

5.1 Hazard Mitigation Strategy

Each potential hazard, including natural, geological, and human-caused hazards, were rated by members of the Core Planning Committee, which included representatives from each jurisdiction in Clinton County. Each potential hazard was rated on a scale of zero to five, with zero indicating the hazard should not be studied and five indicating the most significant threat to the representative’s community. **Table 5.1** displays the average of the representatives’ ratings as a Priority Score for each hazard. The hazard that scored the highest (Severe Wind and Tornadoes, 4.25), was given a Hazard Rank of one. The mitigation goals follow the ranking of hazards as established by the representatives of the participating jurisdictions.

Table 5.1: Hazard Priorities

| Hazard | Priority Score | Hazard Rank |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Severe Wind & Tornadoes | 4.25 | 1 |
| Utility Failure | 4.04 | 2 |
| Severe Summer Weather | 3.94 | 3 |
| Drug Misuse & Addiction | 3.93 | 4 |
| Hazardous Materials | 3.92 | 5 |
| Epidemic/Pandemic | 3.90 | 6 |
| Severe Winter Weather | 3.65 | 7 |
| Flooding | 3.48 | 8 |
| Terrorism | 3.19 | 9 |
| Extreme Temperatures | 3.11 | 10 |
| Drought | 2.73 | 11 |
| Invasive Species | 2.60 | 12 |
| Dam Failure | 2.29 | 13 |
| Wildfire | 2.26 | 14 |
| Landslides, Erosion, and Subsidence | 2.23 | 15 |
| Earthquakes | 1.85 | 16 |

Coastal erosion and hurricanes/tropical storms are hazards that are not applicable to Clinton County and were not assessed; however, if remnants of hurricanes or tropical storms were experienced as thunderstorms, thunderstorm winds, or high/severe winds, those events were included in the severe summer weather and/or severe wind and tornadoes assessments. Several new hazards were included in this Plan that were not included in the 2016 Plan. These hazards include wildfire, epidemic/pandemic, utility failure, and drug misuse/addiction.

Mitigation projects will only be implemented if the benefits outweigh the associated cost of the proposed project. The Core Planning Committee, in coordination with the Clinton County Emergency

Management Agency, performed a general assessment of each action that would require FEMA funding as part of the planning process. A detailed cost-benefit analysis of each mitigation action will be required during the project planning phase in order to determine the economic feasibility of each action. Projects will also be evaluated for social and environmental impact-related feasibility, as well as technical feasibility and any other criteria that evaluate project effectiveness. This evaluation of each project will be performed during the pre-application phase of a grant request. Project implementation will be subject to the availability of FEMA grants and other funding sources, as well as local resources.

Projects that are determined to be infeasible during this review process will be re-evaluated by members of the Core Planning Committee for re-scheduling or deletion.

5.2 Hazard Mitigation Goals and Mitigation Actions

Developing achievable goals forms the foundation for all mitigation actions and activities that will aid Clinton County in attaining the overall mission of the Core Planning Committee. As such, the Core Planning Committee assessed the goals of the 2016 Clinton County Hazard Mitigation Plan and had the opportunity to develop new goals for the 2021 update. Goals were reviewed and established based upon their relationship to the potential adverse impact upon the community.

The goals, as well as the hazards assessed for this Plan, informed the development of actions that the County and participating jurisdictions can take to mitigate the impacts of each of the hazards. The goals of the 2021 Clinton County Hazard Mitigation Plan are as follows:

- **Goal 1:** Increase public information and awareness about hazards that affect Clinton County.
- **Goal 2:** Decrease dam hazard level.
- **Goal 3:** Expand awareness and minimize the effects from drought.
- **Goal 4:** Expand awareness and minimize the effects from flooding.
- **Goal 5:** Minimize the effects from hazardous materials.
- **Goal 6:** Minimize the threat of invasive species.
- **Goal 7:** Expand awareness about tornadoes and severe storms.
- **Goal 8:** Increase protection from possible terrorism events.
- **Goal 9:** Expand awareness about the effects from winter storms.
- **Goal 10:** Generate discussion on drug misuse and addiction within Clinton County.
- **Goal 11:** Increase understanding of epidemics/pandemics on Clinton County.
- **Goal 12:** Minimize possibility of widespread utility failure throughout Clinton County.

5.3 Hazard Mitigation Action Priority

Members of the Core Planning Committee completed a Previous Mitigation Action Status survey, which indicated the status of mitigation actions included in the 2016 Hazard Mitigation Plan. This survey asked representatives to indicate whether the mitigation action from the previous plan was completed, deleted, deferred, unchanged, or ongoing. It also asked the representative if the action should be included in the updated Plan.

Once all mitigation actions from the previous plan were reviewed and their status indicated (**Appendix B**), all mitigation actions for the 2021 Clinton County Hazard Mitigation Plan were reviewed and rated on a scale of one to five by members of the Core Planning Committee based on the several criteria, including whether the action was cost-effective, technically feasible, environmentally sound, needed immediately, and the action's total risk reduction.