

# **Washington Township, Lehigh County Annex**

## **Hazard Mitigation Plan Points-of-Contact**

### **Primary:**

Sherry Graver  
Emergency Management Coordinator  
7951 Center Street, Emerald, PA 18080  
610-462-5249  
washtwpemc@ptd.net

### **Alternate:**

Wade Marlatt  
Township Manager  
7951 Center Street, Emerald, PA 18080  
610-462-5249  
wade@washingtonlehigh.org

## **Municipal Profile**

Washington Township is a rural township located in the northeastern part of Lehigh County, along the border of Carbon and Northampton Counties. The township encompasses a land area of 23.8 square miles and has a population of 6,551 (2020 Census). Washington Township is bordered by Carbon County to the north; Slatington Borough, Walnutport Borough, and Lehigh Township (both Northampton County) to the east; North Whitehall Township to the south and Heidelberg Township to the west.

Washington Township lies within the Lehigh River Basin of the Lehigh River Watershed. The Lehigh River forms the boundary between Washington Township and Northampton County (except areas where Slatington Borough lies between the township and the river). The major Lehigh River tributaries draining the township are Trout Creek, running east across the township and through Slatington Borough to the Lehigh River; and Mill Creek, draining the southwest corner of the township in a southerly flow into Jordan Creek in Lowhill Township, then proceeding southeast through South Whitehall Township, Whitehall Township, and the City of Allentown before emptying into the Lehigh River.

Washington Township is served by PA Route 873, which crosses north-to-south from PA 248 in Lehigh Gap to major splits, first with PA 329 (points east), and shortly thereafter with PA 309 (points south), both originating in North Whitehall Township. Interstate 476 also traverses the township north south, accessing points north in Carbon County and points south through eastern PA. An important east-west thoroughfare is Mountain Road, which proceeds west from PA 873 in Lehigh Gap across northern Washington Township, heading west towards PA 309.

## **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.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Sherry Graver, Emergency Management Coordinator<br>Role: EMC | Name: Wade Marlatt, Township Manager<br>Role: Township Manager |
|--|--|

*\*please update table as needed*

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.

Fire, Emergency Management Services, Northern Lehigh School District

3. 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: Information will be posted for public meetings on the Township website and the Township's emergency management Facebook page

Past: Same

### Compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

| Topic  | Identify source of information, if different from the one listed.  | Additional Comments |
|--|--|---------------------|
| <b>1. Staff Resources</b>  |  |                     |
| 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, GGIS, 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                 |
| <b>2. Compliance History</b>   |  |                     |
| Is the community in good standing with the NFIP?   | State NFIP Coordinator, FEMA NFIP Specialist, or community records | N/A                 |
| Are there any outstanding compliance issues (i.e., current violations)?  |  | N/A                 |
| When was the most recent Community Assistance Visits (CAV) or Community Assistance Contact (CAC)?  |  | N/A                 |
| Is a CAV or CAC scheduled or needed?   |  | N/A                 |
| <b>3. Regulation</b>   |  |                     |
| When did the community enter the NFIP?   | NFIP Community Status Book   | N/A                 |
| Are the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) digital or paper?<br>How are residents assisted with mapping?  | Community FPA  | N/A                 |
| Do floodplain regulations meet or exceed FEMA or State minimum requirements?<br>If so, in what ways?   | Community FPA  | N/A                 |
| Describe the permitting process  | Community FPA, State, FEMA NFIP                                    | N/A                 |
| <b>4. Insurance Summary</b>  |  |                     |
| How many NFIP policies are in the community?<br>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                 |
| <b>5. Community Rating System (CRS)</b>   |   |                     |
| Does the community participate in CRS?  | Community FPA, State, or FEMA NFIP  | N/A                 |
| If so, what is the community's CRS Class Ranking?   | Flood Insurance Manual<br>( <a href="http://www.fema.gov/floodinsurancemanual.gov">http://www.fema.gov/floodinsurancemanual.gov</a> ) | 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.

Group Home, Slatedale and Slatington  
Peters Elementary School, Slatington

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

None

### 2. Economy

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

Agriculture is the primary business

### 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.

## Community Assets - *continued*

### 4. Built Environment

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

Many of the homes in the township are from the early 1920's.  
We also have a large mobile home park in the township – Glencrest Mobile Home Park.

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

Lehigh County Authority has a supply in western Washington Township and another system for Emerald/Slatedale.

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

Dynamite is maintained at the Penn Big Slate Quarry in Slatedale.

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

Citizen's Fire Co. #1 Slatedale  
Star Horse Co. #1 Emerald  
Frieden Fire Co, Frieden  
Peters Elementary School, Northern Lehigh School District

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

Eagle's Nest Park, Township-owned park

## Capability Assessment

| Capability               | ✓ Regulatory<br>✓ Tools<br>✓ Programs                      | Status   |                         |                   | Department / Agency Responsible  | Effect on Hazard Loss Reduction:<br>- <u>S</u> upports<br>- <u>N</u> eutral<br>- <u>H</u> inders | Change since the 2018 Plan?<br>+ Positive<br>- 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        |                         |                   |                                  |  |   |  |   | Joint plan with Slatington, Heidelberg, Lowhill, Lynn, Weisenberg townships |
|                          | Capital Improvement Plan                                   | X        |                         |                   |                                  |  |   |  |   | part of Comprehensive plan  |
|                          | Economic Development Plan                                  | X        |                         |                   |                                  |  |   |  |   | part of Comprehensive plan  |
|                          | Continuity of Operations Plan                              |          |                         | X                 | Emergency Management Coordinator |  |   |  |   |   |
|                          | Stormwater Management Plan / Ordinance                     |          |                         | X                 | Township                         |  |   |  |   |   |
|                          | Open Space Management Plan (or Parks/Rec., Greenways Plan) | X        |                         |                   |                                  |  |   |  |   | part of Comprehensive plan  |
|                          | Natural Resource Protection Plan                           | X        |                         |                   |                                  |  |   |  |   | part of Comprehensive plan  |
|                          | Transportation Plan  | X        |                         |                   |                                  |  |   |  |   | part of Comprehensive plan  |
|                          | Historic Preservation Plan                                 | X        |                         |                   |                                  |  |   |  |   | part of Comprehensive plan  |
|                          | Floodplain Management Plan                                 | X        |                         |                   |                                  |  |   |  |   | part of Comprehensive plan  |

## Capability Assessment - *continued*

| Capability | ✓ Regulatory<br>✓ Tools<br>✓ Programs | Status   |                         |                   | Department / Agency Responsible  | Effect on Hazard Loss Reduction:<br>-Supports<br>-Neutral<br>-Hinders | Change since the 2018 Plan?<br>+ Positive<br>- 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 |                                  |   |   |  |   |                            |
|            | Farmland Preservation                 | X        |                         |                   |                                  |   |   |  |   | part of Comprehensive plan |
|            | Evacuation Plan                       |          |                         | X                 | Emergency Management Coordinator |   |   |  |   |                            |
|            | Disaster Recovery Plan                |          |                         | X                 | Emergency Management Coordinator |   |   |  |   |                            |
|            | Hazard Mitigation Plan                | X        | 2018                    |                   |                                  |   |   | N/A  |   |                            |
|            | Emergency Operations Plan             | X        |                         |                   | Emergency Management Coordinator |   |   |  |   |                            |
|            | Zoning Regulations                    | X        |                         |                   | Zoning Officer                   |   |   |  |   |                            |
|            | Floodplain Regulations                | X        |                         |                   |                                  |   |   |  |   |                            |
|            | NFIP Participation                    | X        |                         |                   |                                  |   |   |  |   |                            |
|            | Building Code                         | X        |                         |                   |                                  |   |   |  |   |                            |
|            | Fire Code                             |          |                         |                   |                                  |   |   |  |   |                            |
|            | Other                                 |          |                         |                   |                                  |   |   |  |   |                            |

## Capability Assessment - *continued*

| Capability                     | ✓ <b>Staff</b><br>✓ <b>Personnel</b><br>✓ <b>Resources</b>  | Yes | No | Department / Agency  | Change since the 2018 Plan?<br>+ Positive<br>- 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   |    | Township   |   |   |                     |
|                                | Planners or engineers (with natural and / or human-caused hazards knowledge)  | X   |    | contractor -<br>Keystone Consulting Engineers                  |   |   |                     |
|                                | Engineers or professionals trained in building and / or infrastructure construction practices (including building inspectors) | X   |    | Township -<br>residential; Barry Isett Associates - commercial |   |   |                     |
|                                | Emergency Manager   | X   |    | Township   |   |   |                     |
|                                | Floodplain administrator / manager  | X   |    |  |   |   |                     |
|                                | Land surveyors  | X   |    | contractor -<br>Keystone Consulting Engineers                  |   |   |                     |
|                                | Staff familiar with the hazards of the community  | X   |    | Township   |   |   |                     |
|                                | Personnel skilled in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and / or FEMA's HAZUS program                                     | X   |    | GIS - Township   |   |   |                     |
|                                | Grant writers or fiscal staff to handle large / complex grants  | X   |    | contract out   |   |   |                     |
|                                | Other   |     |    |  |   |   |                     |

## Capability Assessment - *continued*

| Capability              | ✓ Staff<br>✓ Personnel<br>✓ Resources   | Yes | No | Department / Agency                             | Change since the 2018 Plan?<br>+ Positive<br>- Negative | How can these capabilities be expanded and improved to reduce risk? | Additional Comments |
|-------------------------|---|-----|----|---|---|---|---------------------|
| 3. Financial Resources  | Capital improvement programming   | X   |    |   |   |   |                     |
|                         | Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)   |     |    |   |   |   |                     |
|                         | Special purposes taxes  |     |    |   |   |   |                     |
|                         | Gas / Electricity utility fees  |     |    |   |   |   |                     |
|                         | Water / Sewer fees  | X   |    | Lehigh County Authority                         |   |   |                     |
|                         | Stormwater utility fees   |     |    |   |   |   |                     |
|                         | Development impact fees   |     |    |   |   |   |                     |
|                         | General obligation, revenue, and / or special tax bonds   |     |    |   |   |   |                     |
|                         | Partnering arrangements or intergovernmental agreements   |     |    |   |   |   |                     |
|                         | Other   | X   |    | Recreation Fee - Township                       |   |   |                     |
| 4. Education & Outreach | Firewise Communities Certification  |     |    |   |   |   |                     |
|                         | StormReady Certification  | X   |    | Lehigh County                                   |   |   |                     |
|                         | Natural disaster or safety-related school programs  | X   |    | Township Emergency Management and Lehigh County |   |   |                     |
|                         | Ongoing public education or information programs such as, responsible water use, fire safety, household preparedness, and environmental education.          | X   |    | Township Emergency Management and Lehigh County |   |   |                     |
|                         | Public-private partnership initiatives addressing disaster related issues.  | X   |    | Township Emergency Management and Lehigh County |   |   |                     |
|                         | Local citizen groups or non-profit organizations focused on environmental protection, emergency preparedness, access and functional needs populations, etc. | X   |    | Township Emergency Management and Lehigh County |   |   |                     |
|                         | Other   |     |    |   |   |   |                     |



**Capability Assessment - *continued***

| Capability           |                              | Degree of Capability |          |      | Change since the 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan?<br>If so, how? | Additional Comments |
|----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|----------|------|--|---------------------|
|                      |                              | Limited              | Moderate | High |  |                     |
| 5. Self – Assessment | Planning and Regulatory      |                      | X        |      |  |                     |
|                      | Administrative and Technical |                      | X        |      |  |                     |
|                      | Financial                    |                      | X        |      |  |                     |
|                      | Education and Outreach       |                      |          | X    |  |                     |

**Known or Anticipated Future Development / Redevelopment**

| Development / Property Name | Type of Development | Number of Structures | Location            | Known Hazard Zone               | Description / Status                    |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Marketplace                 | Commercial          | 1                    | Rt. 873, Slatington | Was in flood zone, then removed | Increase to 250,000 sq ft. retail space |

**Natural & Non-Natural Event History Specific to Washington Township**

| Type of Event and Date(s)               | FEMA Disaster # (if applicable) | Local Damage(s) or Loss(es)                                     |
|---|---------------------------------|---|
| Wildfire – 4/2014                       |                                 | No structural damage, but acres of mountain were destroyed.     |
| Winter Storm Jonas – 1/2016             | DR-4267-PA                      | 30 inches of snow - There was a declaration, no damage or loss. |
| 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<br>(from 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan) |  | Status                   |             |            |           |              | Additional Comments  |
|--|--|--------------------------|-------------|------------|-----------|--------------|--|
|  |  | No Progress /<br>Unknown | In Progress | Continuous | Completed | Discontinued |  |
| 1  | Maintain adequate fleet of vehicles and equipment to handle anticipated emergency response in the Township.  |                          |             | X          |           |              | Fire Service continually updating equipment and vehicles   |
| 2  | Work with local electric utilities to improve line clearing during severe wind/winter weather storms.  |                          |             | X          |           |              | Utility companies have been clear-cutting to remove tree limbs from wires.                           |
| 3  | Continue to support the implementation, monitoring, maintenance, and updating of this Plan, as defined in Section 7.0.   |                          |             | X          |           |              |  |
| 4  | Complete the ongoing updates of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans.  |                          | X           |            |           |              | Continue to update plan, review annually.  |
| 5  | 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         |              | County has offered training in damage assessment. Action is carried through to the 2018 Action Plan. |

### 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                 | Maintain adequate fleet of vehicles and equipment to handle anticipated emergency response in the Township.            | 19                       | Structure & Infrastructure    | All  | High                 | Medium                         | Township Budget; available public protection and emergency services grant programs | Township Public Works  | Ongoing                 | N/A   |
| 2                 | Work with local electric utilities to improve line clearing during severe wind/winter weather storms.                  | 21                       | Structure & Infrastructure    | Windstorm/ Tornado, Winter Storm, Utility Interruption | High                 | Medium                         | Township Budget  | Township and electric utilities  | Ongoing                 | Existing                                    |
| 3                 | 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) with support from Planning Partners (through their Points of Contact), PEMA | Ongoing                 | New & Existing                              |
| 4                 | Complete the ongoing updates of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans.  | 10                       | Local plans & Regulations     | All Hazards  | Medium               | Low                            | Municipal Budget   | Township with support from Lehigh County EMA   | 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 |
|-------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------|---|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| 5                 | 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 | Township with support from Lehigh County and PEMA | Short-term (depending on funding) | N/A   |

### Notes:

#### Estimated Costs:

- Where actual project costs have been reasonably 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