

DRAFT PROBLEM STATEMENTS FOR CHAMPAIGN COUNTY ALL NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

SEVERE STORMS

The Core Group has prioritized this hazard as their number one concern. Severe storms occur throughout the year in Champaign County, and historically have had a significant impact on the community as a whole and for the individual municipalities.

2005 Core Group Developed Problem Statements

There is a lack of Public Service Announcements (PSA's) in Champaign County as they relate to severe storms.

- ✚ ***Increase public awareness by the development of innovative Public Service Announcements.***

2012 Update

- 1) Champaign County utilizes the local cable channel (channel 13) for periodic P.A. messaging.
- 2) The purchase of the CodeRed notification system has also been used for P.A.
- 3) Since 2011 EMA has had a continuing presence at the county fair distributing P.A. information/literature.

Champaign County residents are accustomed to dealing with severe storms, which creates some apathy as it relates to the seriousness of an event.

- ✚ ***Evaluate other communities and how they “react” and/or “respond” to severe storms and make the public aware.***

2012 Update

- 1) It was found that other counties use a “one call” type of phone notification system. Champaign County has purchased the CodeRed Weather Warning to increase coverage and notification for the population.

Emergency Response resources are strained when a severe storm event occurs in Champaign County, which causes problems in response time and communications between emergency response entities.

- ✚ ***Evaluate existing plan, Champaign County Emergency Operating Plan, to see if it needs updated. Utilizing existing emergency response plans in existence (i.e. – Xenia’s plan.)***

2012 Update

- 1) Upgraded communications capabilities with the opening of a single countywide emergency dispatch center.

All communities located in Champaign County may not be able to communicate with each other based on the type of communication utilized within a particular community (i.e., actual equipment used, radios, etc.).

- ✚ ***Seek funding for better, more reliable, interoperable communication between the municipalities within Champaign County.***

2012 Update

- 1) Homeland Security funds have been used to create a more robust network of Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) group by purchasing radios that are housed at all local fire departments, the 911 center, and the local hospital.

There needs to be better communication between Champaign County, surrounding counties, and state and federal government agencies during and after severe storm events.

- ✚ ***Foster better communication efforts between Champaign County and its municipalities with surrounding counties and other agencies within the State of Ohio.***

2012 Update

- 1) Homeland Security funds have been used to create a more robust network of Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) group by purchasing radios that are housed at all local fire departments, the 911 center, and the local hospital.
- 2) Local agencies (EMA, 911 Center, and Sheriff) have met regionally with local partners in an effort to improve regional communications.

Severe Storms can have drastic effects on public and critical utilities in Champaign County.

- ✚ ***Seek funding for better preparedness for first responders within Champaign County.***

2012 Update

- 1) Homeland Security funds have been used to purchase a self-contained communications trailer and a mass casualty trailer to support first responder activities.

There is a lack of lightning detection equipment in Champaign County.

- ✚ ***Evaluate the need for lightning detection equipment for the County and Municipal Parks.***

- ✚ ***Seek funding for lightning detection equipment within Champaign County's public Park Systems.***

Overall Goal: To increase awareness of severe storms and the reduction of property damage.

FLOODING (Including 100-year flood zone, non-flood zone, and flash flooding)

The Core Group has decided to prioritize the natural hazard of flooding as their second highest rated concern. Flooding occurs periodically throughout the year in Champaign County and has had severe affects on several communities within the county.

2005 Core Group Developed Hazard Exposure Statements

Flooding continues to cause property damage both inside and outside of the 100-year Floodplain.

- ✚ Evaluate the potential of increased standards for developing within the 100-year Floodplain.***

There is a need to identify and decipher between floodplain and flood-prone locations within Champaign County.

- ✚ Work with the County Engineers Department to determine flood-prone properties and designate them as flood-prone properties utilizing GIS.***

Multiple rescue operations are needed when flood events occur, leading to increased taxing of emergency response both during and after events.

- ✚ Evaluate existing emergency operations within the County and determine the needs across Champaign for handling a severe storm (large scale) disaster.***

There is not sufficient warning time as it relates to flooding in some areas of Champaign County.

- ✚ Evaluate what other communities are doing as it relates to communication techniques and real time information.***

2012 Update

1) Code Red Weather Warning creates a layer for notification of Flash Flood Warnings from the NWS. Residents are encouraged to sign up for this notification as part of an on-going public education program

There is a need for improved operations to help those residents affected by flood events.

- ✚ Seek funding to increase the number of rain gauges within the metropolitan area of Champaign County, such as Urbana.***
- ✚ Evaluate existing method for helping disaster victims determine needed area of improvement.***

Basement flooding is a problem throughout the County during flooding and storm events.

- ✚ Determine area of concern, with a comprehensive study and mapping of such areas.***

2012 Update

1) The EMA has been working with the City of Urbana which has had repeated flooding of basements in the Northwest quarter.

2) Studies have been conducted and work is being planned to increase flow to storm sewers and Dugans Run.

There is no effort to make the general public aware of high hazard areas through an educational program.

✚ ***Increase public awareness of high hazard areas, such as floodplains through educational outreach.***

Youth play in high flood hazard areas. There needs to be further education focused on youth and the general public about the potential for danger.

✚ ***Target youth in “K – 12” to educate on the hazards of playing in highly hazardous areas such as drainage basins, floodplains, etc.***

Residents often drive through standing floodwaters.

✚ ***Evaluate what other communities are doing, as it relates to educating people of the hazards of high water and driving through standing water.***

Flooding repeatedly damages existing structures in 100-year floodplain.

✚ ***Target structures within communities that have been repeatedly flooded with education, buy-outs. First, must determine where these structures are located.***

Overall Goal: *To save lives and property, reduce damage and to increase education (awareness) of community.*

TORNADOES

The Core Group has prioritized the natural hazard of tornadoes as their third highest concern. Tornadoes occur sporadically throughout the County, which has limited capacity to handle the damages caused by this hazard. Champaign’s geography of flat terrain lends itself to severe wind and tornadoes.

2005 Core Group Developed Problem Statements

There is a lack of an all inclusive and inter-operable warning system throughout Champaign County.

✚ ***Seek funding for an interoperable siren system that would cover all of Champaign County.***

Individual community’s must rely on Sheriff’s Department to actuate sirens and are unable to actuate the siren themselves only after a formal protocol is followed by the Sheriff’s Department to verify the sighting of a funnel cloud.

✚ ***Evaluate current system and determine needed area of improvement. Communicate with Sheriff’s Department about concern and need for change.***

2012 Update

- 1) Code Red Weather Warning is an automated warning system that is launched immediately following an alert by NWS.
- 2) This will replaced the older, antiquated siren system at the end of 2012

Current 911 procedures for dealing with tornado sightings need re-evaluated.

 ***No action.***

2012 Update

- 1) Weather Spotter classes by the NWS has been conducted in the Spring of 2009, 2010, and 2011 adding over 120 new “sets of eyes” in the field.

There is a lack of public education and outreach to for the general public concerning tornadoes.

 ***Increase public awareness of tornadoes by targeting “K-12”; evaluate current programs for improvement.***

There are no tornado shelters or permanent structures near mobile home communities.

 ***Conduct study to determine existing facilities; determine where the gaps are as it relates to shelters.***

Tornado events, specifically the resulting debris removal, are very taxing on communities.

 ***Evaluate existing program for coordination of municipalities after disaster clean-up and update Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) with changes.***

There is a lack of coordination for volunteers after an event.

 ***Develop Volunteer Program for all disasters; update EOP.***

2012 Update

- 1) A partnership has been created and training has been conducted with the Senior Center in the City of Urbana for establishing a VRC.

Transportation routes are severely hampered after a tornado event and there is an inability to redirect due to lack of communication.

 ***Evaluate transportation routes within Champaign County and determine (establish) numerous routes; supplement with communication enhancement.***

Propane tanks are not anchored and are a potential hazard during tornadoes.

 ***Check with Building Dept.***

Individual communities and Champaign County as a whole have an overall lack of supplies to deal with a tornado event.

 ***Evaluate gaps for response and recovery after a tornado and make necessary changes.***

*Animal removal and protection during tornadoes is difficult.

- ✚ *Evaluate current method and removal; make necessary changes in EOP.*

Overall Goal: *To save lives, reduce potential damage, and to increase awareness of the hazards of tornadoes.*

DROUGHTS (SEVERE)

The Core Group has decided to prioritize the natural hazard of droughts and wildfires as their fourth highest concern. Droughts often happen in Champaign County, and the potential for crop damage and property damage from fires can be high.

2005 Core Group Developed Problem Statements

Residential/rural and natural interface exists in many areas of Champaign County increasing the potential for wildfires to cause property damage.

- ✚ *Increase awareness of urban/rural interface and the damage potential of such interface.*

Champaign County, being largely rural, has a problem with residential water wells going dry during severe droughts; this can affect a large population.

- ✚ *Determine areas of concern, based on past events, educate land owners of potential problems, and decide what to do in the event of a severe drought.*

There is a lack of knowledge and public awareness of how droughts can lead to wildfires and damages.

- ✚ *Increase public awareness of how droughts can lead to wildfires.*

There is a lack of Crop Insurance across the county and no marketing to farmers to carry such.

- ✚ *Coordinate with the local PSA to increase awareness of Crop Insurance.*

Overall Goal: *To reduce potential damage and to increase awareness of drought occurrences throughout Champaign County by increased preparedness.*

EARTHQUAKES

The Core Group has decided to prioritize the natural hazard of earthquakes as their fifth highest concern. Earthquakes have rarely occurred in Champaign County, but the potential for damages from earthquakes could be significant.

2005 Core Group Developed Problem Statements - No Action

*There are little or no public awareness campaigns occurring in the County as they relate to the seriousness of earthquakes and how an earthquake could affect the community as a whole.

 ***Increase public awareness by developing an innovative PSA.***

Some infrastructure in Champaign County, including utilities, roads, and buildings, is old and thus more susceptible to earthquake related damage.

 ***Evaluate infra-structure in coordinating with agency responsible to determine areas of concern.***

Overall Goal: *To reduce potential loss of lives and damage of property and to increase awareness.*