

## 7.0 PLAN MAINTENANCE

§ 201.6(c)(4)(i)	[The plan maintenance process shall include a] section describing the method and schedule of monitoring, evaluating, and updating the mitigation plan within a five-year cycle.
§ 201.6(c)(4)(ii)	[The plan shall include a] process by which local governments incorporate the requirements of the mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms such as comprehensive or capital improvement plans, when appropriate.
§ 201.6(c)(4)(iii)	[The plan maintenance process shall include a] discussion on how the community will continue public participation in the plan maintenance process.

This section of the plan outlines the process by which Adams County and the participating municipalities will update and maintain this document.

### 7.1 Update Process Summary

Monitoring, evaluating, and updating this plan is critical to maintaining its value and success in Adams County’s hazard mitigation efforts. Ensuring effective implementation of mitigation activities paves the way for continued momentum in the planning process and gives direction for the future. This section explains who will be responsible for maintenance activities and what those responsibilities entail. It also provides a methodology and schedule of maintenance activities, including a description of how the public will participate on a continued basis.

The plan maintenance process presented in this section is similar to those presented in the 2010 and 2015 versions of this plan. Adams County recognizes the benefit of yearly progress reports, with each municipality providing information as needed. Again, this section stipulates that the county will conduct both annual reviews and reviews within 30 days of declared disaster events to help identify mitigation opportunities. The primary difference in this version versus the 2015 version is that this plan identifies the topics of the annual meetings to make them more actionable (see Section 7.2 below). Table 7.1-1 lists the efforts made in updating the plan since the 2015 adoption.



**Table 7.1-1**

<b>PLAN MAINTENANCE EFFORTS, 2015-2019</b>	
<i>Responsible Entity</i>	<i>Description (including approximate date)</i>
Adams County Department of Emergency Services	Hosts regular emergency services committee meetings to discuss preparedness and response issues (annual)
Adams County Department of Emergency Services	Conducts training exercises that feature numerous scenarios, including flooding and severe weather (annual)
Adams County Office of Planning & Development	Holds meetings and training for municipality road crews throughout the year (annual)
Miscellaneous	County agencies participated in the process to update various flood maps (2018, 2019)
Miscellaneous	Municipalities are updating floodplain ordinances based on changes to flood maps (2019, present)
Miscellaneous	Municipalities recently updated stormwater management ordinances (2015-2019)
Abbottstown Borough	Added LED signage in the town square to mitigate traffic accidents (2019)
Mt. Joy Township	Conducts after-action reviews with township road crews following significant weather events (as needed)
Gettysburg College	Supports an emergency medical services club (on-going)

## 7.2 Monitoring, Evaluating and Updating the Plan

The plan maintenance procedure is not only a function of the regulatory driver governing the completion of plans as a requirement for mitigation funding but also an opportunity to support networking amongst key stakeholders in the county. The committee (and the Adams County Department of Emergency Services [ACDES]) understand that it is not feasible to dedicate a full-time effort to maintaining this plan. However, a regular and periodic process is feasible, and that process is as follows.

To ensure that hazard mitigation remains an active topic of conversation, the committee agreed that it would approach the Adams County Council of Governments (COG) to request the use of the COG as a vehicle to discuss hazard mitigation on an annual basis. To accomplish this task, hazard mitigation planning committee members agreed to ask the COG about creating a standing hazard mitigation agenda item to allow for discussion on the topic (and documentation of that discussion) at each of the COG’s meetings. Using the COG as a vehicle with a standing mitigation agenda item will also ensure that the county addresses the mitigation plan soon after any declared incidents occur. The committee felt it would be helpful to set “guideposts” for minimum topics to cover on an annual basis.

- **Year 1:** Ensure countywide adoption of the plan.
- **Year 2:** Focus on hazard identification and risk analysis. Evaluate how well the plan predicted impacted areas.



- **Year 3:** The ACDES will engage with the public via an online survey (see Section 7.3 below).
- **Year 4:** Update project implementation.
- **Year 5:** Coordinate the next formal update of the plan.

The goal of the annual planning committee meetings will be to generate content for the next plan update and educate new stakeholders as they enter the process. Representatives on the planning committee could change, and the annual meetings offer a prime opportunity to orient new members to what mitigation is, how the plan works, etc. The annual meetings thus support a more critical, in-depth formal update process.

### **7.3 Continued Public Involvement**

Residents in Adams County provided comments on hazards and projects via a public survey hosted by the Adams County Office of Planning and Development (see Section 3.4). Residents may also submit comments after participating jurisdictions have adopted the plan (and FEMA has approved it). At that point, residents would direct comments to the ACDES or other planning committee members (and instructions for doing so should be included in press releases encouraging review). As the custodial agency for the plan, the ACDES will log all comments received and ensure that the planning committee reviews them during the next annual meeting (or formal plan update process).

The ACDES will continue to ensure that the current hazard mitigation plan appears on the county's website. Periodically, the ACDES will encourage public review and comment on that plan, partly under the annual review process noted above, but also in general preparedness public information releases. As noted above, in the third year of the plan update cycle, the county will again release a public survey to gauge perceptions on risks throughout the county. The ACDES will serve as the coordinator/custodian of the survey, and the ACDES will provide the results of the mid-cycle survey to the Adams County COG for discussion at the first meeting following the conclusion of the survey.

