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## Resilience Report, Fall 2022

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REGION 3

# Resilience Report

FALL 2022



**FEMA**

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### Featured Resource: Updated Mitigation Planning Policies

FEMA has released updated state and local mitigation planning policies that will apply to all mitigation plans approved on or after **April 19, 2023**. The updated policies have been renamed the [State Mitigation Planning Policy Guide](#) and the [Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide](#). These policies serve as FEMA's official interpretation of mitigation planning requirements in the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act and other federal statutes and regulations.

Mitigation planning is the foundation that promotes mitigation investments through a community-based, risk-informed decision-making process. These updated policies explain what state and local mitigation plans need to do for approval.

Key updates include:

- A stronger emphasis on whole-community participation. This includes a wide range of stakeholders from community lifelines and the public. It also includes organizations that support socially vulnerable populations.
- Required consideration of the effects of climate change and how other future conditions will affect disaster risks.



- The incorporation of new FEMA grant programs. This includes the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program. It also includes the Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) and Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dam (HHPD) programs.
- Additional emphasis on describing building codes, land use planning, participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and incorporation of FEMA flood mapping products.

For more information, reach out to your state or FEMA Hazard Mitigation Planner. You can also visit the [Mitigation Planning Policy Updates](#) on FEMA.gov.

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## Featured in this Issue

- Success Story: West Virginia Partnerships Drive Cost-Effective Mitigation
- FEMA Partners With Commonwealth of Virginia to Host Planning and Grants Workshops
- Town of Bloomsburg Boots on the Ground Initiative
- ReadyDC Expands Outreach Efforts
- Comprehensive School Safety Program
- Spotlight Interview: Aubrey Germ, Climate and Resilience Planner, City of Baltimore
- Upcoming Events



## Announcements

1. **FEMA published the [2022-2026 National Tribal Strategy](#)!** The National Tribal Strategy shares a roadmap for FEMA to better support Tribal Nations. It describes critical agency activities and intended outcomes through 2026. These activities will enhance and sustain FEMA's relationships with tribes.
2. **FEMA released two new guides to expanding mitigation!** [Making the Connection to the Coast](#) looks at the unique challenges that coastal communities face. It also shares resources to help mitigate those risks. [Making the Connection to Older Adults](#) highlights the higher risks to older adults from natural hazards. It also outlines mitigation strategies to meet those adults' needs.

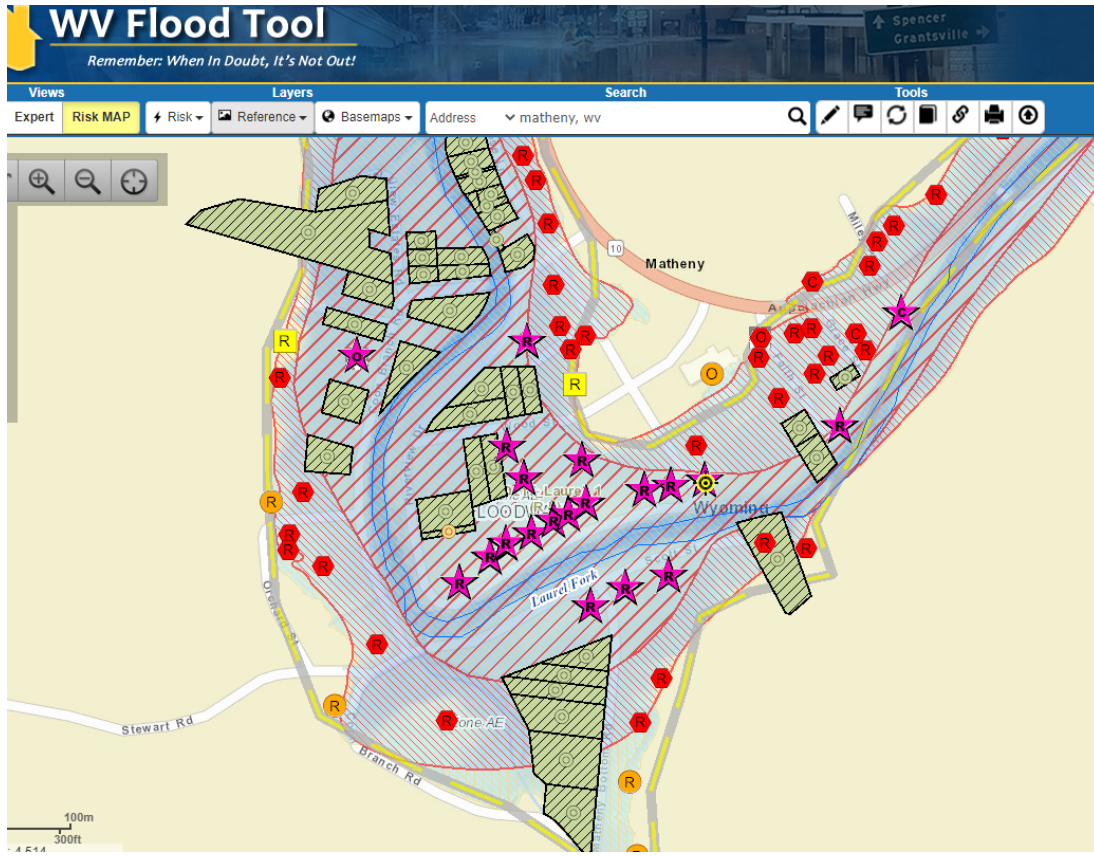


## Success Story: West Virginia Partnerships Drive Cost-Effective Mitigation

In 2018, the West Virginia University (WVU) Land Use and Sustainable Development Law Clinic began assisting the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in watershed planning for McDowell County. Frequent flooding occurs in the Elkhorn Creek/Tug Fork River watershed and causes major damage to structures and infrastructure. The NRCS, the Land Use Clinic, and other local sponsors worked

together to study the costs and benefits of a voluntary floodplain buyout project. Using data available through the [WV Flood Tool](#) saved time and money.

The Land Use Clinic and NRCS used data from the WV Flood Tool to identify the highest priority areas for buyouts and estimate damages to individual properties. Data gathered from the WV Flood Tool included information related to flood zones, structure type, flood depth, and real estate values. WVU also collected Total Exposure in Floodplain (TEIF) and Total Exposure Area Landslide (TEAL) structural-level data. This information helped the NRCS identify a list of 310 properties that would meet the goal of reducing flood damage. 30 properties may be eligible to participate in a voluntary buyout program.



## Upcoming Region 3 Coffee Break Webinars



FEMA Region 3 hosts a webinar series for anyone who wants to reduce risk in their community. The hour-long “Coffee Breaks” are held every other month. These webinars serve as a space to share mitigation best practices and highlight the work happening at federal, regional, state and community levels to reduce risk in Region 3.

Coffee Break webinars are open to anyone who works in hazard mitigation, community resilience, or risk reduction planning. This work can be in the public or private sector and can include community planners, emergency and floodplain managers, GIS technicians, government officials and contractors. Here is a list of upcoming Coffee Break webinars:

- **November 23, 2022:** Utilizing University Partnerships in Hazard Mitigation Planning

- **January 18, 2023:** Increasing Resilience through Land Use Planning and Building Codes
- **March 22, 2023:** Discovering Mitigation Alternatives
- **May 17, 2023:** Refining Your Hazard Mitigation Plan's Scope of Work
- **July 19, 2023:** Preparing for Climate Change Impacts
- **September 20, 2023:** Exploring the Hazard Mitigation Planning Process
- **November 8, 2023:** Conducting a Risk Assessment

For more information or to register for upcoming webinars, visit the [FEMA Region 3 Coffee Break Eventbrite page](#). Webinar topics, dates and descriptions are subject to change.

## FEMA Partners With Commonwealth of Virginia to Host Planning and Grants Workshops



FEMA Region 3 and state partners held two Plan Implementation and Grants Development (PIGD) workshops in the Ridge Valley and Appalachian Plateau regions of Virginia. The workshops helped local officials think about how hazard mitigation plans can be implemented through Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants.

The two PIGD workshops took place on July 25 and 26 in Lebanon and Marion, Virginia. Their goal was to give an overview of Hazard Mitigation Planning and Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants. The workshops covered eligibility and scopes of work. They also shared best practices and explained how to find new and existing programs to fund community needs. Throughout this workshop, FEMA and state partners taught participants how to use their Hazard Mitigation Plans to identify potential projects and successfully apply for grants to help fund. That audience represented 60 communities from Cumberland Plateau, Lenowisco and Mount Rogers Planning District Commissions.

Breakout sessions looked at a range of topics including benefit-cost analysis, environmental historic preservation, and the grant application development process.

Debbie Messmer, Virginia's State Hazard Mitigation Officer, stressed how vital it is to reach communities in remote parts of the state. "It meant a lot to these communities to have FEMA and the state devote time and resources, but it's just the start for us," she said. "We plan to follow-up with technical assistance and devote even more time working with communities to build upon the momentum."

For more information about mitigation planning, visit FEMA's website [here](#). For more information about Hazard Mitigation Assistance, visit FEMA's website [here](#).

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## Town of Bloomsburg Boots on the Ground Initiative

The town of Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania is looking for volunteers to join its 'Boots on the Ground' initiative. Its goal is to create a list of potential volunteers who can assess flood damage after a flood occurs. Candidates do not need to have background knowledge on local floodplain management regulations. The town of Bloomsburg will train its volunteers. This work is an important step toward greater community resilience. The residents of Bloomsburg know the need to grow community preparedness; they suffered destructive floods from Tropical Storm Lee in 2011. Since then, Town Community Rating System (CRS) Coordinator Charles Fritz has worked hard to improve Bloomsburg's CRS rating. Charles formed a local flood task force made up of various stakeholders to develop public outreach materials related to flood protection and enforcing floodplain regulations.

If you want to be a part of this effort, please email [kbauman@bloomsburgpa.org](mailto:kbauman@bloomsburgpa.org) or call (570) 784-7123 (extension 122) to add your name to the contact list.



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## ReadyDC Expands Outreach Efforts



ReadyDC is a preparedness campaign launched by the Executive Office of the Mayor in 2017. The District of Columbia's (DC) Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA) runs the program for Mayor Muriel Bowser. The ReadyDC campaign began two years ago due to the concerns of residents who felt that they did not have strong access to emergency information.

ReadyDC makes sure the district is ready to meet a range of hazards, including manmade and natural disasters.

Officials who work with ReadyDC wanted to find new ways to share relevant information with the public for each emergency. The campaign worked with OpenBox, which is a community-focused design team. The team held community interviews by asking members of the public how they see emergencies. It also asked them what their emergency experiences have been and what emergency information they wished they knew. The team focused on flooding, extreme heat, and winter weather. The results led to HSEMA's community engagement strategy. It now holds community events in DC throughout the year. These meetings share resources with residents to help them plan for emergencies.

To find emergency preparedness resources or ask for an outreach event in your community, visit <https://ready.dc.gov/resources>.

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## Comprehensive School Safety Program

Throughout August, the Delaware Emergency Management Agency's (DEMA) Comprehensive School Safety Program (CSSP) held three two-day seminars – one in each county in the State. These seminars endorsed statewide adoption of the "Standard Reunification Method." [I Love U Guys Foundation](#) set up this process. Its goal is to reunite students with their parents or guardians during times of crisis. This includes fires, floods, tornados, power outages, bomb threats, accidents, and acts of violence. Delaware will be one of the first states to adopt this protocol statewide.



The trainings ended with a hands-on "Standard Reunification Method Exercise." This exercise showed staff and response personnel their capabilities to handle, organize, and reunify staff and students during any emergency. After the training, attendees led the creation of a team in their district or school. That team's job is to start this process during any crisis.

The [Omnibus School Safety Act](#) led to the creation of the CSSP in 2012. Its goal was to improve public safety in all of Delaware's public schools. It does so by making and maintaining comprehensive, site-specific safety and emergency preparedness plans. The goal of CSSP is to promote a clear and effective plan for state and local emergency responders, education professionals, and other supporting groups during a school's critical incident. To learn more about the CSSP and how you can use these practices in your area, visit the DEMA website [here](#).

## Spotlight Interview: Aubrey Germ, Climate and Resilience Planner, City of Baltimore



In this issue of the Resilience Report, we connected with Aubrey Germ. Aubrey is the Climate and Resilience Planner at the City of Baltimore. We talked about the City of Baltimore's Community Resiliency Hub (CRH) Program.

### What is a resiliency hub?

Baltimore's CRH Program increases its communities' abilities to prepare for, withstand, and respond to natural hazards, public health emergencies, and other crisis situations.

CRHs are service-based organizations. They have strong leadership and work in climate-vulnerable areas. The city connects them with:

- Emergency preparedness supplies.
- Solar power and battery back-up (when feasible).
- Energy efficiency upgrades.
- Preparedness training.
- Consistent, focused communications.
- Faster access to resources.

### How do resiliency hubs help Baltimore's community members pre and post-disaster?

Hub partners adapt quickly and scale up efforts. They reach the highest risk residents and meet their needs. Baltimore's Office of Emergency Management, with the Health and Planning Departments, has worked with hubs as:

- Emergency resource distribution centers.
- Post-disaster recovery staging areas.
- Points of information sharing.

There are currently 17 partners. Four already have back-up power. Four are scheduled for system installations.

### How have Baltimore's resiliency hubs been funded?

The Maryland Energy Administration has provided solar power and battery storage study, system installation and energy efficiency funds. Local foundations have provided

other funding. The city has also looked to federal funding, such as FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).

Visit its website to learn more about the city of Baltimore's [Community Resiliency Hub Program](#).

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## Upcoming Events

10/5/2022: [Resilient Nation Partnership Network "Alliances for Inclusive Resilience" Forum – Social Cohesion: Making Access, Inclusion and Equity Priorities in Resilience](#), virtual

10/12/2022: [Resilient Nation Partnership Network "Alliances for Inclusive Resilience" Forum – Making Resilience Priorities Complementary](#), virtual

10/19/2022: [Resilient Nation Partnership Network "Alliances for Inclusive Resilience" Forum – Inclusive Design: Building a Sense of Resilient Belonging](#), virtual

10/25/2022-10/27/2022: [National Adaptation Forum](#), Baltimore, MD

10/26/2022: [Resilient Nation Partnership Network "Alliances for Inclusive Resilience" Forum – Voices of Inclusive Resilience](#), virtual

10/31/2022: [CED Engineering Webinar – Flood Resilience of Water and Wastewater Utilities](#), virtual

10/31/2022-11/3/2022: [FEMA EMI – E-3867: Residential Coastal Construction](#), Emmitsburg, MD

11/3/2022-11/4/2022: [10<sup>th</sup> Annual Delaware River Watershed Forum](#), Philadelphia, PA

11/8/2022: [Maryland Association of Floodplain and Stormwater Managers 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Conference](#), BWI Marriot, Linthicum Heights, MD

11/16/2022: [FEMA Region 3 Coffee Break: Utilizing University Partnerships in Hazard Mitigation Planning](#), virtual

11/28/2022-12/1/2022: [FEMA EMI – E0278: NFIP/Community Rating System](#), Emmitsburg, MD

12/5/2022-12/8/2022: [FEMA EMI – E0273: Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP](#), Emmitsburg, MD

1/23/2023-1/27/2023: [FEMA EMI – L0101: Foundations of Emergency Management](#), North Chesterfield, VA

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