

2012 Jackson County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

GATTIER • VANCLAY • ESCATAWPA • HURLEY



DEVELOPED BY THE
JACKSON COUNTY
HAZARD MITIGATION COUNCIL

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

NEEL-SCHAFFER, INC AND
WITT GROUP HOLDINGS, LLC

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Chapter One--Introduction

1 Introduction and Background to Hazard Mitigation Planning

1.1 Hazard Mitigation Planning

Hazard mitigation can be defined as the use of short- and long-term strategies that will permanently reduce or alleviate the loss of injuries, life, and property resulting from hazards. A comprehensive mitigation approach addresses hazard vulnerabilities that exist today and in the foreseeable future. Implementation strategies include structural changes such as strengthening or protecting buildings and infrastructure from the destructive forces of potential hazards as well as non-structural strategy such as land-use policies and the creation of public awareness programs. It is widely accepted that the most effective mitigation measures are implemented at the local level, where decisions on the regulation and control of development are ultimately made. Therefore, it is essential that projected patterns of future development are evaluated and considered in terms of how that growth will increase or decrease a community's overall hazard vulnerability.

A key component in the formulation of a comprehensive approach to hazard mitigation is to develop, adopt, and update as needed a local hazard mitigation plan. A hazard mitigation plan establishes the broad community vision and guiding principles for reducing hazard risks and further proposes specific mitigation actions to eliminate or reduce identified vulnerabilities.

FEMA Definition of Hazard Mitigation: "Any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from hazards."

Mitigation planning and activities provides jurisdictions with a number of benefits such as:

- Reduced loss of life, property, essential services, critical facilities and economic hardship
- Reduced short-term and long-term recovery and reconstruction costs
- Increased cooperation and communication within the community through the planning process
- Increased potential for state and federal funding for recovery and reconstruction projects

Figure 1.1 Understanding Risk



Figure 1.1 illustrates the concepts of risk reduction.

Chapter One--Introduction

1.2 The Disaster Mitigation Act and the Flood Insurance Reform Act

In an effort to reduce mounting natural disaster losses, the U.S. Congress passed the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) amending the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. Section 322 of DMA 2000 emphasizes the need for state and local government entities to closely coordinate mitigation planning activities and makes the development of a hazard mitigation plan a specific eligibility requirement for any local government applying for federal mitigation grant funds. These funds include the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program, both of which are administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under the Department of Homeland Security.

The Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004 (P.L. 108-264) created two grant programs, Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) and Repetitive Flood Claim (RFC), and modified the existing Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program. This act requires completion of a FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan in order for communities to be eligible for these FEMA mitigation programs. Communities with an adopted and federally-approved hazard mitigation plan thereby become pre-positioned and more apt to receive available mitigation funds before and after the next disaster strikes.

The Jackson County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan meets all applicable FEMA and state requirements for hazard mitigation plans and has been prepared in coordination with FEMA Region IV and the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA).

1.3 Purpose and Mission Statement

The purpose of the plan is to document specific natural hazards that are most probable to occur within the study area, evaluate the anticipated risks and potential damage, and identify feasible and cost-effective pre-disaster actions that will reduce risks. In accordance with the purpose of the Hazard Mitigation Plan, the following mission statement was adopted to guide the planning process:

"The mission of the Jackson County Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan is to plan for and reduce the impact of identified hazards on the community by means of sustainable and resilient measures and activities."

Chapter One--Introduction

1.4 Authority and Adoption

Requirement §201.6(c)(5): [The local hazard mitigation plan shall include] documentation that the plan has been formally adopted by the governing body of the jurisdiction requesting approval of the plan. For multi-jurisdictional plans, each jurisdiction requesting approval of the plan must document that it has been formally adopted.

1.4.1 Authority

The Jackson County Board of Supervisors and the City of Gautier City Council initiated development of this Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan ("the Plan"). The County applied for and received a grant through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) to prepare an update to the November 2005 Hazard Mitigation Plan. The HMGP is sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and administered by the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). A copy of the grant approval letter is provided in Appendix 8.1-A.

1.4.2 Plan Adoption

A public meeting was held on August 15, 2012 for citizens to formally review and accept this Plan prior to sending to MEMA and FEMA for state and federal approval. As a multi-jurisdictional effort, the Jackson County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan meets the requirements of Section 201.6(c)(5) and was approved by FEMA on January 14, 2013. Each jurisdiction then proceeded to adopt this Plan as demonstrated by the executed Resolutions provided in Appendix 8.1-B along with the approval letter and copy of completed crosswalk.

1.5 Multi-Jurisdictional Planning Participation

Requirement §201.6(a)(3): Multi-jurisdictional plans may be accepted, as appropriate, as long as each jurisdiction has participated in the process.

The 2005 plan included the jurisdictions of Gautier, Moss Point, Ocean Springs, Pascagoula and Jackson County. However, the cities of Moss Point, Ocean Springs and Pascagoula elected to each participate in separate hazard mitigation plans for 2012 that were under development during the update of this plan.

Gautier and Jackson County participated as planning partners for the 2012 update. Both jurisdictions designated representatives to serve on the Hazard Mitigation Council (HMC) in an effort to provide specific planning guidance relevant to their needs. Chapter Three identifies the individuals who served on the planning committees and also stakeholders who were invited to participate in public meetings held during the planning process.

Chapter One--Introduction

1.6 Summary of Contents

The contents of this plan are designed to coordinate with the layout of the State of Mississippi's Hazard Mitigation Plan. Below is a summary of the contents presented in chapters 2 through 7.

Chapter 2: **Community Profiles** of the participating jurisdictions include demographic, geographic, and economic characteristics. This information sets the stage for defining the special characteristics that are useful in understanding their unique vulnerabilities.

Chapter 3: **Planning Process** describes a complete account of the Council, subcommittee, and public meetings held during the planning process and who these individuals are.

Chapter 4: **Hazard Mitigation and Risk Assessment** contains five areas of study for each participating jurisdiction: **Risk Assessment, Hazard Identification, Vulnerability Assessment, Estimating Potential Losses, and Analyzing Development Trends**. Historical data is used to identify and prioritize appropriate mitigation actions that will reduce/eliminate losses from potential hazards. HAZUS-MH software was also utilized to assist with estimating potential losses from future impacts.

Chapter 5: **Mitigation Strategy** includes the goals and objectives that were developed to provide a strong foundation for implementing hazard mitigation strategies in each of the participating jurisdictions. Individual **Actions** were identified by goal and objective and include a mitigation group and priority. An **implementation** process is also defined which includes how **priorities** were established. **Funding Sources** and Hazard Mitigation Assistance eligibility criteria are also included.

Chapter 6: **Capability Assessment** on the ability of the jurisdictions to implement strategies and **incorporate mitigation principles into other planning initiatives**.

Chapter 7: **Plan Maintenance** presents the process in which the Council and other identified departments will ensure that the Plan is integrated with all other planning documents, regulations, and ordinances and that the public is engaged in any and all updates. Procedures are also defined in evaluating the effectiveness of mitigation actions and the status of pending/in process projects.

There came for consideration of the Mayor and Members of the Council of the City of Gautier, Mississippi, the following:

ORDER NUMBER 022-2013

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED by the Mayor and Members of the Council of the City of Gautier, Mississippi, that three (3) Part-time Firefighter positions and job description for the Gautier Fire Department are hereby approved.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the City Manager or City Clerk is authorized to execute any and all documents necessary.

Motion was made by Councilman Macfarland, seconded by Councilwoman Martin and the following vote was recorded:

AYES: Tommy Fortenberry
Johnny Jones
Hurley Ray Guillotte
Gordon Gollott
Mary Martin
Scott Macfarland
Adam Colledge

NAYS: None

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

PASSED AND ADOPTED BLANK by Mayor and Members of the Council of the City of Gautier, Mississippi, at the meeting of February 5, 2013.

**CITY OF GAUTIER
MEMORANDUM**

To: Samantha Abell, City Manager
From: Jason Pugh, Human Resources Director
Date: January 28, 2013
Subject: Request to Approve Three (3) Part-time Firefighter Positions

REQUEST:

The Human Resources Department requests that the Gautier City Council consider approving the creation of three (3) part-time firefighter positions at a pay rate of \$10.00 per hour.

BACKGROUND:

With the approval of the budget for 2013, the Gautier City Council approved a modification to the firefighters' monthly schedule to reduce built in overtime. During those budget discussions, the hiring of part-time firefighters and the creation of a part-time firefighter program were also discussed as a means to further reduce overtime costs.

DISCUSSION:

A proposed part-time firefighter program has been developed and awaits implementation. However, before the program can be implemented, the fire department's authorized strength should be increased to include three (3) part-time firefighter positions. These part-time firefighters will be utilized to ensure the fire shifts are maintained at a minimum safe staffing level when full-time firefighters are away from work on leave.

Part-time firefighters will be paid a rate of \$10.00 per hour, plus FICA, Workers' Compensation and PERS contributions. Part-time firefighters will be paid out of the approved overtime budget for FY 2012/2013.

The benefits of hiring part-time firefighters are monetary savings to the city due to not paying a full-time firefighter overtime to cover an undermanned fire shift. Furthermore, fire protection services should not decrease as the part-time firefighter will be state certified and trained in firefighting per State of Mississippi minimum standards.

** Full-time firefighters' overtime rates vary between \$16.13 - \$23.27 per hour plus and city contributions for FICA, Workers' Compensation, and PERS.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Human Resources Department recommends that the Gautier City Council approve the three (3) part-time firefighter positions.

ATTACHMENT(S):

Part-Time Firefighter Job Description

**FIREFIGHTER
(Part-time)**

Pay Rate: \$10.00 per hour

NATURE OF WORK

This is skilled public safety work involving the protection of life and property through firefighting. Work involves an element of danger and incumbent must be able to exercise independent discretion in emergencies.

Firefighting duties include: training and participation in the operation of department apparatus and the performance of hazardous duties under emergency conditions; combating, extinguishing, and preventing fires; and routine maintenance of equipment, apparatus, and quarters. Work may require strenuous exertion under such handicaps as smoke, fire, heat, and cramped surroundings.

Work is normally performed under close supervision in accordance with established policies and procedures. Supervision is received from superior officers who review work methods and results for adherence to standards through accomplishments, personal inspection, review of written reports covering activities, and discussion.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF WORK

(Any one position of this class may not include all duties listed, nor do listed examples include all duties which may be found in positions of this class.)

Work involves knowledge, skills, and abilities in the following areas:

Rules and Regulations	Fire Department Apparatus
Hose Lays	Fire Chemistry
Ladder Raises	Fire Service Hydraulics
Rescue & Protective Breathing	First Aid
Ventilation	Salvage & Overhaul
Forcible Entry	Portable Fire Extinguisher
Rope Slides, Knot Tying	Fire Prevention
Physical Training	Basic Tools & Their Use

Responds to fire alarms with a company; lays and connects hose; holds nozzles and directs water streams; climbs ladders; uses chemical fire extinguisher, bars, hooks, lines and other equipment.

Participates in fire drills; and studies assigned materials relating to firefighting, fire prevention, and EMS.

Ventilates burning buildings by opening windows and skylights or by chopping holes in roofs and floors.

Removes persons from danger; administers first aid to injured persons; performs salvage operations such as sweeping water, and removing debris.

Inspects buildings and premises for familiarization; checks for fire hazards.

May drive and operate motor driven equipment under special instructions and limited conditions on relief basis.

Performs other duties as determined by Fire Chief or supervisor.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, ABILITIES AND SKILLS

Knowledge of English, spelling, and math.

Knowledge of occupational hazards involved in the work and the safety precautions for safe performance of the job.

City of Gautier
City Manager _____

Date _____

**FIREFIGHTER
(Part-time)**

Ability to act quickly and calmly in emergency situations; to determine proper course of action in various dangerous situations, and use sound judgment in handling them.

Ability to read and write.

Ability to understand and follow oral and written instructions.

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relations with co-workers and the public.

Ability and physical strength to do prolonged and arduous work.

Ability to climb ladders and work at considerable heights.

Ability to bend and crawl in cramped area.

Ability to lift, carry, push or pull heavy loads.

Ability to react to change productively and to handle other tasks as assigned.

Must maintain a valid Mississippi vehicle operator's license.

MINIMUM REQUIRED EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

Graduation from a high school or acceptable equivalent.

MINIMUM SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS-FIRE FIGHTER

1. Must be 21 years of age.
2. Must be Firefighter 1001 qualified.
3. Applicant(s) with Firefighter 1001 and 1002 will be given preference.