

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Millions of dollars are spent each year on disaster response and recovery. By undertaking hazard mitigation, state, local, and tribal governments can reduce these costs and minimize the impacts of potentially disastrous events. Hazard mitigation can also be considered disaster prevention and encourages the development of disaster resilient communities.

The Wisconsin Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan profiles hazards, identifies risks and vulnerabilities, and proposes strategies and actions to reduce risks to people, property, the economy, the environment and infrastructure. Even though Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) is the lead agency for the hazard mitigation program in Wisconsin, this Plan is a multi-agency and statewide document that helps outline how Wisconsin invests in hazard mitigation measures in terms of funding, technical assistance, time, and other resources across the state.

Ultimately, the Plan strives to help protect the health, safety, property, environment, and economy of Wisconsin from the effects of natural hazards. In this five-year update, all sections of the Plan were reviewed and revised. This process includes updating data and demographics (where applicable), risk assessments with a focus on climate change impacts, mitigation goals, strategies, action items, and other pertinent information.

In January 2016, core agencies on the Wisconsin Hazard Mitigation Team (WHMT) signed an official charter to become the Wisconsin Silver Jackets Hazard Mitigation Team (WSJHMT). Those core agencies are:

- U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Wisconsin Emergency Management
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- US Geological Survey
- National Weather Service

The Charter also identifies the rest of the WHMT members as supporting agencies. The charter did not change how the WHMT operated but formalized what the team had been doing for over 15 years at the state level. The WSJHMT has been active during the five-year planning cycle to implement the plan, monitor progress, and identify key opportunities for advancing mitigation in Wisconsin.

The WSJHMT established a set of five State Hazard Mitigation Goals:

1. Minimize human, economic, and environmental disruption and reduce the potential for injury and loss of life from natural, technological, and manmade hazards.
2. Enhance public education about disaster preparedness and resilience, and expand public awareness of natural, technological, and manmade hazards.

3. Encourage and promote continued comprehensive hazard mitigation planning and implementation of the plan.
4. Support coordination and collaboration among federal, state, and local authorities, and non-governmental organizations regarding hazard mitigation activities.
5. Improve the disaster resistance of buildings, structures, and infrastructure whether new construction, expansion, or renovation.

The State of Wisconsin Hazard Mitigation Plan is primarily a natural hazard mitigation plan, and the Plan has evolved over time. Starting in the previous plan update in 2016, Wisconsin began incorporating technological and human-caused hazards into the risk assessment. This update builds upon the Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategy that were developed in 2005 and updated in 2008, 2011 and 2016. In addition, other plan elements were updated as needed to incorporate new information about hazards that threaten Wisconsin as well as changes to agency programs that address hazards.

The State of Wisconsin Hazard Mitigation Plan is organized to closely follow the planning requirements found in 44 CFR Parts 201.4 and 201.5.

How to Read This Plan

Section 1 serves as an introduction to the Plan. It includes the purpose and scope of the plan and identifies the regulations and assurances [201.4(c)(6) and 201.4(c)(7)]. It further acknowledges and thanks the members of the Wisconsin Silver Jackets Hazard Mitigation Team for their efforts in this ongoing process. Finally, included in the introduction is background information on the State of Wisconsin. Every effort has been made to use the best available data for the update.

Section 2 describes and details the planning process used in update of the Plan including how it was prepared, who was involved, and how other agencies participated in the process [201.4(c)(1)].

Section 3, the Mitigation Strategy, identifies the state's strategy for reducing the losses identified in the Wisconsin Risk Assessment [201.4(c)(3)]. The section identifies the state's mitigation goals to guide the selection of activities to mitigate and reduce losses. These goals were reviewed and revised during the 2021 Plan update process. Included is a State Capability Assessment (SCA) that provides a summary of state policies, laws, regulations, programs, and capabilities that exist and support mitigation. The SCA was updated by several state agencies, divisions of these agencies, and WEM. A major component of the Mitigation Strategy is the specific mitigation actions that state agencies will implement. The mitigation actions are listed by lead agency tasked with ensuring the actions are implemented and identify support agencies that assist with the task. Each lead and support agency reviewed, made updates, and reported on each action's status (i.e., deleted, completed, ongoing, etc.). The section ends with an updated discussion regarding hazard mitigation funding and information related to potential funding sources for implementing mitigation measures at the state and local levels.

Section 4 describes the state's process for supporting, through funding and technical assistance, the development of local hazard mitigation plans [201.4(c)(4)]. It highlights the progress Wisconsin has made over the last five years in local mitigation planning. It also describes how the state coordinates with local jurisdictions to encourage and support all-hazards mitigation planning. In addition, the section highlights some of the recent trends in Wisconsin for local mitigation planning. This includes local plans that are addressing climate change, as well as some of the trends in natural hazards that counties identify.

Section 5 describes the Plan Maintenance Process and includes the method and schedule for monitoring, evaluating, and updating the plan. It identifies how the state monitors project implementation closeouts, and reviews progress on achieving the goals of the Plan as well as the activities and projects in the Mitigation Strategy [201.4(c)(5)].

Section 6 describes and details the State's Comprehensive Hazard Mitigation Program [201.5(b)]. It describes the coordination among the state, federal, and other agencies and how the plan will be integrated with other state and federal planning efforts [201.4(b)].

Section 7, the conclusion of the Plan, acknowledges the adequacy of state hazard mitigation programs, which were tested and matured during a succession of disasters since the 1990s.

For this update, the plan was reorganized, and there were some significant changes made to the Risk Assessment. The plan contained information that was duplicated sometimes in two or three sections. As in the previous update, in this update duplication was reduced by combining several sections and deleting several appendices.

The most significant change is with Appendix A, the Risk Assessment. The State's Threat Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) encompasses natural hazards as well as technological and human-caused hazards. The THIRA includes a new climate change section and eight natural hazards that were reclassified for this update: Severe Weather encompasses high winds, tornados, hail, and lightning; Flooding; Dam Failure; Landslide and Land Subsidence; Coastal Hazards; Winter Storms and Extreme Cold; Wildfires; Drought and Extreme Heat; Winter Storms and Extreme Cold; and Wildfires. On the technological side of the hazards, there are seven identified in the plan: Radiological Release; Hazardous Materials Incident; Disruption of Lifelines; Emerging Infectious Disease, Including Pandemic Influenza; Food and Agriculture Emergency; Cyber Attack; and Terrorism, Including Active Shooter and Civil Disturbances. Except for radiological release, the technological hazards were not updated for 2021. They will be updated and added as an amendment to the plan in 2022, as the THIRA/SPR is amended and updated to include expanded analysis of technological hazards. The THIRA includes the nature of the hazard; history; probability, vulnerability, and mitigation potential; catastrophic scenario; and a consequence analysis. The THIRA is Appendix A to the State Plan. The State-Owned or Operated Critical Facility Risk Assessment is an attachment to the THIRA (Section 4.0).

Other Plan appendices contain documentation regarding the history of the state's federal disaster declarations, hazard mitigation projects completed in the state, the Wisconsin Repetitive Loss Report, the State Administrative Plan for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program,

state and federal authorities for the Plan, and other reference materials.

2021 State Plan Update Summary

Plan Section	Description of Update
Section 1: Introduction	Updated disaster declaration information and demographic data.
Section 2: Planning Process	Updated planning process including information about the WSJHMT, facts, figures, and statistics.
Section 3: Mitigation Strategy	Updated the mitigation strategy, State Capability Assessment, and potential funding table for most state agencies and partners, as well as for WEM.
Section 4: Coordination of Local Mitigation Planning	Updated programs, local mitigation plan progress, planning costs, planning guidance, and planning maps; highlighted local plans that have included climate change.
Section 5: Plan Maintenance Process	Updated plan maintenance process and future plan update schedule.
Section 6: Comprehensive State Hazard Mitigation Program	Updated comprehensive mitigation programs, regional and other planning initiatives, assessment of mitigation actions, and integration with FEMA mitigation programs and initiatives.
Section 7: Conclusion	Updated data, statistics, and programs
Appendix A: Threat Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA)	Reclassified hazards from 2016 plan, added a climate change section, and updated all 8 natural hazards and 1 technological hazard.
Appendix B: History of Federal Disaster Declarations	Updated to include declarations 4343, 4383, 4402, 4459, 4477, and 4520.
Appendix C: Mitigation Projects	Updated to include BRIC and additional grants funded since 2016. Due to expansion of CDBG grants, only grants from 2017-2021 are included in their two tables.
Appendix D: Repetitive Loss Report	Updated repetitive loss report with current data.
Appendix E: Wisconsin Silver Jackets Hazard Mitigation Team	Updated to include current membership roster.
Appendix F: HMGP Administrative Plan	Updated to November 2021 Administrative Plan (DR-4520), as approved on November 19, 2021.
Appendix G: Authorities	Reviewed and updated as necessary.
Appendix H: Acronyms	Updated.
Appendix I: State Agency Concurrences	Updated with current state agency concurrences.
Appendix J: State Plan Review Tool	Completed on November 22, 2021.
Appendix K: Best Practices and LAS	New appendix in 2021 to detail Loss Avoidance Studies and best practices.