

Heidelberg Township, Lehigh County Annex

Hazard Mitigation Plan Points-of-Contact

Primary:

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Alternate:

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Municipal Profile

Heidelberg Township is a suburban rural township located in the northern part of Lehigh County, along the border of Carbon County. It encompasses a land area of approximately 24.7 square miles and has a population of 3,324 (2020 Census). The township is bordered by Lynn Township to the west; Weisenberg Township to the southwest; Lowhill Township to the southeast; North Whitehall Township to the east and southeast; Washington Township to the east; and Carbon County to the north.

Heidelberg Township is mostly drained by the Lehigh River by way of the Jordan Creek (which starts in Heidelberg Township) in the western half of the township and by Mill Creek in the eastern half. However, a small area in the southwest portion of the township is drained by the Maiden Creek into the Schuylkill River.

State Route 309 is the most significant roadway in the township. It travels east-west through the southern part of the township from North Whitehall Township in the east to Lynn Township in the west. Route 100 runs north south from Lowhill Township and meets at a "T" with Route 309 in lower Heidelberg. SR 4024 (Mountain Road) provides the primary east-west corridor in the northern part of the township. SR 4014 (Church Road) and SR 4018 (County Bridge Road, becoming SR 4022 / Best Station Road) are the main north-south connectors within the township.

Municipal Participation

1. Identify municipal stakeholders to be involved in the planning process such as, floodplain administrator, public works, emergency management, engineers, planners, etc., and include their specific role in the process.

Dawn Didra, Administrator/EMC Role: Primary POC, floodplain management, zoning	Kevin Huber, Road Superintendent Role: Secondary Contact,
Geoff Dean, Township Engineer (Keystone Consulting Engineers) Role: GIS	

2. Identify community stakeholders such as; neighborhood groups, religious groups, major employers / businesses, etc., that will be informed and / or involved in the planning process and describe how they will be involved.

There may be some farms that will be involved as our research progresses.

- Describe how the public **will be engaged** in the current planning process (examples, newsletters, social media, etc.), **and how they were engaged** since the 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Current: The Township prints and mails an annual newsletter to all residents since the 1990's. We update our township website with current information. Our Environmental Advisory Council keeps abreast of issue also.

Past: Same

Compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

Topic	Identify source of information, if different from the one listed.	Additional Comments
1. Staff Resources		
Is the Community Floodplain Administrator (FPA) or NFIP Coordinator certified?	Community FPA	N/A
Is floodplain management an auxiliary function?	Community FPA	N/A
Provide an explanation of NFIP administration services (e.g., permit review, GIS, education or outreach, inspections, engineering capability)	Community FPA	N/A
What are the barriers to running an effective NFIP program in the community, if any?	Community FPA	N/A
2. Compliance History		
Is the community in good standing with the NFIP?	State NFIP Coordinator, FEMA NFIP Specialist, or community records	Yes
Are there any outstanding compliance issues (i.e., current violations)?		No
When was the most recent Community Assistance Visits (CAV) or Community Assistance Contact (CAC)?		Unknown
Is a CAV or CAC scheduled or needed?		No
3. Regulation		
When did the community enter the NFIP?	NFIP Community Status Book	1987
Are the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) digital or paper? How are residents assisted with mapping?	Community FPA	N/A
Do floodplain regulations meet or exceed FEMA or State minimum requirements? If so, in what ways?	Community FPA	N/A
Describe the permitting process	Community FPA, State, FEMA NFIP	N/A
4. Insurance Summary		
How many NFIP policies are in the community? What is the total premium and coverage?	State NFIP Coordinator or FEMA NFIP Specialist	N/A

Compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) - *continued*

Topic	Identify source of information, if different from the one listed.	Additional Comments
How many claims have been paid in the community? What is the total amount of paid claims? How many substantial damage claims have there been?	FEMA NFIP or Insurance Specialist	N/A
How many structures are exposed to flood risk within the community?	Community FPA or GIS Analyst	N/A
Describe any areas of flood risk with limited NFIP policy coverage	Community FPA or FEMA Insurance Specialist	N/A
5. Community Rating System (CRS)		
Does the community participate in CRS?	Community FPA, State, or FEMA NFIP	No
If so, what is the community's CRS Class Ranking?	Flood Insurance Manual (http://www.fema.gov/floodinsurancemanual.gov)	N/A
What categories and activities provide CRS points and how can the Class be improved?		N/A
Does the plan include CRS planning requirements?	Community FPA, FEMA CRS Coordinator, or ISO representative	N/A

Community Assets

Community assets are defined to include anything that is important to the character as well as the function of a community, and can be described in four categories, they are; people, economy, natural environment and built environment. Please identify the community assets and location under each category.

1. People

- Concentrations of vulnerable populations such as the elderly, physically or mentally disabled, non-English speaking, and the medically or chemically dependent.

Township keeps an updated list as part of the Lynn / Heidelberg Townships Emergent Management Plan. 2018 update currently being done.

- Types of visiting populations where large numbers of people are concentrated such as visitors for special events and students.

Northwestern Elementary School (part of)
Northwestern High School
Northwestern Middle School
Northwestern Recreation Commission athletic fields

2. Economy

- Major employers, primary economic sectors such as agriculture and commercial centers where losses would have a severe impact on the community.

Agriculture – many local farms
Northwestern Lehigh School District – district offices, part of Northwestern Elementary School, all of the middle school and high school.

3. Natural Environment

- Those areas/features that can provide protective functions that reduce the magnitude of hazard events such as, wetlands or riparian areas, and other environmental features important to protect.

Tributaries to the Jordan Creek

Kittatinny Ridge along the Blue Mountain and base of the Blue Mountain range

4. Built Environment

- Existing structures such as concentrations of buildings may be more vulnerable to hazards based on location, age, construction type, and/or condition of use.

Heidelberg Township Building (municipal offices and garages) – vulnerable to flooding.

- Infrastructure systems such as water and wastewater facilities, power utilities, transportation systems, communication systems, energy pipelines, and storage.

Utility poles along flood-prone road right-of-ways

Underground fiber optic cable along major thoroughfares, i.e. Route 309

- High potential loss facilities such as dams, locations that house hazardous materials, and military and/or civilian defense installations.

Bridges on state and local roadways/routes

- Critical facilities such as hospitals, medical facilities, police and fire stations, emergency operations centers, shelters, schools, and airports/heliports.

Northwestern Lehigh School District – administrative offices, part of the elementary school, all of the middle and high school buildings, and the athletic stadium

Northwestern Recreation Commission athletic fields and storage buildings

Germansville Goodwill Fire Company No. 1

Heidelberg Township Municipal Building

- Cultural/historical resources such as museums, parks, stadiums, etc.

Northwestern Lehigh School District Stadium

Northwestern Recreation Commission athletic fields and park

Capability Assessment

Capability	✓ Regulatory ✓ Tools ✓ Programs	Status			Department / Agency Responsible	Effect on Hazard Loss Reduction: -Supports -Neutral -Hinders	Change since 2018 Plan? + Positive - Negative	Has the 2018 Plan been integrated into the Regulatory Tool/Program ? If so, how?	How can these capabilities be expanded and improved to reduce risk?	Additional Comments
		In Place	Date Adopted or Updated	Under Development						
1. Planning & Regulatory	Comprehensive Plan	X	2022			S				
	Capital Improvement Plan									
	Economic Development Plan									
	Continuity of Operations Plan			X	Heidelberg EMA					
	Stormwater Management Plan / Ordinance	X	2023			S				
	Open Space Management Plan (or Parks/Rec., Greenways Plan)									
	Natural Resource Protection Plan									
	Transportation Plan									
	Historic Preservation Plan									
	Floodplain Management Plan									
	Farmland Preservation	X	5/12/11		Township	S	+			
	Evacuation Plan									
	Disaster Recovery Plan									
	Hazard Mitigation Plan	X	2018		Lehigh County	S	+	N/A		Currently updating
	Emergency Operations Plan	X	2022		Heidelberg EMA	S	+			Currently updating
	Zoning Regulations	X	5/12/11		Township					Currently updating
	Floodplain Regulations	X	5/12/11		Township					
	NFIP Participation	X								
	Building Code	X	6/10/04		Township	S	+			
	Fire Code			X						Considering Adoption
	Other									

Capability Assessment - *continued*

Capability	✓ Staff ✓ Personnel ✓ Resources	Yes	No	Department / Agency	Change since 2018 Plan? + Positive - Negative	How can these capabilities be expanded and improved to reduce risk?	Additional Comments
2. Administrative & Technology	Planners (with land use / land development knowledge)	X		LVPC	+	Plan uses to mitigate risk	
	Planners or engineers (with natural and / or human-caused hazards knowledge)	X		Keystone Consulting Engineers	+		
	Engineers or professionals trained in building and / or infrastructure construction practices (including building inspectors)	X		Keystone Consulting Engineers	+	Construct facilities to mitigate risk	
	Emergency Manager	X		Heidelberg EMA	+		
	Floodplain administrator / manager	X		Heidelberg Floodplain Administrator	+		
	Land surveyors	X		Keystone Consulting Engineers	+		
	Staff familiar with the hazards of the community	X		Road Superintendent	+		
	Personnel skilled in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and / or FEMA's HAZUS program	X		Heidelberg EMA	+		
	Grant writers or fiscal staff to handle large / complex grants	X		Keystone Consulting Engineers	+		Increased office staff has improved in house capabilities
	Other						

Capability Assessment - continued

Capability	✓ Staff ✓ Personnel ✓ Resources	Yes	No	Department / Agency	Change since 2018 Plan? + Positive - Negative	How can these capabilities be expanded and improved to reduce risk?	Additional Comments
3. Financial Resources	Capital improvement programming						
	Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)						
	Special purposes taxes	X		Township	+	Raise milage of fire tax as needed	
	Gas / Electricity utility fees						
	Water / Sewer fees						
	Stormwater utility fees						
	Development impact fees	X		Township	No		
	General obligation, revenue, and / or special tax bonds	X		Township	No		
	Partnering arrangements or intergovernmental agreements	X		Township; Heidelberg, Lowhill, Lynn, Weisenberg Townships COG	No		
	Other	X		Northwestern Recreation Commission	No		
4. Education & Outreach	Firewise Communities Certification						
	StormReady Certification						
	Natural disaster or safety-related school programs						
	Ongoing public education or information programs such as, responsible water use, fire safety, household preparedness, and environmental education.	X		Township's Environmental Advisory Council	Yes	Use of Township's website and public seminars	
	Public-private partnership initiatives addressing disaster related issues.						
	Local citizen groups or non-profit organizations focused on environmental protection, emergency preparedness, access and functional needs populations, etc.						
	Other	X		Heidelberg EMA	Yes	Created Facebook page for public outreach, education & notifications	7

Capability Assessment - *continued*

Capability		Degree of Capability			Change since the 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan? If so, how?	Additional Comments
		Limited	Moderate	High		
5. Self – Assessment	Planning and Regulatory		X		No	Small staff and limited finances hinder township's ability
	Administrative and Technical		X		No	Small staff and limited finances hinder township's ability
	Financial		X		No	Small staff and limited finances hinder township's ability
	Education and Outreach			X	Yes	Township EAC is active and is holding seminars/workshops

Known or Anticipated Future Development / Redevelopment

Development / Property Name	Type of Development	Number of Structures	Location	Known Hazard Zone	Description / Status
Heidelberg Heights Subdivision	Single-family housing	10	Heidelberg Heights Road	No	Preliminary plan review

Natural & Non-Natural Event History Specific to Heidelberg Township

Type of Event and Date(s)	FEMA Disaster # (if applicable)	Local Damage(s) or Loss(es)
Winter Storm Jonas – 1/2016	DR-4267-PA	N/A Snow Removal Costs
Pennsylvania COVID-19 Pandemic – 1/2020	DR-4506-PA	Emergency Protective measures to combat COVID-19 Pandemic.

2018 Municipal Action Plan Status

Existing Mitigation Action (from 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan)		Status					Additional Comments
		No Progress / Unknown	In Progress	Continuous	Completed	Discontinued	
1	Pipe replacement for Jones Road Bridge to remedy flooding and drainage issues.			X			
2	Maintain fleet of vehicles and equipment for emergency response.			X			
3	Work with electric utilities to improve primary and secondary line clearing.			X			
4	Continue to support the implementation, monitoring, maintenance, and updating of this Plan, as defined in Section 7.0.			X			
5	Complete the ongoing updates of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans.			X			
6	Create/enhance/maintain mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities for continuity of operations.			X			
7	Work with regional agencies (i.e. County and PEMA) to help develop damage assessment capabilities at the local level through such things as training programs, certification of qualified individuals (e.g. code officials, floodplain managers, engineers).			X			
8	Replace existing emergency school generator with a properly sized unit capable of sustaining sheltering-type actions when needed.			X			

Notes:

1. Actions not carried through to the 2023 Action Plan are so noted.
2. To maintain National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) compliance, actions related to the NFIP were carried through to the 2023 Action Plan even if identified by the municipality as completed.

2023 Mitigation Action Plan

Mitigation Action		Regional Action Category	Mitigation Technique Category	Hazard(s) Addressed	Priority (H / M / L)	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding	Lead Agency / Department	Implementation Schedule	Applies to New and / or Existing Structures
1	Pipe replacement for Jones Road Bridge to remedy flooding and drainage issues.	15	Structure & Infrastructure	Flooding	Medium	Medium	Township Budget	Township	N/A	Existing
2	Maintain fleet of vehicles and equipment for emergency response.	19	Structure & Infrastructure	All	High	Medium	Township Budget; available public protection & emergency services grant programs	Township	Ongoing	N/A
3	Work with electric utilities to improve primary and secondary line clearing.	21	Structure & Infrastructure	Windstorm/ Tornado, Winter Storm, Utility Interruption	High	Medium	Township Budget	Township working with electric utilities	Short-term	Existing
4	Continue to support the implementation, monitoring, maintenance, and updating of this Plan, as defined in Section 7.0.	9	All Categories	All Hazards	High	Low-High (for 5 year update)	Municipal Budget, possibly FEMA Mitigation Grant Funding for 5-year update	Municipality (via mitigation planning point of contacts) w/ support from Planning Partners (through their Points of Contact), PEMA	Ongoing	New & Existing
5	Complete the ongoing updates of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans.	10	Local plans & Regulations	All Hazards	Medium	Low	Municipal Budget	Municipality w/ support from PEMA	Ongoing	New & Existing

2023 Mitigation Action Plan - *continued*

Mitigation Action		Regional Action Category	Mitigation Technique Category	Hazard(s) Addressed	Priority (H / M / L)	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding	Lead Agency / Department	Implementation Schedule	Applies to New and / or Existing Structures
6	Create/enhance/maintain mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities for continuity of operations.	11	All Categories	All Hazards	Medium	Low	Municipal Budget	Municipality w/ support from surrounding municipalities and County	Ongoing	New & Existing
7	Work with regional agencies (i.e. County and PEMA) to help develop damage assessment capabilities at the local level through such things as training programs, certification of qualified individuals (e.g. code officials, floodplain managers, engineers).	13	Education & Awareness	All Hazards	Medium	Medium	Municipal budget, FEMA HMA grant programs	Municipality with support from County, PEMA	Short-term (depending upon funding)	N/A
8	Replace existing emergency school generator with a properly sized unit capable of sustaining sheltering-type actions when needed.	17	Structure & Infrastructure	Winter Storm, Utility Interruption	High	\$170,000	Grant with local match	School district, municipality, emergency management coordinator	As funding becomes available	Existing
9	Replace Buckery Road Bridge which collapsed in 2020	N/A	Structure & Infrastructure	All Hazards	Medium	High	Municipal Budget	TBD	TBD	Existing
10	Rehab Rex Road Bridge by replacing aging/deteriorating main beams	N/A	Structure & Infrastructure	All Hazards	Medium	High	Municipal Budget	TBD	TBD	Existing
11	Create plan to replace all aging bridges in order of current level of deterioration	N/A	Local plans & Regulations	All Hazards	Medium	High	Municipal Budget	TBD	TBD	Existing

Notes:

Estimated Costs:

- Where actual project costs have been reasonable estimated: Low = < \$10,000; Medium = \$10,000 to \$100,000; High = > \$100,000;
- Where actual project costs cannot reasonably be established at this time:
 - Low** = Possible to fund under existing budget. Project is part of, or can be part of an existing on-going program.
 - Medium** = Could budget for under existing work plan, but would require a reapportionment of the budget or a budget amendment, or the cost of the project would have to be spread over multiple years.
 - High** = Would require an increase in revenue via an alternative source (i.e., bonds, grants, fee increases) to implement. Existing funding levels are not adequate to cover the costs of the proposed project.

Potential Funding (FEMA HMA):

- **BRIC** = Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities
- **FMA** = Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program
- **HMGP** = Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
- **HSGP** = Homeland Security Grant Program
- **EMPG** = Emergency Management Performance Grant

Implementation Schedule:

- **Short Term** = 1 to 5 years
- **Long Term** = 5 years or greater
- **DOF** = Depending on Funding

Applies to New and/or Existing Structures:

- **N/A** = Not Applicable

