



Resolution Number 2025-02
Introduced: 03/10/25
Adopted: 03/10/25
Effective: 03/10/25

Resolution Approving and Adopting the 2024 Montgomery County Hazard Mitigation Plan

Background

1. The Montgomery County Hazard Mitigation Plan was first approved by the County Council by Resolution 14-569 in June 2000. Updated Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans were approved by Resolution 16-41 in February 2007 and Resolution 17-832 in July 2013, and Resolution 19-70 in April 2019. The Montgomery County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2024 supersedes all previous County mitigation plans.
2. On October 30, 2000, the federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390) was signed into law. To reduce the effects of disasters, the law encourages, among other initiatives, a planning process based on cooperation among state and local authorities, community partners, and the public at large. The law recognizes local and state pre-disaster planning and promotes "resiliency" as a major mitigation strategy. **Under the regulations implementing this law, states and local governments must have an approved and adopted hazard mitigation plan in order to maintain eligibility for pre- and post-disaster mitigation grant funding.** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is responsible for reviewing and approving state and local plans.
3. The 2024 Montgomery County Hazard Mitigation Plan is a major update to the 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan and is in accordance with the following state and federal rules and regulations governing local hazard mitigation plans.
 - Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §5121 *et seq.*, Section 322 (*Mitigation Planning*) (42 U.S.C. §5165), as enacted by Section 104 of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-390), and FEMA's Interim Final Rule published in the Federal Register on February 26, 2002, at 44 CFR Part 201.
 - Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) established under Section 14-103 in the Public Safety Article of the Maryland Code. The Emergency Management Policy was updated in 1991 through Executive Order 01.01.1991.02 State of Maryland Emergency Management Policy.
4. In developing this plan, a core planning team was assembled consisting of County agencies, municipalities, utility companies, and community and volunteer organizations. Three public hearings were held to solicit public input. Representatives from 19 local

municipalities were conferred with directly to receive their input. The purpose of the Hazard Mitigation Plan is to identify policies, capabilities, activities and tools to help make Montgomery County more resilient in the face of future disasters.

5. In December 2023, the County submitted its initial draft of the Hazard Mitigation Plan to the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) for review and incorporated all comments satisfactorily. In March 2024, the County forwarded its final Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for review and approval. The partial government shutdown directly affected FEMA's review capabilities. Delaying County adoption of the Hazard Mitigation Plan until FEMA conducts its review could potentially put the County at risk of losing Federal Disaster Funds if the County suffers a declared disaster after our current plan expires.
6. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) completed its review of the draft Hazard Mitigation Plan 2024. Minor changes required by FEMA have been incorporated into the latest version of the Plan. Adoption by the County Council of the latest version of the Plan is required for final FEMA approval.

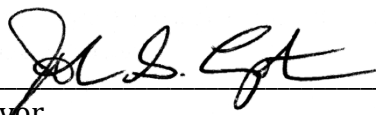
WHEREAS, The County Council approves and adopts the Montgomery County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Washington Grove worked with Montgomery County and other local governments in the hazard mitigation planning process, and takes this action in order to maintain eligibility for pre- and post-disaster mitigation grant funding.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Town of Washington Grove, Maryland, approve and adopt the Montgomery County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2024.

Adopted and effective this 10th day of March, 2025

Approved by Mayor and Town Council:



Mayor

3/10/25

Date

Attest:

_____/s/_____
Town Clerk Date