



MEDIA RELEASE

Emergency Management Agency

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FEMA Approves State of Ohio Hazard Mitigation Plan *Governor adopted plan in June*

Columbus, OH – Governor John R. Kasich adopted the 2012 update of the State of Ohio Hazard Mitigation Plan (SOHMP) on June 6. The SOHMP contains information on natural hazards that could impact the state and the state's blueprint for reducing risk posed by those hazards. The highest priority hazards in Ohio include: riverine flooding, tornadoes, winter storms, landslides, dam/levee failure, wildfire, seiche/coastal flooding, earthquakes, coastal erosion, drought, severe summer storms, invasive species, and land subsidence.

The plan identifies actions that all levels of government and the private sector undertake to help protect people and property from natural hazards and their effects. One of the priority actions identified in the plan is the acquisition and demolition of repetitively flooded structures and the permanent deed restriction of the land as open space. It is estimated that the acquisition and demolition of repetitively flooded properties in Ohio have resulted in millions of dollars in flood damages avoided.

According to the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, all states must have a natural hazard mitigation plan approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in order to maintain eligibility for federal disaster assistance and mitigation funds.

The State of Ohio Hazard Mitigation Plan was first approved by FEMA in 2005, and has been updated at least every three years. The 2012 plan update meets the "enhanced" plan criteria, which enables the state to qualify for additional funds following future disaster declarations. Ohio is one of only nine states that currently meet enhanced plan criteria. The enhanced plan status designation is a testament to Ohio's comprehensive hazard mitigation program.

FEMA approved the State of Ohio Hazard Mitigation Plan on June 29, 2012.

For additional information on Ohio EMA's mitigation program and the SOHMP, click on:
<http://ohiosharpp.ema.state.oh.us/ohiosharpp/>.

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