

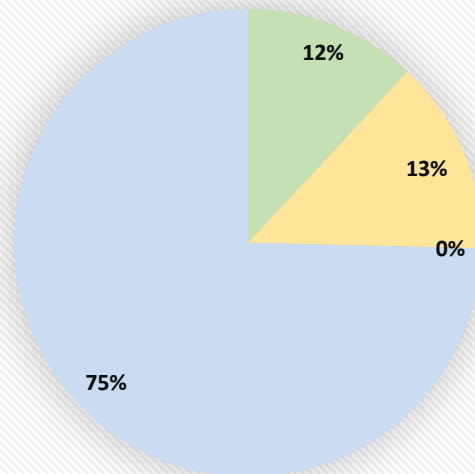
MITIGATION ACTION STATUS UPDATE

The purpose of hazard mitigation action items and associated projects is to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from hazards and their effects. In an effort to determine the status of the mitigation action items developed for the 2018-2023 Charles County Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee and representatives for the municipalities were asked to provide status updates. As a result, this mitigation status report was developed for this plan update. A progress status and additional details have been provided for each of the 2018 action items.

The table starting on page 3 lists the mitigation action items that were set forth in the 2018-2023 Charles County Hazard Mitigation Plan. The table provides the mitigation action item, community, hazard(s) addressed, lead agency or department and action status (Complete, Deferred, Canceled, Ongoing). In addition, status update details were provided in the “Status Update Notes” column. Action items ranked as a “High” priority in the 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan are denoted with “High Priority.”

A total of seventy (70) action items were evaluated as part of the plan update process; sixteen (16) of these action items were ranked as “high priority” in the previous plan. Members of the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC) provided important feedback regarding the progress of these action items. Based on this feedback, the following was determined: eight (8) mitigation actions are “completed,” nine (9) mitigation action item was “deferred,” and fifty (50) action items are “ongoing.” No mitigation action items was canceled. The graph below further illustrates the present status of the 2018 mitigation actions based upon stakeholder feedback. (3 actions pending responses)

Mitigation Action Items Status



Completed Deferred Canceled Ongoing

The mitigation actions identified as “completed” are listed below. Three (3) of the high priority mitigation actions was designated as “completed”; these mitigation actions are identified in red.

- **Action Item #1** – Install uninterruptible power supplies on critical electronic equipment in County facilities to prevent outages during thunder and lightning events.
- **Action Item #6** – Protect County buildings from hail damage by installing hail guards on roof-mounted HVAC equipment and installing hail-resistant roofing and siding when feasible on newly constructed facilities.
- **Action Item #12** – Ensure that NFIP requirements are being met concerning repairs, renovations, and remodeling of structures located in the regulatory floodplain.
- **Action Item #17** – Identify roadways/bridges that frequently flood and mitigate to ensure ingress and egress.
- **Action Item #40** – Continue inspection, maintenance, and enforcement program to help ensure continued structural integrity of dams.
- **Action Item #41** – Regulate development near steep slopes.
- **Action Item #67** – Create an Archaeological Context for Charles County based on a literature review of academic and historical works, and on information found in the archaeological data at the Maryland Historical Trust.
- **Action Item #68** – Prioritize list of critical facilities that are vulnerable to natural and human-made hazards and develop potential mitigation solutions for high-priority critical facilities to reduce vulnerability.

The table on the following pages provide full status details for each mitigation action identified in the 2018-2023 Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Review of 2018 HMP Mitigation Action Plan						
#	ACTION	COMMUNITY	HAZARD(S) ADDRESSED	LEAD AGENCY/ DEPARTMENT	STATUS	STATUS UPDATE NOTES
1	Install Uninterruptible Power Supplies On Critical Electronic Equipment In County Facilities To Prevent Outages During Thunder And Lightning Events. High Priority	Charles County	Extreme Weather	Emergency Services, Information Technology	Complete	Charles County issues laptops rather than ups equipment.
2	Encourage proper tree management for new power lines to reduce risks during high wind/severe winter weather. High Priority	Charles County	Extreme Weather, Severe Winter Storms	Emergency Services, SMECO	Ongoing	SMECO operates a tree management program.
3	Continue to support tree-trimming to prevent limb breakage and for safeguarding nearby utility lines during severe wind and winter events. High Priority	Charles County	Extreme Weather, Severe Winter Storms	Emergency Services, SMECO	Ongoing	SMECO operates a tree management program.
4	Install surge protectors on electronic equipment in County facilities to protect equipment during thunderstorm and lightning events. High Priority	Charles County	Extreme Weather	Emergency Services, Information Technology	Ongoing	Installation of surge protectors is an ongoing project.
5	Conduct engineering inspections of fire stations and schools to assess each facility's ability to sustain damage from flood and wind events. High Priority	Charles County	Flood, Extreme Weather	Charles County Public Schools, Volunteer Fire Department	Deferred	No public-school flood or wind risk reduction projects have been completed during this planning cycle.
6	Protect County buildings from hail damage by installing hail guards on roof-mounted HVAC equipment and installing hail-resistant roofing and siding when feasible on newly constructed facilities. High Priority	Charles County	Extreme Weather	Public Facilities	Complete	Hail guards were installed on all HVAC replacement units.
7	Promote Tornado safety public awareness and encourage the building of safe rooms during new construction.	Charles County	Extreme Weather	Emergency Services	Ongoing	Charles County DES continues public education of tornado safety through county social media accounts and printed materials.
8	Equip all County and public gathering places with lightning detectors.	Charles County	Extreme Weather	Emergency Services, Parks, Recreation and Tourism	Ongoing	Charles County high schools have installed lightning detection units from Earth Networks. RPT and DES met with Earth Networks and had an initial discussion on pricing and budget needs. Also, for recent comparison and consideration is PerryWeather APP.

#	ACTION	COMMUNITY	HAZARD(S) ADDRESSED	LEAD AGENCY/ DEPARTMENT	STATUS	STATUS UPDATE NOTES
9	Establish heating and cooling centers for vulnerable populations and link them to outreach projects that encourage at-risk populations to use the facilities.	Charles County	Temperature Extremes	Emergency Services	Ongoing	Heating and Cooling centers continue to be established when needed.
10	Develop public awareness campaign regarding extreme temperatures and how they affect residents.	Charles County	Temperature Extremes	Emergency Services	Ongoing	Public awareness campaigns continue on county social media and printed publications.
11	Continue to acquire, elevate or floodproof structures in identified repetitive loss areas throughout Charles County.	Charles County	Flood	Emergency Services, Public Facilities, Planning and Growth Management	Ongoing	The Planning Department does not acquire structures. We encourage property owners to elevate or flood proof their structures within our repetitive loss areas when they apply for permits.
12	Ensure that NFIP requirements are being met concerning repairs, renovations, and remodeling of structures located in the regulatory floodplain.	Charles County	Flood	Planning & Growth Management	Complete	All permits are reviewed for compliance with the NFIP and County Floodplain Regulations. This includes new construction and substantial improvements to existing structures. Existing structures are also evaluated to see if they are considered substantial improvements.
13	Address flooding that is caused by an obstructed drainage ditch that runs east to west through the center of the town.	Village of Port Tobacco	Flood			Status Not Provided
14	Take steps towards joining the community rating system.	Charles County	Flood	Planning & Growth Management	Ongoing	The Department is currently working with MDE & FEMA to resolve open items on the most recent CAV Report in an effort to join the CRS.
15	Implement stormwater management and drainage improvements in flood-prone historic districts.	Charles County, Town of La Plata, Town of Indian Head, Village of Port Tobacco	Flood	Planning and Growth Management	Ongoing	
16	Inspection of critical facilities in the 100-year floodplain conducted by a certified floodplain manager.	Charles County, Town of La Plata	Flood	Emergency Services, Public Facilities, Planning and Growth Management, Town of La Plata	Ongoing	

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17	Identify roadways/bridges that frequently flood and mitigate to ensure ingress and egress.	Charles County	Flood	SHA, County Roads	Complete	Egress during normal heavy rain events is not an issue as per SHA.
18	Increase awareness of homes that lie in the flood zone for prospective home buyers and residents by posting a link to the County's website that provides property-specific flood zone information.	Port Tobacco, Town of La Plata, Town of Indian Head	Flood	Planning and Growth Management, Floodplain Administrator	Ongoing	The Department is working on creating a floodplain website within the County website to provide information to all citizens about their flood risk.
19	Encourage immunization against diseases that can be easily communicable among residents of Charles County.	Charles County	Public Health Emergency	Health Department	Ongoing	The Charles County Department of Health continually educates residents and provides opportunities for immunization against communicable disease(s).
20	Establish areas where vaccines and other medications could be dispensed during a public health emergency.	Charles County	Public Health Emergency	Health Department	Ongoing	The Charles County Department of Health has four pre-identified POD location sites that can be used during a public health emergency. However, as experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic, it was necessary to adapt operations to alternative locations.
21	Incorporate inspection and management of hazardous trees into other maintenance processes. High Priority	Charles County	Utility Interruption	Public Works	Ongoing	Tree maintenance crews and contractors work year-round to manage tree growth and hazards.
22	Work with utility providers to ensure regular maintenance and upkeep of power lines and other utilities. High Priority	Charles County	Utility Interruption	Emergency Services, SMECO	Ongoing	Conducts regular maintenance.
23	Identify opportunities to upgrade or bury power lines.	Charles County	Utility Interruption	Emergency Services, SMECO	Ongoing	SMECO continues to monitor and upgrade when appropriate.
24	Prepare flyer for safety strategies during severe winter weather, including driver education classes and materials.	Charles County	Severe Winter Storms	Emergency Services, County Roads	Ongoing	Charles County continues public education through social media and printed materials. DPW has an emergency winter weather plan and SOP in place.
25	Review existing land use and development patterns near pipelines.	Charles County, Town of La Plata, Town of Indian Head, Village of Port Tobacco	Environmental Hazards	Planning and Growth Management, Emergency Services	Deferred	This will be evaluated during the Comprehensive Plan Update.

#	ACTION	COMMUNITY	HAZARD(S) ADDRESSED	LEAD AGENCY/ DEPARTMENT	STATUS	STATUS UPDATE NOTES
26	Review pathways for potential gas or hazardous liquid migration in the event of a pipeline release and encourage land use planning and zoning controls to decrease population density in high-risk areas.	Charles County	Environmental Hazards	Planning and Growth Management, Emergency Services	Ongoing	
27	Initiate a new commodity flow study.	Charles County	Environmental Hazards	Emergency Services	Ongoing	Brief commodity flow study conducted. Upgraded camera technology in process of procurement for constant monitoring to include annual commodity flow studies.
28	Purchase equipment necessary to sustain hazardous materials for emergency response teams.	Charles County	Environmental Hazards	Hazardous Materials Response Team (HMRT)	Ongoing	Constantly performing updates to current gear and equipment as well as purchasing new to meet the demand of today's Hazardous Materials responses. Received grant equipment and funds from HSGP and Securing the Cities (COG).
29	Evaluate Tier 2 facilities on an annual basis.	Charles County	Environmental Hazards	Hazardous Materials Response Team (HMRT)	Ongoing	With the addition of some full-time staffing, we have been able to successfully evaluate those that have reported and are in contact with staff. Currently 35/72 on file, the remaining have not accepted appointments.
30	Plan for and maintain adequate road and debris clearing capabilities.	Charles County	Transportation Accident	Public Works	Ongoing	County staff, equipment and contractors are in place to respond.
31	Implement traffic safety improvements at high-crash intersections and roadway segments.	Charles County, Town of La Plata, Town of Indian Head, Village of Port Tobacco	Transportation Accident	Planning and Growth Management	Ongoing	
32	Develop Aircraft Emergency Disaster Plan.	Charles County	Transportation Accident	Emergency Services	Ongoing	Multi-Hazard Emergency Disaster Plan in review and evaluation process.
33	Continue Crime Solvers Program.	Charles County	Civil Disturbance and Criminal Activity	Sheriff's Office	Ongoing	This is a continuous program that the CCSO participates in.

#	ACTION	COMMUNITY	HAZARD(S) ADDRESSED	LEAD AGENCY/ DEPARTMENT	STATUS	STATUS UPDATE NOTES
34	Continue offering free home and business security surveys.	Charles County	Civil Disturbance and Criminal Activity	Sheriff's Office	Ongoing	CCSO continues to provide this service.
35	Continue publishing "Watch Works" newsletter.	Charles County	Civil Disturbance and Criminal Activity	Sheriff's Office	Ongoing	This is still disseminated by the CCSO, but it is now called the "Community Dispatch."
36	Encourage Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.	Charles County	Civil Disturbance and Criminal Activity	Sheriff's Office	Ongoing	CCSO continues to provide this service.
37	Retrofit or rebuild high-priority structurally deficient bridges.	Charles County	Building and Structure Collapse	Public Works	Ongoing	
38	Review existing conditions of bridges to determine their susceptibility to collapse.	Charles County	Building and Structure Collapse	Public Works	Ongoing	All County owned bridges are inspected and rated every two years through the SHA.
39	Retrofit public buildings and critical facilities to withstand snow loads and prevent roof collapse.	Charles County	Building and Structure Collapse	Emergency Services	Ongoing	Charles County continually identifies buildings to retrofit with upgrades pending financial assistance.
40	Continue inspection, maintenance, and enforcement program to help ensure continued structural integrity of dams.	Charles County	Dam Failure	Emergency Services; Soil Conservation District	Complete	The SCD participates in the yearly inspections of the three large flood control dams in Charles County. As far as inspections of smaller dams, the SCD inspects these dams upon request or if needed as part of the SCD Small Pond Approval process. The SCD participates in the yearly inspections of the three large flood control dams in Charles County. As far as inspections of smaller dams, the SCD inspects these dams upon request or if needed as part of the SCD Small Pond Approval process.
41	Regulate development near steep slopes.	Charles County, Town of La Plata, Town of Indian Head, Village of Port Tobacco	Earth Disturbance	Planning and Growth Management	Complete	This is accomplished through the Critical Area Program within the Critical Area. Outside of the Critical Area it is reviewed by our Soil Conservation District.

#	ACTION	COMMUNITY	HAZARD(S) ADDRESSED	LEAD AGENCY/ DEPARTMENT	STATUS	STATUS UPDATE NOTES
42	Apply soil stabilization measures on steep, publicly owned slopes.	Charles County	Earth Disturbance	Planning and Growth Management	Ongoing	This would be handled by our local Soil Conservation District or Public Works Department, where appropriate or necessary.
43	Encourage structural designs that can resist loading associated with subsidence.	Charles County	Earth Disturbance	Planning and Growth Management	Deferred	This is not something that PGM is currently working on.
44	Identify ways to reduce vulnerability of historic properties to coastal erosion, particularly along the Potomac and Port Tobacco Rivers.	Charles County	Earth Disturbance	Emergency Services, Planning and Growth Management	Deferred	This is not something that PGM is currently working on.
45	Develop database to track landslide events.	Charles County	Earth Disturbance	Emergency Services, Soil Conservation District	Deferred	No database has been developed.
46	Monitor groundwater levels and areas where natural resources are removed underground.	Charles County	Earth Disturbance	Planning and Growth Management, Soil Conservation District	Ongoing	Charles County maintains an annual contract with the MD Dept of Natural Resources to monitor groundwater levels within the local aquifers.
47	Inform the public about defensible space and how to reduce their risk to fire.	Charles County	Wildfire	Emergency Services, Volunteer Fire Departments	Ongoing	Ongoing campaigns through the Fire Service.
48	Review Capital Improvement Plans to ensure that programmed infrastructure improvements are not in high hazard areas. High Priority	Charles County, Town of La Plata, Town of Indian Head, Village of Port Tobacco	All Hazards	Emergency Services, Planning and Growth Management, Town of La Plata, Town of Indian Head, Village of Port Tobacco	Ongoing	Indian Head: Complete. Plans are reviewed annually, all needs are evaluated, and plans are updated as necessary. A majority of Indian Head's infrastructure is outside of high hazard areas and new development within high hazard areas is not permitted. All of Indian Head's critical infrastructure and stations are outside of high hazard areas (ex. floodplain). PMG: Ongoing. Being reviewed as part of the County's Climate Action Plan. La Plata: Ongoing.

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49	Continue to conduct tests of its early warning/sirens bi-annually (early May and December). High Priority	Town of La Plata	All Hazards	Town of La Plata	Ongoing	
50	Obtain grant funding for generators for critical facilities. High Priority	Charles County	All Hazards	Emergency Services	Ongoing	Grant funding for generators is an ongoing project.
51	During new construction or upgrades/retrofits to schools and emergency shelters, funding should be obtained to provide these facilities with emergency generators and intercoms. High Priority	Charles County	All Hazards	Emergency Services, Public Schools	Ongoing	Emergency Services collaborates with Public Schools in continual evaluation.
52	Review regulations to ensure adequate zoning regulations are in place to reduce future development in high-hazard areas and introduce new language to this effect in their zoning ordinances. High Priority	Charles County, Town of La Plata, Town of Indian Head	All Hazards	Planning and Growth Management, Town of La Plata, Town of Indian Head	Ongoing	Indian Head: Ordinances are reviewed annually, and zoning updates are implemented on a frequent and regular basis to ensure safety if the Town. PMG: Ongoing. Floodplain Management Ordinance will be reviewed to determine if any improvements are needed. La Plata: Ongoing.
53	Continue incorporating the HMP into future updates of the Charles County's Comprehensive Plan. High Priority	Charles County	All Hazards	Planning & Growth Management	Ongoing	This will be included/updated in our next Comp Plan update.
54	Introduce language in the comprehensive plan to plan for development while considering hazards and their impacts in highly developed areas. High Priority	Charles County, Town of La Plata, Town of Indian Head, Village of Port Tobacco	All Hazards	Emergency Services, Planning and Growth Management, Town of La Plata, Town of Indian Head, Village of Port Tobacco	Ongoing	Indian Head: Complete. Language addressing and regulating development in relation to hazards was included in the Town of Indian Head Comprehensive Plan 2020, enacted on September 27, 2021. PMG: Ongoing. This will be included/updated in our next Comp Plan update. La Plata: Ongoing.
55	Work with the Town of Indian Head and Lackey High School to determine ways to provide alternative access during a hazard event.	Charles County, Town of Indian Head	All Hazards	Town of Indian Head, Emergency Services	Ongoing	Discussions with Lackey High School on alternative access during hazard events are ongoing.
56	Include Historic Properties in the County's Debris Management Plan.	Charles County	All Hazards	Planning and Growth Management, Emergency Services, Public Works	Deferred	Add information to the Comprehensive Plan Update. Information in Debris Management Plan, however it is not specific to historic properties

#	ACTION	COMMUNITY	HAZARD(S) ADDRESSED	LEAD AGENCY/ DEPARTMENT	STATUS	STATUS UPDATE NOTES
57	Send news releases to local newspapers, radio, and TV stations with pre-disaster information while attempting to reach all areas of Charles County.	Charles County	All Hazards	Emergency Services, Town of Indian Head, Town of La Plata	Ongoing	DES: Charles County utilizes CNS for public notifications, PIO for media notifications along with social media correspondence. Indian Head: Ongoing. Pre-disaster notification strategies such as dialer system alerts and press releases are currently practiced and will continue to be practiced. La Plata: Ongoing.
58	Continue to introduce environmental education programs in schools, park and recreation department, conservation associations, and youth organizations such as boy scouts/girl scouts, campfire girls, and summer camps.	Charles County, Town of Indian Head, Town of La Plata	All Hazards	Emergency Services, Town of Indian Head, Town of La Plata	Ongoing	RPT: Ongoing. This goal is ongoing with a variety of programs and camps offered through RPT. Summer of 2023 included "All About the Bay Camp", "Summer Adventure" "Explorer Week" Kayak & Fishing." Indian Head: Ongoing. Environmental education is a priority for the Town of Indian Head. A recently constructed boardwalk and living shoreline on the Potomac in Indian Head provides access to unique habitats and educational opportunities to the public. The Town regularly works with Eagle Scouts. Storm water educational materials are created and distributed to the public, businesses, schools, etc. La Plata: Ongoing.
59	Ensure access to special needs populations is provided.	Charles County	All Hazards	Emergency Services, Planning and Growth Management	Ongoing	DES: Charles County PGM and Emergency Services continues to address areas for special needs population access and roadway access for emergency vehicles. RPT: Ongoing. RPT recently hired a Therapeutic Recreation Specialist to offer additional recreational programming for special needs.

#	ACTION	COMMUNITY	HAZARD(S) ADDRESSED	LEAD AGENCY/ DEPARTMENT	STATUS	STATUS UPDATE NOTES
60	Conduct Archaeological Survey of High Priority Sites in High Hazard Areas.	Charles County	All Hazards	Planning and Growth Management	Deferred	
61	Create an Expedited Review Process for historic properties to be utilized post-incident	Charles County	All Hazards	Planning and Growth Management	Ongoing	This is something that PGM can work towards doing.
62	Establish a Demolition Delay Process for historic properties to be utilized post-incident.	Charles County	All Hazards	Planning and Growth Management, Emergency Services, Public Works	Deferred	This is not something PGM is currently working on but would be interested in assistance to develop a process.
63	Develop disaster plans for historic sites and resources owned by Charles County.	Charles County	All Hazards	Planning and Growth Management, Emergency Services		DES: Defer to PGM PMG: Deferred. PGM defers to EMS and Public Works Status Not Provided
64	Conduct targeted outreach to historic property owners about mitigation techniques and recovery.	Charles County	All Hazards	Emergency Services, Planning and Growth Management	Deferred	This is not something PGM is currently working on but would appreciate assistance in preparing a plan to implement this item.
65	Upgrade water suppression system.	Charles County	All Hazards	Public Works, Planning and Growth Management	Ongoing	All new construction requires to install an interior fire suppression system per the Building Code. The Capital Improvement Program continues to include public fire suppression systems (water system upgrades) to improve fire suppression, annually.
66	Perform outreach activities to inform residents of their vulnerability to hazards and how to mitigate. This may include newsletters, flyers on keeping drain ditches clear, participation in the NFIP, and safety tips.	Village of Port Tobacco	All Hazards	Village of Port Tobacco		Status Not Provided
67	Create an Archaeological Context for Charles County based on a literature review of academic and historical works, and on information found in the archaeological data at the Maryland Historical Trust.	Charles County	All Hazards	Planning and Growth Management	Complete	PGM has a record of the historical properties in the County.

#	ACTION	COMMUNITY	HAZARD(S) ADDRESSED	LEAD AGENCY/ DEPARTMENT	STATUS	STATUS UPDATE NOTES
68	Prioritize list of critical facilities that are vulnerable to natural and human-made hazards and develop potential mitigation solutions for high-priority critical facilities to reduce vulnerability. High Priority	Charles County, Town of Indian Head, Town of La Plata	All Hazards	Planning and Growth Management, Emergency Services	Complete	Completed and included with Charles County Climate Resilience Plan.
69	Prohibit future development in high hazard areas.	Charles County	All Hazards	Planning and Growth Management	Ongoing	Where there is an area outside of the Coastal High Hazard Area on a property, all new development must be located outside of the Coastal High Hazard Area.
70	Encourage low density development and open space areas.	Charles County	All Hazards	Planning and Growth Management	Ongoing	