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## *Section II*

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### *Regional Mitigation Goals*

## Capitol Region Natural Hazard Mitigation

In most cases, a severe natural hazard will affect several municipalities at once, though significant variations with highly localized damage can occur. In addition to the inevitable regional effect of natural hazards, CROG staff recognized common existing strategies, concerns and mitigation needs in the course of working with individual member municipalities on this plan. Therefore, this section reviews existing mitigation strategies common to most, if not all, 29 municipalities and the region and challenges that are common throughout the region. This section also establishes goals and strategies that may best be undertaken on a regional level.

### Existing Strategies

#### *National Flood Program*

The 29 Capitol Region municipalities have participated in FEMA's National Flood Program for at least 25 years (see below for the latest information on current flood insurance rate maps). All have adopted floodplain management regulations that have helped to prevent increased flood

**Table 9: Community Participation in National Flood Program**

<b>CID</b>	<b>Community Name</b>	<b>Init FHBM Identified</b>	<b>Init FIRM Identified</b>	<b>Curr Eff Map Date</b>
090161#	ANDOVER	04/18/75	02/03/82	02/03/82
090021#	A VON	01/23/74	05/16/77	06/17/86
090122#	BLOOMFIELD	02/01/74	08/15/77	10/16/91
090109#	BOLTON	06/07/74	06/01/81	06/01/81
090135#	CANTON	08/02/74	08/01/79	03/18/91
090025#	EAST GRANBY	05/31/74	01/06/82	02/05/97
090026#	EAST HARTFORD	12/28/73	07/02/79	10/23/81
090027#	EAST WINDSOR	11/16/73	04/03/78	04/03/78
090158#	ELLINGTON	11/01/74	03/15/82	02/05/97
090028#	ENFIELD	04/05/74	03/28/80	06/17/02
090029#	FARMINGTON	06/28/74	08/15/77	01/05/96
090124#	GLASTONBURY	04/20/73	06/15/78	06/15/78
090125#	GRANBY	07/19/74	02/15/80	03/03/97
095080#	HARTFORD	07/01/70	07/01/74	12/04/86
090162#	HEBRON	11/29/74	10/15/81	03/18/91
090031#	MANCHESTER	05/24/74	08/16/82	01/19/94
090148#	MARLBOROUGH	07/19/74	05/17/82	06/17/02
090033#	NEWINGTON	07/26/74	10/16/79	02/02/02
090142#	ROCKY HILL	06/07/74	08/01/80	08/01/80
090035#	SIMSBURY	08/02/74	05/16/77	04/15/86(M)
090112#	SOMERS	08/02/74	02/17/82	08/16/06
090036#	SOUTH WINDSOR	08/16/74	05/01/80	12/16/05
090038#	SUFFIELD	08/02/74	08/15/79	08/15/79
090171#	TOLLAND	01/31/75	04/01/82	04/01/82
090131#	VERNON	01/04/74	12/04/79	08/09/99
095082#	WEST HARTFORD		07/01/74	08/19/91
090040#	WETHERSFIELD	05/11/73	05/02/77	02/19/82
090042#	WINDSOR LOCKS	06/28/74	01/03/79	01/03/79
090041#	WINDSOR	10/05/73	09/29/78	09/29/86

Source: FEMA. *National Flood Insurance Program Community Status Book*.  
Downloaded from: <http://www.fema.gov/fema/csb.shtm> November 8, 2007.

risks from new developments. The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) periodically reviews these municipal regulations for conformance to the latest Flood Insurance Studies, FEMA flood maps and model flood hazard regulations. The DEP will review Hartford County municipal regulations (which includes most of the Capitol Region) during 2008, and Tolland County communities within the next 3 years.

#### *State Building Code*

Connecticut municipalities employ the State Building Code, last updated in 2005 to adopt the 2003 International Building Code with Connecticut-specific modifications. The Code incorporates the latest standards in high-wind design and seismic activity appropriate for the State. Through local implementation of the State Building Code, Capitol Region municipalities help reduce the risks associated with natural hazards in new developments.

#### *Stormwater and Erosion Control*

Several Capitol Region municipalities have adopted regulations that incorporate best practices identified in the *Connecticut Stormwater Quality Manual* and the *Connecticut Guidelines for Erosion and Sedimentation Control*. The *Manual* provides guidance on site planning, source control and stormwater practices, including the design, construction and maintenance of stormwater systems, to protect the quality of Connecticut waters. The practices detailed in the *Manual* aim to reduce the volume of urban runoff and pollutant discharges, recharge groundwater and control peak flows. These types of stormwater best practices not only protect water quality, but also minimize flooding risks. The *Erosion and Sedimentation Guidelines* also detail specific measures that can reduce the damages and pollution associated with erosion and sedimentation, while simultaneously reducing flooding risks. CRCOG encourages its member municipalities to adopt and enforce regulations that would require new development to implement these types of best practices in as far as is possible.

#### *RED Plan*

The 29 Capitol Region municipalities have participated in the development of the Regional Emergency Deployment Plan (RED Plan). The RED Plan provides a framework for communities and agencies to collaborate in planning, communication, information sharing, and coordination activities before, during, or after a regional emergency, including natural hazards. Through the implementation of this Plan, public safety officials receive training on emergency response, including in the National Incident Management System (NIMS). RED Plan activities help to ensure a quick and coordinated response to emergency situations to reduce the loss of life and property damage.

#### *Reverse-911*

CRCOG is working on implementing a Reverse-911 system for the region. This emergency notification system, which relies on GIS technologies, will allow communities in the Region to alert residents to impending natural hazards, thereby reducing risks to life and property.

#### *Dam Safety*

The Dam Safety Section of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's Inland Water Resources Division enforces the state's dam safety laws. The Dam Safety Office administers the inspection of existing dams, dikes or similar structures, and the permitting process for the construction, repair or alteration of dams. The Office inspects over 600 dams annually because of their classification and potential risk to life and property, and then targets a limited number of lower hazard dams for inspection on a rolling basis. Any dams deemed unsafe

upon inspection must be repaired by the owner. The Office of Dam Safety minimizes the potential damage of dam breaches.

#### *USDA Assistance*

Several towns within the Region have used the technical and financial assistance of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to minimize damages from natural disasters. The Emergency Watershed Program provides financial and technical assistance to the state and towns to address dangerous problems that result from natural hazards. The Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention program provides technical assistance in designing and planning for structural measures to reduce flooding damage. The CT DEP then assists in the actual installation of planned measures.

## Challenges

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The following challenges are common to most municipalities in the region, and were reviewed by all participating municipal planning groups. In the following section on municipal mitigation goals, some additional challenges unique to certain communities may be included; however, the following challenges apply to each participating municipality.

#### *State Infrastructure*

Most Capitol Region municipalities identified stormwater management as a priority natural hazard mitigation concern. Many communities have specific flooding locations that result from state road drainage systems. Resolving minor flooding problems on state roads is difficult for towns because they have no purview over improvements on state infrastructure. Some such flooding areas pose emergency access risks, while others present minor property damage concerns.

#### *Clean Water Project*

The Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) provides water and sewer services to eight Capitol Region municipalities (Bloomfield, East Hartford, Hartford, Newington, Rocky Hill, West Hartford, Wethersfield and Windsor). The MDC has undertaken its Clean Water Project in response to both federal and state consent orders to achieve Federal Clean Water Act goals by 2020. The project, estimated at \$1.63 billion, will reduce Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO), eliminate Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO) and increase Nitrogen removal from system discharges. The challenge, and significant opportunity, presented by the Clean Water Project is for the MDC and its member municipalities to ensure that the design of infrastructure improvements reduces or at least, does not increase, flooding risks. Because the MDC is pursuing funding for the project from several state and federal sources, FEMA Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation program funding is not a likely source of funding (federal funds cannot be used to match other federal funds). Nevertheless, it is important for MDC municipalities to remain active participants in Clean Water Project planning.

#### *Multiple Jurisdictions*

Hazard mitigation requires coordination among the multiple federal, state and local agencies that influence development, maintenance, and emergency response activities. At the local level, some municipalities have difficulties getting their inland wetlands commissions and public works staff to agree on the appropriateness of drainage maintenance activities to reduce flooding risk. In addition, some communities face flooding risks from natural and/or manmade influences located in other communities, requiring interlocal coordination and communication. Finally, it can be difficult for a community to take full advantage of available federal and state

resources for mitigation activities because programs are spread among different departments and agencies such as FEMA, the US Department of Agriculture, the CT DEP and the CT Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS).

## Goals, Objectives and Strategies

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The following goals and objectives were identified by several municipalities and CRCOG staff and are more appropriately addressed on a regional level. Some are common objectives and goals which might be better addressed on a regional level to maximize efficiency, while others are objectives specific to CRCOG as coordinator of this planning process. The lead agency, or agencies, responsible for implementing specific tasks is listed; however, one can expect supporting agencies to assist in implementation. For a description of how strategies were prioritized both for the Region and individual municipalities, please see Section IV: The Planning Process.

*Goal: Minimize the loss of life and property, and economic disruptions that can result from natural hazards.*

### Objective 1:

Improve stormwater management throughout the region to prevent increased flooding and lessen the effects of drought.

#### Strategies:

- 1.1 Encourage all municipalities in the Region to adopt regulations that incorporate or refer to recommended practices from the most current *Connecticut Stormwater Quality Manual* and *Connecticut Guidelines for Erosion and Sedimentation Control*.  
Lead: Capitol Region Council of Governments  
Priority: High
- 1.2 Encourage development that is in harmony with natural drainage systems in all municipalities through reviews of development referrals.  
Lead: Capitol Region Council of Governments  
Priority: Medium
- 1.3 Minimize conflicts between inland wetlands commissions and municipal staff over maintenance of natural drainage channels through education.  
Lead: Capitol Region Council of Governments and Municipalities  
Priority: Medium

### Objective 2:

Assist municipalities in implementing hazard mitigation strategies.

#### Strategies:

- 2.1 Work with member municipalities to maintain this regional pre-disaster natural hazard mitigation plan with updates at least every five years.  
Lead: Capitol Region Council of Governments

Priority: High

- 2.2 Work with member municipalities, state and federal agencies to improve availability of relevant data; including, but not limited to current land uses, vulnerable building stock inventories and values.
  - Lead: Capitol Region Council of Governments
  - Priority: High
- 2.3 Train CROCOG staff in HAZUS-MH software.
  - Lead: Capitol Region Council of Governments
  - Priority: Medium
- 2.4 Assist member municipalities in pursuing federal and state funds to implement mitigation measures.
  - Lead: Capitol Region Council of Governments
  - Priority: Medium
- 2.5 Incorporate natural hazard mitigation concerns into regional plan.
  - Lead: Capitol Region Council of Governments
  - Priority: High

Objective 3:

Assist municipalities in minimizing risks associated with power disruptions.

Strategies:

- 3.1 Assist municipalities in working with Connecticut Light & Power concerns over appropriate utility right-of-way maintenance, emergency response and the burial of transmission lines.
  - Lead: Capitol Region Council of Governments
  - Priority: Medium
- 3.2 Encourage the installation of generators in age-restricted developments with communal facilities through development referrals and associated work with local officials.
  - Lead: Capitol Region Council of Governments
  - Priority: Medium

Objective 4:

Assist municipalities in minimizing risks associated with droughts.

Strategies:

- 4.1 Assist municipalities that do not currently have drought ordinances in enacting such ordinances to enable the enforcement of water conservation.
  - Lead: Capitol Region Council of Governments
  - Priority: Medium
- 4.2 Encourage municipalities to disseminate drought-related information released by the CT Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security or CT Department of Public Health through their websites and/or newsletters.
  - Lead: Capitol Region Council of Governments
  - Priority: Medium

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## *Section III*

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### *Municipal Mitigation Goals*