Weather Service

The Charter also identifies the rest of the WSJHMT members as supporting agencies. The Charter does not change how the WHMT operates as a team, but formalizes what the team had been doing for the past fifteen or more years.

The following State Mitigation Goals were updated by the Wisconsin Silver Jackets 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, technological, and manmade hazards.
2. Enhance public education about disaster preparedness and resilience, and expand public awareness of natural, technological, and manmade 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 primarily a natural hazard mitigation plan, and the Plan has evolved over time. However, this update has now included technological and human-caused hazards into the risk assessment. This update builds upon the Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategy that were developed in 2005 and updated in 2008 and 2011. 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.

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 Silver Jackets 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 [201.4(c)(1)].

Section 3, 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 2016 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 Silver Jackets 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 WSJHMT and each action's status (i.e. deleted, completed, ongoing, etc.) is discussed. New actions were also included. 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 4 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 five 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 in

Wisconsin for local mitigation planning. The section highlights local plans that have started to address changing future weather patterns.

Section 5 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 6 describes and details the State's Comprehensive Hazard Mitigation Program [201.5(b)]. 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)].

The conclusion of the Plan, Section 7, acknowledges the adequacy of state hazard mitigation programs, which were tested and matured during a succession of disasters since the 1990s. 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 resilience a Wisconsin way of life.

Appendix K contains the signature pages for agency concurrence with the Plan. Other Plan appendices contain documentation regarding the 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.

For this update, the plan was reorganized, and there were some significant changes made to the Risk Assessment. The plan contained information that was duplicated sometimes in two or three sections. As in the previous update, in this update duplication was reduced by combining several sections and deleting several appendices.

The most significant change is with previous Section 3, Risk Assessment. This section has been eliminated and has been combined with the State's Threat Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA). The THIRA includes natural hazards as well as technological and human-caused hazards. The THIRA includes 13 hazards: Severe Weather encompasses high winds, tornados, hail, and lightning; Flooding includes dam failure and landslide/land subsidence; Wildfires; Drought and Extreme Heat; Winter Storms and Extreme Cold; Coastal Erosion; Radiological Release; Hazardous Materials; Disruption of Lifelines; Emerging Infectious Diseases Including Pandemic Flu; Food and Agriculture Emergency; Cyber Attack; and Terrorism including Active Shooter and Civil Disturbances. The State-Owned or -Operated Critical Facility Risk Assessment is an attachment to the THIRA. The THIRA includes the nature of the hazard; history; probability, impact and mitigation potential; catastrophic scenario; and a consequence analysis. The THIRA is Appendix A to the State Plan.

2016 State Plan Update Summary

Plan Section	Description of Update
Section 1: Introduction	Updated planning process participants and demographic data
Section 2: Planning Process	Updated planning process including information about the WSJHMT, facts, figures, and statistics; discussion of coordination among agencies and plan integration is now in Section 6
Section 3: Mitigation Strategy	Revised goals, state and local hazard mitigation goal alignment, and strategy; updated State Capability Assessment and the Mitigation Action Plan
Section 4: Coordination of Local Mitigation Planning	Updated programs, local mitigation plan progress, planning costs, planning guidance, and planning maps; highlighted local plans that have included changing future weather patterns
Section 5: Plan Maintenance Process	Updated plan maintenance process and future plan update schedule
Section 6: 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
Section 7: Conclusion	Updated data, statistics, and programs
Appendix A: Threat Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA)	Previous Section 3, Risk Assessment, has been incorporated into the state THIRA and includes 13 hazards that address natural, technological, and human-caused hazards
Appendix B: History of Federal Disaster Declarations	Updated to include declarations 4076, 4141, 4276, and 4288
Appendix C: Mitigation Projects	Updated to include grants funded since 2008
Appendix D: Repetitive Loss Report	Updated repetitive loss report with current data
Appendix E: Wisconsin Silver Jackets Hazard Mitigation Team	Updated to include current membership roster
Appendix F: HMGP Administrative Plan	Updated to October 2016 Administrative Plan
Appendix G: Loss Avoidance Study: Wisconsin Property Acquisition and Structure Demolition	September 2009 loss avoidance study for Jefferson, Kenosha, and Crawford counties
Appendix H: Evaluating Losses through Acquisition Projects	Loss avoidance study for Milwaukee County
Appendix I: Authorities	Updated
Appendix J: Acronyms	Updated
Appendix K: State Agency Concurrences	Updated with current state agency concurrences
Appendix L: Standard Plan Crosswalk	State Mitigation Plan Review Tool