

**ADOPTION RESOLUTION SAMPLE**

(Name of Jurisdiction) Town of Barre, County of Orleans, New York

(Governing Body) Barre Town Council

(Address) 14317 West Barre Road, Albion, New York 14411

**RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the Town of Barre, with the assistance from Tetra Tech, Inc., has gathered information and prepared the Orleans County Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Orleans County Hazard Mitigation Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Barre is a local unit of government that has afforded the citizens an opportunity to comment and provide input in the Plan and the actions in the Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Barre has reviewed the Plan and affirms that the Plan will be updated no less than every five years;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Barre Town Council that the Town of Barre adopts the Orleans County Hazard Mitigation Plan as this jurisdiction's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, and resolves to execute the actions in the Plan.

ADOPTED this **xth day of November, 2021** at the meeting of the Barre Town Council.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Supervisor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Clerk)





# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2021 update to the Orleans County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) was prepared in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000). DMA 2000 requires states and local governments to prepare HMPs to remain eligible to receive pre-disaster mitigation grant funds available in the wake of federally declared disasters. Importantly, pre-disaster mitigation grant funds are separate and distinct from federal and state funds available for direct post-disaster relief (i.e., Public Assistance [PA] and Individual Assistance [IA]). Availability of those funds remains unchanged: if a federally declared disaster occurs in Orleans County, affected municipalities may still receive immediate recovery assistance regardless of their participation in this HMP. However, DMA 2000 improves the disaster planning process by (1) increasing requirements for hazard mitigation planning, and (2) necessitating that participating municipalities document their hazard mitigation planning process and identify hazards, potential losses, mitigation needs, goals, and strategies.

**Hazard Mitigation** is any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk and effects that can result from specific hazards

FEMA defines a **Hazard Mitigation Plan** as documentation of a state or local government's evaluation of natural hazards and strategy to mitigate such hazards.

## Orleans County Multi-Jurisdictional Planning Process

Orleans County developed and adopted the Orleans County HMP in 2008. DMA 2000 regulations require that local plans be formally updated and adopted every five (5) years, reassessing risk and updating local strategies to manage and mitigate those risks. However, municipalities in Orleans County did not see the value of updating the plan and it expired in 2013. The HMP is being updated now, because recent lake flooding and other events have shown the need for it again. Extensive outreach efforts were undertaken by the Orleans County Department of Planning and Development, resulting in participation from all 14 municipalities. Upon completion and approval of the HMP, participating jurisdictions will continue to address and implement the findings and recommendations of this HMP.

Table ES-1 lists local governments that actively participated in the HMP update process to achieve or maintain their compliance with DMA 2000 requirements.

**Table ES-1. Participating Jurisdictions in the 2021 Orleans County HMP Update**

Jurisdictions		
Orleans County	Clarendon (T)	Medina (V)
Albion (T)	Gaines (T)	Murray (T)
Albion (V)	Holley (V)	Ridgeway (T)
Barre (T)	Kendall (T)	Shelby (T)
Carlton (T)	Lyndonville (V)	Yates (T)

During this HMP update process, Orleans County and the participating jurisdictions accomplished the following:

- Developed a Steering Committee and Planning Partnership
- Reviewed and updated the hazards of concern
- Profiled and prioritized these hazards
- Estimated inventory at risk and potential losses associated with these hazards
- Reviewed and updated hazard mitigation goals and objectives
- Reviewed and updated county and local mitigation strategies to address identified risks and vulnerabilities





- Updated and developed maintenance procedures to be executed upon approval of the HMP.

As required by DMA 2000, Orleans County and the participating jurisdictions have informed the public about HMP update efforts and have provided opportunities for public comment and input regarding the planning process. In addition, numerous agencies and stakeholders have participated as core or support members to provide input and expertise to the planning process. This HMP documents the process and outcomes of the mitigation planning efforts of the jurisdictions.

Orleans County and the participating jurisdictions incorporate mitigation planning as an integral component of daily government operations through existing processes and programs. Announcements regarding the planning process were publicized via public notice, Orleans County Office of Emergency Management social media, and on the Orleans County HMP website (<https://orleanscountyny.com/hazard-mitigation-plan/>). The website also offered the general public an opportunity to provide input through a community survey. Additional surveys were sent to stakeholder groups (e.g., emergency response agencies, hospitals and healthcare facilities) The Orleans County Department of Planning and Development also developed a problem area identification survey and advertised it via email to municipalities and on the Orleans County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Facebook page. Updates to the HMP will be similarly announced after annual plan reviews and 5-year updates. The survey asked quantifiable questions about citizen perception of risk, knowledge of mitigation, and support of community programs. The County HMP Coordinator at the Orleans County Department of Planning and Development and local planning partnership representatives will be responsible for receiving, tracking, and filing public comments regarding this HMP.

### Orleans County Hazard Mitigation Plan Adoption

Once the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) formally approves this HMP update, Orleans County and all participating jurisdictions will be required to formally adopt the updated HMP. A sample copy of an adoption resolution is in Appendix A.

### Orleans County Profile

According to 2018 ACS 5-year U.S. Census data, Orleans County had an estimated population of 41,175. Orleans County is located along the southern shore of Lake Ontario in western New York. Lake Ontario is a primary feature of Orleans County and it borders the northern edge of the county. The County Seat is located in the Village of Albion.

Development increases population and structures; therefore, development can increase impacts of hazards on a community. For example, heavy development planned for a flood-prone area would likely increase the impact of a flood event in that area.

The HMP provides a general overview of current and anticipated population and land use within the county. This information provides a basis for decisions about types of mitigation approaches to consider and locations at which to apply these approaches. Anticipated population and land use information can also be used to support decisions regarding future development in vulnerable areas. The county and jurisdictions can plan ahead to mitigate increases in vulnerabilities early in the development process or can shift development to areas of lower risk. The Steering Committee will revisit the HMP regularly to: (1) ensure that mitigation actions support sustainability and minimize increased risk, and (2) support implementation and targeting of specific mitigation actions to address potential impacts of development over time.

### Risk Assessment

A key component of an HMP is accurate identification of risks posed by hazards and corresponding impacts on the community. The process of identifying hazards of concern, profiling hazard events, and conducting a vulnerability assessment is known as a risk assessment. The risk assessment portion of the mitigation planning process included the steps shown on Figure ES-1. Each step is summarized below.



*Step 1:* Identify hazards of concern. Orleans County considered the full range of natural and non-natural hazards that could impact the county, and then identified and ranked hazards of greatest concern. The following list of 10 hazards of concern was selected for further evaluation in the HMP:

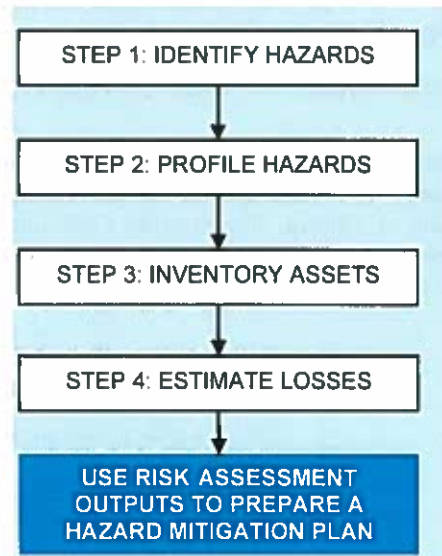
- Dam Failure
- Earthquake
- Epidemic/Pandemic
- Flood
- Fuel Shortage
- Hazardous Materials
- Landslide
- Severe Storm
- Severe Winter Storm
- Utility Failure

*Step 2:* Prepare a profile of each hazard of concern. These profiles assist communities in evaluating and comparing hazards that can impact their areas. Each type of hazard has unique characteristics that vary from event to event. That is, impacts associated with a specific hazard can vary depending on the magnitude and location of each event (a hazard event is a specific, uninterrupted occurrence of a particular type of hazard). Further, probability of occurrence of a hazard at a given location affects the priority assigned to that hazard. Finally, each hazard impacts different communities in different ways, depending on geography, local development, population distribution, age of buildings, and mitigation measures already implemented.

*Steps 3 and 4:* Evaluate community assets and identify assets exposed or vulnerable to the identified hazards of concern. Hazard profile information (combined with data regarding population, demographics, general building stock, and critical facilities at risk) prepares the community to develop risk scenarios and estimate potential damage and losses from each hazard.

Overall vulnerability of Orleans County to the hazards of concern cannot be overestimated. Frequent severe storms result in wind damage and flooding that can affect residents, businesses, and government services. National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) statistics for Orleans County, as of August 2020, identify approximately 70 NFIP policies in force and paid claims since 1978 of over \$130,000.

**Figure ES-1. Risk Assessment Process**





## Orleans County Mitigation Strategy

Outcomes of the risk assessment, supplemented by community input, provided a basis for reviewing past mitigation actions, future goals, and appropriate local mitigation actions.

### Mission Statement, Goals, and Objectives

The 2008 HMP specified 5 overarching mitigation goals that summarized hazard reduction outcomes Orleans County and participating jurisdictions want to achieve. The Steering Committee reviewed those 5 mitigation goals and elected to edit them to the following three mitigation goals and 11 associated objectives:

- Protect life, property, and critical infrastructure from the impacts of natural, technological, and human-caused hazards.
  - Retrofit critical infrastructure to protect against hazard impacts.
  - Enhance stormwater management infrastructure.
  - Ensure that critical facilities can continue to function during and after hazard impacts.
  - Acquire, retrofit, or relocate structures from flood-prone areas.
  - Encourage residents and business owners to insure their property against hazard impacts, including obtaining flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).
- Reduce the risk of hazards on life, property, and the environment.
  - Develop and/or update local regulations based on current information and best practices.
  - Maintain natural systems such as wetlands and aquifers to reduce the impacts of hazards.
  - Integrate long-term county, municipal, and regional plans to reduce long-term vulnerability to hazards.
  - Plan and prepare for the long-term risks of climate change on hazards.
- Educate the public, officials, and other stakeholders about the hazards they face and what can be done to mitigate hazard impacts.
  - Provide training opportunities to local officials regarding regulatory issues and best practices.
  - Increase public awareness of the risks associated with hazards, and strategies that can be adopted to lessen their impacts.

The mitigation strategy portion of the HMP includes:

- A summary of past and current mitigation efforts
- Local hazard mitigation goals and objectives
- Identification and analysis of mitigation measures and projects under consideration
- Multi-jurisdictional mitigation strategy (goals and objectives)
- Mitigation action plan (summary of specific actions)

### Capability Assessment

Capability assessments were prepared for Orleans County and each participating jurisdiction. A capability assessment is an inventory of a community's missions, programs, and policies and an analysis of its capacity to implement them. This assessment is an integral part of the planning process. The capability assessment process includes identification, review, and analysis of current local and state programs, policies, regulations, funding, and practices that may either facilitate or hinder mitigation.

### Identification, Prioritization, Analysis, and Implementation of Mitigation Actions

As part of the planning process for this HMP update, all participating jurisdictions evaluated their risks and known or anticipated losses to the hazards of concern, assessed their capabilities to manage hazard risk, reviewed progress on past mitigation efforts, and identified a comprehensive range of mitigation alternatives and actions to implement as resources are identified and available. The HMP identifies all proposed mitigation actions relevant to achievement of the goals and objectives presented above. Orleans County and participating jurisdictions have identified appropriate local mitigation actions along with hazards mitigated, goals and





objectives met, lead agencies, estimated costs, potential funding sources, and proposed timeline. These actions are identified in Volume II, Section 9, for Orleans County and for each participating jurisdiction.

### **Plan Maintenance Procedures**

Hazard mitigation planning is an ongoing process. Section 7 of this plan presents procedures for HMP maintenance and updates. The Steering Committee will continue ongoing mitigation efforts to implement the HMP and revise and update the HMP as necessary.

To monitor implementation of the HMP, Planning Partnership members will meet annually to discuss the implementation status and will prepare a report summarizing the status of the HMP and any needed updates. The mitigation evaluation will address changes as new hazard events occur, as the area develops, and as more is learned about hazards and their impacts. The evaluation will include an assessment of whether the planning process and actions have been effective, whether development or other issues warrant changes to the HMP or its priorities, progress toward achievement of the county goals, and whether changes are warranted. The HMP will be updated, at a minimum, within the 5-year cycle specified by DMA 2000.

### **Point of Contact**

To request information or provide comments regarding this HMP, please contact the Orleans County Department of Planning and Development:

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14016 NY-31  
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