







## 2020-2025 Mitigation Action Items & Prioritization

Mitigation actions form the core of the *2020 Kent County Hazard Mitigation Plan*. The mitigation actions were grouped into the following six (6) broad categories.

-  **Public Education and Awareness.** Actions to inform and educate citizens, elected officials, and property owners about potential ways to mitigate for hazards that can occur in the County. Such actions include outreach programs, projects, real estate disclosure, hazard information centers, and school-age and adult education programs.
-  **Prevention.** Government administrative or regulatory actions or processes that influence the way land and buildings are developed and built. These actions also include public activities to reduce hazard losses. Examples include planning and zoning, building codes, capital improvement programs, open space preservation, and storm water management regulations.
-  **Property Protection.** Actions that involve the modification of existing critical and public facilities, buildings, structures, and public infrastructure to protect them from hazards. Examples include acquisition, elevation, relocation, structural retrofits, storm shutters, and infrastructure modification.
-  **Natural Resource Protection.** Actions that, in addition to minimizing hazard losses also preserve or restore the functions of natural protection systems. These actions include sediment and erosion control, stream corridor restoration, watershed management, forest and vegetation management, and wetland restoration preservation.
-  **Emergency Services.** Actions that protect people and property during and immediately after a disaster or hazard event. Services include warning systems and emergency response services.
-  **Structural Projects.** Actions that involve the construction of structures to reduce the impact of a hazard event. Such structures include dams, levees, floodwalls, seawalls, retaining walls, barrier islands, and safe rooms.

## Mitigation Action Items & Prioritization

Action Items	Hazard(s)	Category	Responsible Entity(s)	Ranking
Identify and solicit low/no cost partners to create awareness and promote outreach and conduct a business continuity planning workshop to promote disaster resistance, mitigation, and preparedness to help businesses develop contingency plans to minimize loss during disasters.	All-Hazards	Public Education & Awareness	Kent County Office of Emergency Services, Dept. of Public Works, Dept. of Economic Development, Historical Society, Heron Point, Towns, Chamber of Commerce	High
			Town of Chestertown	N/A
			Town of Rock Hall	High
			Town of Millington	Medium
Forward and repost Kent County Office of Emergency Services' hazard related Facebook posts and other social media content.	All-Hazards	Public Education & Awareness	Town of Betterton	High
			Town of Galena	High
			Historical Society, American Red Cross, Economic Development, Chamber of Commerce, Partnered Media Outlets	High
Create awareness among county residents of the potential hazards associated with floodplain areas and the ways they can protect themselves and their properties from flood events.	Flood	Public Education & Awareness	Kent County Office of Emergency Services, Historical Society	High
			Town of Chestertown	N/A
			Town of Rock Hall	High
Consider pursuing FEMA's Community Rating System to lower flood insurance costs for property owners and provide outreach to at-risk properties. Review Map 2-3 thru 2-8 for at-risk structures.	Flood	Public Education & Awareness	Town of Millington	Medium
			Town of Betterton	Medium
			Kent County Dept. of Planning, Housing & Zoning	Medium
			Kent County Dept. of Planning, Housing & Zoning, Dept. of Economic Development, Historic Society, Towns	Medium
				Medium
Conduct public awareness campaign on severe wind through various outreach activities.	Tornado, High Wind, Hurricane, Severe Storms	Public Education & Awareness	Kent County Office of Emergency Services, Faith Centers & Towns	Medium
Develop and use updated delivery methods for winter storm public outreach activities. Topics to include warming center locations, driving conditions, and other preparedness items.	Snow & Ice Storms	Public Education & Awareness	Kent County Office of Emergency Services, Faith Centers & Towns	Medium
Expand public information capabilities by hosting regional training and workshops. Continue Joint Information Center initiative.	All-Hazards	Public Education & Awareness	Kent County Office of Emergency Services	High
Increase citizen participation in the County's hazard warning and notification system - Code Red.	All-Hazards	Public Education & Awareness	Kent County Office of Emergency Services	High
Pursue Storm Ready Certification through the National Weather Service.	All-Weather Related Hazards	Emergency Services	Kent County Office of Emergency Services	Medium
			Town of Betterton	High
			Town of Galena	High
Work with the Office of Emergency Services to assign specific user accounts for the Code Red notification system. These specific user accounts will be designated to Town personnel for Town specific public messaging.	All-Hazards	Emergency Services	Town of Chestertown	N/A
			Town of Millington	Medium
			Washington College	Medium

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Host and conduct Regional Incident Command Training courses including multi-disciplines. Encourage cross-training among various hazard response and mitigation disciplines. Consider the 0305 All-Hazard Incident Management Course for a group training multi-day event.	All-Hazards	Emergency Services	Kent County Office of Emergency Services	Low
Continue work on the development of the County Debris Management Plan. Coordinate the development of the plan with various stakeholders.	Tornado, High Wind, Hurricane, Severe Storms	Prevention	Kent County Office of Emergency Services, Dept. of Public Works, Towns	High
Complete a fire and rescue station garage door assessment to determine high wind risk and mitigation needs, if any. Note: Of the (8) stations, (3) were built in or before 1975.	Tornado, High Wind, Hurricane, Severe Storms	Property Protection	Volunteer Fire & Rescue Stations	High
Install lightning rod(s) at Shore Regional Health and Washington College.	Severe Storms	Property Protection	Shore Regional Health, Washington College	High
Following the review of FEMA E-74 Practical Guide, examine critical and public facilities for proper anchorage and bracing of non-structural components.	Earthquake	Property Protection	Kent County Office of Emergency Services, Dept. of Public Works, Towns	Low
Continue to participation in The Great Shake Out Drill - Drop.	Earthquake	Property Protection	Kent County Office of Emergency Services, Health Dept.	Medium
Install generator at Washington College campus: Johnson Fitness Center, Hudson Hall & gym. These locations would be where students congregate during a hazard event. Johnson Fitness Center is also used as shelter for several elementary schools. Dining Hall needs a generator to be able to continue to provide meals to students and first responders when necessary. Obtain and strategically deploy mobile message sign boards throughout the county.	All-Hazards	Emergency Services	Washington College	High
Establish Vulnerable Population Committee that meets periodically. Maintain updated Committee listing with primary and secondary contacts.	All-Hazards	Emergency Services	Kent County Office of Emergency Services, Washington College Kent County Office of Emergency Services, Health Dept., Dept. of Social Services, Samaritan Group, Kent County Commission on Aging	Medium
Consider adopting an expanded floodplain (i.e. including the 0.2% chance "500-year" floodplain) or a "coastal resilience overlay zone" for greater protection from sea level rise and an increased margin of safety against errors in FEMA flood risk maps.	Climate Adaptation	Prevention & Natural Resource Protection	Kent County Dept. of Planning, Housing & Zoning	Medium
Consider adopting an expanded floodplain (i.e. including the 0.2% chance "500-year" floodplain) or a "coastal resilience overlay zone" for greater protection from sea level rise and an increased margin of safety against errors in FEMA flood risk maps.	Climate Adaptation	Prevention & Natural Resource Protection	Town of Betterton	Medium
			Town of Chestertown	Medium
			Town of Rock Hall	High
			Town of Millington	Medium
Promote awareness of assets and resources located within the 0.2% chance ("500-year") floodplain that may become increasingly at risk due to sea level rise. Currently, properties located within the 0.2% chance floodplain are neither required to meet floodplain requirements nor carry flood insurance. A disclosure regarding such properties should be developed to better-inform residents of their vulnerability and protection options.	Flood & Climate Adaptation	Prevention & Natural Resource Protection	Kent County Dept. of Planning, Housing & Zoning	Low

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Create a prioritized list of properties for land acquisition for flood mitigation and conservation	Flood & Climate Adaptation	Prevention & Natural Resource Protection	Kent County Dept. of Planning, Housing & Zoning	Medium
Enforce tie down requirements in the mobile homes community in Worton. Identify homes that lack proper tie downs in the (1) mobile home community within the County to reduce their vulnerability to high wind damages.	Tornado, High Wind, Hurricane, Severe Storms	Prevention	Kent County Dept. of Planning, Housing & Zoning	Medium
Enforce tie down requirements in the mobile homes in the Town of Rock Hall. Identify homes that lack proper tie downs in the (2) mobile home communities within the Town to reduce their vulnerability to high wind damages.	Tornado, High Wind, Hurricane, Severe Storms	Prevention	Town of Rock Hall	High
Enforce tie down requirements in the mobile homes in the Town of Chestertown. Identify homes that lack proper tie downs in the (4) mobile home communities within the Town to reduce their vulnerability to high wind damages.	Tornado, High Wind, Hurricane, Severe Storms	Prevention	Town of Chestertown	High
Develop a 5-year maintenance and upgrade plan (modeled after the county's water infrastructure maintenance plan) for major building systems (e.g. HVAC, groundwater elevation control) with additional capacity for higher outdoor temperatures, higher cooling loads from electronics, and increased precipitation rates.	Climate Adaptation	Prevention & Natural Resource Protection	Kent County Dept. of Public Works	Medium
Design with additional elevation when repairing or upgrading county bulkheads, retaining walls, jetties, riprap, and docks to preserve function with rising water levels.	Flood & Climate Adaptation	Prevention & Natural Resource Protection	Kent County Dept. of Public Works	Medium
Review county owned critical & public facilities within the FEMA regulated 1% annual-chance flood event area listed on Table 2-4. (5) properties were identified and are located within Rock Hall, Chestertown, and Worton.	Flood	Property Protection	Kent County Office of Emergency Services, Dept. of Public Works	Medium
Place fixed high-water signage on vulnerable bridges & roads.	Flood	Prevention & Natural Resource Protection	Kent County Office of Emergency Services, Dept. of Public Works	High
The Kent County Detention Center is particularly vulnerable because it has a groundwater spring located nearby. A set of pumps keeps the water table at least 12 feet below the building's foundation. However, during wet or rainy periods the pumps cannot keep up and the basement floors get wet. This is a problem because the Emergency Operations Center and communications equipment is housed in the basement.	Flood & Climate Adaptation	Prevention	Kent County Office of Emergency Services, Kent County Detention Center, Dept. of Public Works, Kent County Dept. of Planning, Housing & Zoning	Medium
Encourage agricultural community to plant shade trees and/or erect tarp systems for livestock to congregate under extreme heat events.	Extreme Temperatures	Natural Resource Protection	Soil Conservation District	Medium
Bayside erosion issues identified by the Town. Note: Partial funding has been obtained for erosion mitigation project by FEMA 2021; project includes revetment and riparian planting.	Climate Adaptation	Natural Resource Protection	Town of Betterton	High
Install back-up generators at pump stations.	All-Weather Related Hazards	Property Protection	Town of Betterton	High
Investigate Ericsson Avenue storm water management issues. Potential Streetscape Project- project is multi-faceted.	Flood	Property Protection	Town of Betterton	High

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Install Rain Garden into landscaping plan around Cerino Center.	Climate Adaptation	Natural Resource Protection	Town of Chestertown	High
Provide flood insurance and flood related regulations training area contractors, real estate agents and insurance providers.	Flood	Prevention	Town of Millington Kent County Dept. of Planning, Housing & Zoning	Medium High
Pursue funding and conceptual design for stream restoration project(s) along the Chester River at Little Chester Bridge. Both sides display bridge abutment scour issues.	Flood & Climate Adaptation	Property & Natural Resource Protection	Town of Millington	Medium
Install back-up generators at public utility facilities, Town Hall, and VFD.	All-Weather Related Hazards	Property Protection	Town of Millington	Medium
Determine potential flood impacts to the WWTP located within the FEMA regulated 1% annual-chance flood event area listed on Table 2-4.	Flood	Property Protection	Town of Millington	Medium
Complete Sustainable Maryland certification and/or recertification.	Climate Adaptation	Natural Resource Protection	Town of Galena Town of Chestertown Town of Betterton Town of Millington Town of Galena	High High Medium Medium High
Complete application process for the Resilient Maryland Grant Program. Note: projects include distributed energy resource (DER) systems such as, micro grids, advance Combined Heat and Power (CHP) systems, and community resiliency hubs.	Climate Adaptation & Extreme Temperatures	Property & Natural Resource Protection	Town of Betterton Town of Chestertown Town of Millington	N/A N/A Medium
Establish a working group to complete a field visit to identify potential stream restoration project locations.	Flood & Climate Adaptation	Natural Resource Protection	Town of Millington Town of Rock Hall, University of MD	Medium High
Strictly enforce sediment erosion control regulations. Pursue grants for planting projects to stabilize soil and mitigate erosion.	Climate Adaptation	Prevention & Natural Resource Protection	Town of Rock Hall	High
Explore (10) tide flex valve installation.	Flood	Property Protection	Town of Rock Hall	High
Install snow fences at strategic locations identified by the Town.	Snow & Ice Storms	Property Protection & Natural Resource Protection	Town of Rock Hall	Medium
Develop a Flood Mitigation Plan.	Flood	Property Protection	Kent County Office of Emergency Services, Kent County Dept. of Planning, Housing & Zoning	High
Add link to MDE's Flood Risk application on the Kent County's Mapping Tools homepage.	Flood	Property Protection	Kent County Dept. of Planning, Housing & Zoning	High

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Encourage the planting of shade trees to relieve extreme heat reflected off concrete services. Target both public and private property.	Extreme Temperatures	Natural Resource Protection	Kent County & Area Businesses	Medium
Expand number and locations of cooling and warming centers within the County. Currently, public libraries are used.	Extreme Temperatures	Emergency Services	DSS, OES, HD, Aging	Medium
Host and promote training courses such as DHS and FEMA certified courses.	Emerging Infectious Diseases	Emergency Services	Kent County Health Dept. and Office of Emergency Services	Medium
Prepare an After-Action Report and Improvement Plan for COVID-19 incident.	Emerging Infectious Diseases	Emergency Services	Health Department, Office of Emergency Services	Medium
Consider additional training such as Incident Command System (ICS), Incident Management Team (IMT), and Public Information for public health personnel.	All-Hazards	Emergency Services	Health Department	High