

## **Executive Summary**

The Town / Village of Harrison, New York developed this Multi-Hazard Hazard Mitigation Plan in an effort to reduce future loss of life and property resulting from natural disasters. It is impossible to predict exactly when these disasters will occur, or the extent to which they will affect the Town/Village. However, with careful planning and collaboration among public agencies, private sector organizations, and citizens within the community, it is possible to minimize the losses that can result from natural disasters. Natural hazard mitigation may be defined as a method permanently reducing or alleviating the losses of life, property, and injuries resulting from natural hazards through long and short-term strategies. Example strategies include planning, policy changes, programs, projects, and other activities. Natural hazard mitigation is the responsibility of individuals, private businesses and industries, state and local governments, and the federal government.

### **Need for Mitigation Planning**

This natural hazard mitigation plan is intended to assist the Town/Village of Harrison in reducing its risk from natural hazards by identifying resources, information, and strategies for risk reduction. It will also help to guide and coordinate mitigation activities throughout the Town/Village. The Town/Village received funds to develop the plan from the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), a both Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant program. The Town/Village provided the additional funds for the plan's development from its General Fund.

### **Plan Organization**

The Mitigation Plan contains background on the purpose of the plan, the methodology used to develop the plan, a profile of the Town/Village of Harrison, Risk Assessment on natural hazards that have the potential to impact the study area, and several appendices. The mitigation plan provides recommendations for activities that will assist the Town/Village in reducing risk and preventing loss from future natural hazard events. The action items address multi-hazard issues, as well as activities for the hazards of flood, severe weather, severe winter weather, extreme heat, earthquakes, drought, and dam failure.

### **Plan Participants**

The Town/Village of Harrison recognized the importance of establishing a collaborative planning process to develop both short-term and long-term risk reduction strategies with strong ties to the existing programs and divisions of governance. Therefore, the Town/Village developed a planning committee comprised of individuals and specialists with natural hazard mitigation understanding and responsibilities from town departments, the schools, outside agencies and individuals from Harrison. The committee included representatives from the following organizations:

Police Department  
Fire Departments (3)  
Emergency Medical Services  
Public Works and Engineering

Building Department  
Planning Department  
Legal Counsel  
School District  
Westchester Joint Water Works  
Westchester County Office of Emergency Management  
New York State Office of Emergency Management  
Municipal Neighborhood Groups

### What Will Be Accomplished

The Town/Village's vision related to emergency preparedness is to strive to create a "A More Disaster Resistant Community." The planning committee further describes this vision: By creating a legacy of mitigation activities, Town/Village and community leaders' proactive implementation of long term, cost effective mitigation measures will serve to protect its population, its properties, its natural and built environment and its investments. The forethought of Harrison's leaders has preserved the Town/Village through decades of hazard events. The plan fosters coordinated partnerships and the development of strategies for reducing the risks posed by natural hazards.

### Town/Village Goals

The plan describes the overall direction that the Harrison's agencies, organizations, and citizens can take to work toward mitigating risk from natural hazards. The Harrison plan was developed with significant input from the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee. The principal mission is to reduce risk, prevent loss of property and commerce, and promote expedient recovery, while safeguarding people and the environment from natural disaster events through a coordinated and collaborative community partnership. This mission is implemented through the following five goals:

Goal #1	Protect Life and Property
Goal #2	Safeguard Critical Public Facilities and Infrastructure
Goal #3	Maintain and Enhance Emergency Response Capabilities
Goal #4	Protect the Environment
Goal # 5	Increase Awareness and Preparedness

### Action Items Developed

The following action items were developed for plan implementation:

- **Coordinating Organization:** The coordinating organization is the public agency with regulatory responsibility to address natural hazards, or that is willing and able to organize resources, find appropriate funding, or oversee activity implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. The coordinating organizations for all action items listed in this plan are departments within the Town/Village of Harrison.
- **Internal Partners:** Internal partner organizations are departments within the Town/Village that may be able to assist in the implementation of action items by providing relevant resources to the

coordinating organization.

- **External Partners:** External partner organizations can assist the Town/Village in implementing the action items in various functions and may include local, regional, state, or federal agencies, as well as local and regional public and private sector organizations. The internal and external partner organizations listed in the mitigation plan are potential partners recommended by the planning committee, but who were not necessarily contacted during the development of the plan. Partner organizations should be contacted by the coordinating organization to establish commitment of time and or resources to action items.
- **Timeline:** Action items include both short and long-term activities. Each action item includes an estimate of the timeline for implementation. *Short-term action items (ST)* are activities which city agencies are capable of implementing with existing resources and authorities within one to two years. *Long-term action items (LT)* may require new or additional resources or authorities, and may take between one and five years to implement.
- **Levels of Immediate Capability:** The Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee prioritized the plan's five goals determining the most important as "Identifying the risk level and evaluating Harrison's vulnerability." The risk assessment identified various hazards that may threaten Harrison municipal facilities from low to severe. The step of prioritizing the action items and determining the ability for the Town/Village to immediately implement the action item was to review each action against availability of resources and funding. High – can immediately implement, Low – need a great deal of outside funding and resources with Medium landing somewhere in between.
- **Ideas for Implementation:** Each action item includes ideas for implementation and potential resources, which may include grant programs or human resources.
- **Plan Goals Addressed:** The plan goals addressed by each action item are identified as a means for monitoring and evaluating how well the mitigation plan is achieving its goals following implementation.

## Plan Implementation

The plan maintenance section of this document details the formal process that will ensure that the Town/Village of Harrison's Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan remains an active and relevant document. The plan maintenance process includes a schedule for monitoring and evaluating the Plan annually and producing a plan revision every five years. This section describes how the Town/Village will integrate public participation throughout the plan maintenance process. Additionally, this section includes an explanation of how the Town/Village of Harrison intends to incorporate the mitigation strategies outlined in this Plan into existing planning mechanisms such as the Comprehensive Plan, Capital Improvement Plans, and Building Codes.

## Plan Adoption

The Harrison Town/Village Council will be responsible for adopting the Town/Village of Harrison's Multi- Hazards Mitigation Plan and providing the support necessary to ensure plan implementation. After the plan is adopted via resolution by the Town/Village Council, the Commissioner of Public Works will be responsible for submitting it to the State Hazard Mitigation Officer at the New York State Emergency Management Office who will then submit the plan to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA–Region II) for review. This review will address the federal criteria outlined in FEMA Program Guidance. Upon acceptance by FEMA, the Town/Village of Harrison will

gain eligibility for the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program, the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds, and Flood Mitigation Assistance program funds.

The effectiveness of the Town/Village of Harrison's Multi- Hazard Mitigation Plan will be contingent on the implementation of the plan and incorporation of the outlined action items into existing municipal plans, policies, and programs. The Multi- Hazard Mitigation Plan includes a range of action items that, if implemented, would reduce loss from hazard events in the Town/Village of Harrison. Together, the action items in Harrison's Multi- Hazard Mitigation Plan provide the framework for activities that Town/Village's departments can choose to implement over the next five years. The Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee has prioritized the plan's goals and identified actions, which will be implemented, as resources permit, through existing plans, policies, and programs.

### **Coordinating Body**

The Town/Village Board, through the Commissioner of Public Works and a Committee will be the coordinating body for the mitigation plan. The responsibility has been established by the Town/Village Board and includes representatives from applicable Town/Village Departments, including, but not limited to, the current Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee members. One of the Committee roles will be to review the mitigation plan annually and to oversee the update process. The Department of Public Works will be responsible for overseeing the plan's implementation. The Commissioner of Public Works will Chair the Committee to facilitate Multi- Hazard Mitigation Plan meetings. Plan implementation and evaluation will be a shared responsibility among all of the assigned Committee members.

### **Implementation through Existing Programs**

The Town/Village of Harrison will address planning goals and legislative requirements through its comprehensive land use plan, capital improvement plans, Town/Village codes and an array of non-regulatory projects and programs. The Multi- Hazard Mitigation Plan provides a series of recommendations – many of which are closely related to the goals and objectives of existing planning programs. To the extent possible the Town/Village will incorporate the recommended mitigation action items into existing programs and procedures.

### **Economic Analysis of Mitigation Projects**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) methods of identifying the costs and benefits associated with natural hazard mitigation strategies, measures, or projects fall into two general categories: benefit/cost analysis and cost-effectiveness analysis. Conducting benefit/cost analysis for a mitigation activity can assist Town/Village in determining whether a project is worth undertaking now, in order to avoid disaster-related damages later. Cost-effectiveness analysis evaluates how best to spend a given amount of money to achieve a specific goal. Determining the economic feasibility of mitigating natural hazards provides decision-makers with an understanding of the potential benefits and costs of an activity, as well as a basis upon which to compare alternative projects.

## **Formal Review Process**

The Town/Village of Harrison has developed a method to ensure that a regular review and update of the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan occurs. All Committee members will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating the progress of the mitigation strategies in the Plan and the Commissioner of Public Works is responsible for contacting the Committee members and organizing the annual plan review meeting.

## **Continued Public Involvement**

The Town/Village of Harrison is dedicated to involving the public directly in the continual reshaping and updating of the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Committee members are responsible for the annual review and update of the plan. Commissioner of Public Works will continue to identify opportunities for the public's engagement in implementation and update of the plan. Public participation will continue to be invited through a series of presentations to community organizations such as fraternal organizations, neighborhood organizations and others. Copies of the plan will be posted on the Town/Village website and will be available there during the annual update periods. The website also contains contact information where people may direct questions and comments.

## **Contact Information**

To request information or provide comments regarding this plan, please contact:

Robert Wasp, P.E.  
Commissioner of Public Works  
Town/Village of Harrison  
1 Heineman Plaza  
Harrison, New York 10528

Telephone:  
Fax: