

**Ben Hill County
Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan**

Chapter 6

Executing the Plan

I. Implementation Action Plan

A. Administrative Actions

Following the approval of the Ben Hill County Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan by the Office of Homeland Security - Georgia Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Director of the Ben Hill County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) or his designee will meet with the chief elected and appointed officials of each unit of government to review the plan and the process of implementation as described below.

B. Authority and Responsibility

The Ben Hill County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) has been designated by the local governments in Ben Hill County as the local entity with the overall responsibility for emergency planning and response in Ben Hill County. This responsibility includes the coordination of federal, state and local resources in the event of a disaster in Ben Hill County. Accordingly, the EMA was responsible for the convening of the Ben Hill County Pre-Disaster Mitigation Planning Team to guide the development of the Ben Hill County Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan. However, the chief elected officials (Chairman of the Ben Hill County Board of Commissioners and Mayor/Council of the City of Fitzgerald), through their chief appointed officials (Ben Hill County Manager, City Managers) are responsible for the day-to-day administrative operations of their respective local governments, and for the implementation of the mitigation activities proposed in this plan. The EMA Director will assume responsibility for coordinating and supporting these activities and overall plan implementation.

C. Prioritization

- 1. Methodology for prioritization** – In prioritizing the action steps identified in this plan, the Ben Hill County local governments will take in consideration the factors of cost and time. Those activities requiring little cost and staff time to implement will be given highest priority. Those steps requiring additional funding for equipment or staff time beyond the normal budgets of the communities will be incorporated into the budget process as necessary based on the cost benefit analysis described below.

As noted in Chapter 4, Ben Hill County and the municipalities will strive to meet the following implementation schedule: High priority action steps will be implemented in the first eighteen months following adoption of this plan; Medium priority action steps will be implemented in eighteen to thirty-six months; and Low priority action

steps will be implemented in thirty-six to sixty months. The final implementation schedule will ultimately be determined by the availability of resources such as federal and state grant funds and local funds.

- 2. Use of cost benefit analysis** – In prioritizing projects, the local governments will also utilize cost benefit analysis (BCA) to evaluate the feasibility of a major project. BCA is a well-established method for quantitatively comparing the benefits and costs of mitigation projects. The end result is a Benefit-Cost Ratio (BCR), which is derived from a project's total net present value of benefits (*i.e.*, the value of benefit today versus the value of future benefits after taking inflation and return into account) divided by the total project cost estimate, which must include all documented project and maintenance costs. The benefits of mitigation projects are avoided damages, disruptions, losses, and casualties. Examples of common benefits include avoided or reduced damages to buildings, contents or infrastructure; economic impacts of loss of function of buildings; displacement costs for temporary quarters; loss of public services; loss of net business income; economic impacts of loss of function of infrastructure; road or bridge closures; loss of utility services; and deaths and injuries.
- 3. Use of other calculations** – None.
- 4. Use of other review structure** – In addition to the cost benefit analysis, other factors that may affect the prioritization of projects include the availability of special tax, grant and/or loan funds which become available on a limited basis to finance implementation, such as SPLOST funds or FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program funds.

D. Incorporation of Local PDM Plan into other plans/planning measures

As required by Georgia law, Ben Hill County, and the city of Fitzgerald have each adopted comprehensive plans in accordance with the Minimum Planning Standards promulgated by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. In addition, other measures to guide development, including flood plain management ordinances, zoning ordinances and building codes are utilized. After the Ben Hill County Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan is approved, a review will be conducted to identify any changes that need to be incorporated into these existing plans.

II. Evaluation

A. Method

The Ben Hill County EMA Director is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the progress of implementing the plan. The Director will convene the Ben Hill County Pre-Disaster Mitigation Planning Team on a regular basis to evaluate the status of the plan in terms of action steps taken, and revisions to the plan required as a result of new information, hazard incidents, changes in state and federal regulations, policy changes, new technology, etc.

B. Responsibility

As stated above, the Ben Hill County EMA Director will convene the Ben Hill County PDMP Planning Committee on an annual basis for the purpose of evaluating and monitoring the plan.

C. Timeframe

The Ben Hill County Pre-Disaster Mitigation Planning Team will meet at least annually to evaluate and recommend revisions to the plan.

D. Reporting

The EMA Director will issue a written report to the chief elected officials and chief appointed officials of each local government of the Planning Team's findings and recommendations.

III. Multi-Jurisdictional Strategy and Considerations

Through representation on the Ben Hill County Pre-Disaster Mitigation Planning Team, Ben Hill County and the city of Fitzgerald were each provided an opportunity to participate in the development of the Ben Hill County Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan. As noted, the Ben Hill County EMA Director is responsible for monitoring and coordinating the implementation of the plan. The chief appointed officials (county administrator, city manager) and the chief elected officials (mayor, county commission chairman) of the local jurisdictions are responsible for the administrative and day-to-day operations of their respective local governments, the mitigation activities proposed in the plan, and their respective jurisdiction's responsibilities for plan implementation. It is these individuals who will present and recommend to their respective governing bodies any policy changes, ordinance or budget amendments, or revisions in administrative procedures necessary to accomplish the goals of the mitigation plan. These individuals are responsible for ensuring that action steps specific to their respective jurisdictions are implemented, and reporting progress to the EMA Director.

IV. Plan Update and Maintenance

A. Public Involvement

Notice of future meetings of the Ben Hill County Pre-Disaster Mitigation Planning Team will be advertised in the local newspaper, and the public will be encouraged to attend. When the five-year update to the plan is initiated, a public hearing will be held at the beginning of the update process to inform the public of the purpose of the update and to solicit public participation. A second hearing will be held near the end of the update process for public comment.

B. Timeframe

In addition to the annual revisions to the plan, the Ben Hill County Pre-Disaster Mitigation Planning Team will undertake a complete review and update of the plan on a five-year cycle.

C. Reporting

The Director will issue a written report to the chief elected officials and chief appointed officials of each local government of the Planning Team's findings and recommendations.