

7.0 PLAN MAINTENANCE

7.1 Update Process Summary

Monitoring, evaluating, and updating this plan, is critical to maintaining its value and success in Bucks 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 be involved on a continued basis. This HMP's plan maintenance section also defines the municipalities' role in updating and evaluating the plan, as well as how this plan may be integrated into other planning mechanisms in the County. The Plan Maintenance process was reviewed at the Final Public Meeting and reviewed in detail during the subsequent public review period. No changes were made.

7.2 Monitoring, Evaluating, and Updating the Plan

The HMSC established for the 2026 HMP is designated to administer the plan maintenance processes of monitoring, evaluation, and updating with support and representation from all 54 participating municipalities. The Bucks County Planning Commission Executive Director and the Bucks County Emergency Management Agency Director in coordination with colleagues from their respective departments will lead the HMPT in all associated plan maintenance requirements, including annual reviews. The HMSC will coordinate maintenance efforts, but the input needed for effective periodic evaluations will come from community representatives, local emergency management coordinators and planners, the general public and other important partner agencies. The HMSC will oversee the progress made on the implementation of action items identified in the 2026 HMP and modify actions, as needed, to reflect changing conditions. The HMSC will continue to meet annually to discuss specific coordination efforts that may be needed with other partner agencies. Should a significant disaster occur within the County, the HMSC will reconvene within 30 days of the disaster to review and update the HMP. Meetings will be summarized in annual reports and progress reports that will be incorporated into the next plan update.

Each municipality will designate a community representative to monitor mitigation activities and hazard events within their respective communities. The local emergency management coordinator would be suitable for this role. This individual will be asked to work with the HMSC to provide updates on applicable mitigation actions and feedback on changing hazard vulnerabilities within their community.

Upon each HMP evaluation, the HMSC will consider whether applications should be submitted for existing mitigation grant programs. A decision to apply for funding will be based on appropriate eligibility and financial need requirements. The HMSC will also support local and county officials in applying for post-disaster mitigation funds when they are available. All state and federal mitigation funding provided to the County or local municipalities will be reported in subsequent plan updates. In addition, new plans and programs being developed within the County will be evaluated as to the ability and necessity to integrate the 2026 HMP into them.

The 2026 HMP will be updated every five years, as required by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, or following a disaster event. Future plan updates will account for any new hazard vulnerabilities, special circumstances, or new

information that becomes available. During the five-year review process, the following questions will be considered as criteria for assessing the effectiveness the Bucks County HMP.

- Has the nature or magnitude of hazards affecting the County changed?
- Are there new hazards that have the potential to impact the County?
- Do the identified goals and actions address current and expected conditions?
- Have mitigation actions been implemented or completed?
- Has the implementation of identified mitigation actions resulted in expected outcomes?
- Are current resources adequate to implement the Plan?
- Should additional local resources be committed to address identified hazards?

Issues that arise during monitoring and evaluation which require changes to the risk assessment, mitigation strategy and other components of the plan will be incorporated during future updates.

7.3 Continued Public Involvement

As was done during the development of the 2021 and 2026 HMP, the HMSC will involve the public during the evaluation and update of the HMP through various workshops and meetings. The public will have access to an electronic copy of the current HMP through the Bucks County Planning Commission website. Information on upcoming events related to the HMP or solicitation for comments will be announced via newsletters, newspapers, mailings, and on the County website (<http://www.buckscounty.gov>). Also, several municipalities signed up for public outreach related mitigation actions. The HMSC will incorporate all relevant comments during the next update of the HMP.