

# CHAPTER 32: TOWN OF CHINCOTEAGUE MITIGATION STRATEGIES

The Town of Chincoteague, located on Chincoteague Island, lies off of the northeast coast of Accomack County. The Town is known as a gateway to Assateague Island National Seashore and the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge that has an economy reliant on both its natural resources and seasonal tourism. In addition, the community provides housing and visitor support for the neighboring Wallops Flight Facility. Chincoteague Island's unique location and economy has directed a set of mitigation strategies that specifically address the coastal hazards facing the Town.

## PLAN MAINTENANCE

The Emergency Management Coordinator will review the Hazard Mitigation Plan every year prior to the July 1 deadline for the Local Capability Readiness Assessment (LCAR). The Coordinator will evaluate the plan and review progress made during the previous years on the goals and projects in the plan. The Coordinator will use the LCAR criteria for hazard mitigation to evaluate the Town's hazard mitigation program. Progress will be reflected in the LCAR. The Coordinator will also recommend any revisions to the Town Council. By July 1, 2022, the Coordinator will assemble a Committee or represent the Town of Chincoteague on a Committee to update the plan. The Committee will work to complete the updates by the end of the calendar year of the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the plan. During the plan maintenance process, the community will have opportunity through advertised public hearings to comment on plan revisions and updates prior to the Town Council approving them.

The Town of Chincoteague has a Town Comprehensive Plan. The Emergency Management Coordinator will provide input and plan materials to the planning group responsible for regular updates to the Town Plan and any other relevant planning documents. During updates of the Town Plan and other relevant planning efforts, the Hazard Mitigation Plan will be reviewed and appropriate material incorporated into the updates.

See Chapter 2, page 7 and 8 for additional information about plan maintenance and evaluation.

## IDENTIFIED MITIGATION GOALS & STRATEGIES – TOWN OF CHINCOTEAGUE

**Goal 1 - The Hazard Mitigation Plan will serve as a guide to local governments for comprehensive mitigation to include public education and ongoing hazard assessments.**

*Strategy 1.1 – Ensure emergency management and government operations can continue during and after a hazard event.*

**Goal 2 - Improve resiliency through harnessing community partnerships (residents, businesses, local governments, and other community partners) working to minimize disruption during and following hazard events.**

*Strategy 2.1 – Retrofit housing to withstand a 1%-annual-chance flood event.*

*Strategy 2.2 – Utilize mitigation funds made available following a natural hazard event to retrofit commercial and residential structures to withstand flooding or other hazard events.*

**Goal 3 - Local governments encourage self-sufficiency and personal responsibility for managing risk.**

*Strategy 3.1 – Promote the benefits of flood insurance from the National Flood Insurance Program.*

*Strategy 3.2 – Expand outreach and education of residents and businesses on potential hazards.*

**Goal 4 - Local governments will work to improve infrastructure for resiliency and provide the appropriate redundancies for the operations of critical infrastructure during an event.**

*Strategy 4.1 – Retrofit the causeway and bridge to maintain connection to the mainland.*

*Strategy 4.2 – Ensure adequate water resources will be available during and after hazard events.*

*Strategy 4.3 – Maintain beach access to the Assateague Island National Seashore following hazard events.*

**Goal 5 - Local governments will make efforts to reach all populations during preparation to, response of and mitigation of all risks.**

*Strategy 5.1 – Identify locations of seasonal housing including mobile homes, campgrounds, etc.*

## IDENTIFIED MITIGATION PROJECTS – TOWN OF CHINCOTEAGUE

<b>Goal 1 – Local Governments Guide a Comprehensive Mitigation Program Including Public Education and Ongoing Hazard Assessments</b>							
<i>Strategy 1.1 – Ensure emergency management and government operations can continue during and after a hazard event.</i>							
<b>Priority Rank</b>	<b>Town of Chincoteague – Goal 1: Description of Projects</b>	<b>Hazard(s) Addressed</b>	<b>Responsible Department</b>	<b>HMP Year/Start Timeline</b>	<b>Status as of 2016</b>	<b>Status as of 2021</b>	<b>Add'l. Info.</b>
1	Set a regional compatibility standard for emergency communications	ALL	ESDPC	2006	Ongoing	Ongoing	
1	Study and map critical infrastructure including new FEMA wave analysis	Coastal Flooding	Planning & Zoning	2013	Not Started	Complete	
1	Investigate potential tertiary locations for a Chincoteague Emergency Operations Center located off the Island in northern Accomack County	ALL	Emergency Services	2009	Ongoing	Complete	
1	Raise, retrofit, or replace Causeway with a bridge so the Island is still accessible during flooding events	Coastal Flooding, Stormwater Flooding	VDOT	2016	Not Started	Not Started	Funding
<b>Priority Rank</b>	<b>Town of Chincoteague – Completed Projects</b>	<b>Hazard(s) Addressed</b>	<b>Responsible Department</b>	<b>HMP Year/Start Timeline</b>	<b>Status as of 2016</b>	<b>Status as of 2021</b>	<b>Add'l. Info.</b>
-	Conduct a Phase 2 Storm Water Master Plan to improve drainage infrastructure for the Town and mitigate flooding hazards	Stormwater Flooding, Biohazard	Public Works	2006	Complete	-	
-	Produce Responder Bilingual Cards	ALL	ESDPC & Health Dept	2006	Complete	-	
-	Obtain more changeable warning signs	ALL	VDOT	2006/2021	Complete	Ongoing	
-	Upgrade communications systems and provide for backup in the event of communication failure	ALL	ESDPC, Town	2009/2021	Complete	Not Started	
-	Coordinate studies and maps with Emergency Operations Plan and Comprehensive Plan	ALL	Planning & Zoning	Annually	Ongoing	Ongoing	

\*Spanish Health and Emergency Preparedness informational brochures have been produced and are available to the Hispanic population through a variety of outlets.

## Eastern Shore of Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan 2021

<b>Goal 2 – Residents, Businesses, Local Governments, and other Community Partners Will Work Independently and Together to Minimize Community Disruption Through Planning and Mitigation Activities</b>							
<i>Strategy 2.1 – Retrofit housing to reduce risk of coastal flooding</i>							
<i>Strategy 2.2 – Utilize mitigation funds made available following a natural hazard event to retrofit commercial and residential structure to withstand flooding or other hazards</i>							
<b>Priority Rank</b>	<b>Town of Chincoteague – Goal 2: Description of Projects</b>	<b>Hazard(s) Addressed</b>	<b>Responsible Department</b>	<b>HMP Year/Start Timeline</b>	<b>Status as of 2016</b>	<b>Status as of 2021</b>	<b>Add'l. Info.</b>
1	Partner with federal agencies to perform beach nourishment on Assateague Island to mitigate erosion and flooding hazards	Coastal Erosion, Coastal Flooding	NPS, USFWS, USACE	2016	Ongoing	Ongoing	
1	Mitigation of flood prone properties to include acquisition, elevation, relocation, dry and wet flood proofing, mitigation reconstruction for NFIP defined SRL properties, and drainage infrastructure improvements	Coastal Erosion, Coastal Flooding, Stormwater Flooding	A-NPDC & Town	Post-declared disaster	Ongoing	Some Complete, Ongoing	
1	Prepare and plan for mitigation of coastal erosion along the southern shoreline	Coastal Erosion	Planning Council	2012	Not Started	Ongoing	
1	Flood proof commercial buildings along Main Street to mitigate flooding hazards	Coastal Flooding, Stormwater Flooding	Town & Main Street Merchants	2012	Not Started	Not Started	
1	Use hazard mitigation funds to retrofit commercial and residential structures	Wind, Coastal Flooding, Stormwater Flooding	Building & Zoning	Post-declared disaster	Ongoing	Ongoing	
1	Manage a home elevation project; using a cost-benefit analysis, focus on reducing risk to the most vulnerable primary housing	Coastal Flooding	Building & Zoning	Post-declared disaster	Ongoing	Ongoing	
1	Investigate the possibility of shoulders or enlarging pull-offs on the causeway to aid traffic control during evacuations	ALL	VDOT	2006	Not Started	Not Started	Funding
4	Increase the safety of residents and visitors by increasing shoulders and improving sidewalks	Coastal Flooding, Stormwater Flooding, Snow, Ice, Fire	VDOT	2016	Not Started	Sidewalks Ongoing	

## Town of Chincoteague Mitigation Strategies

Priority Rank	Town of Chincoteague – Completed Projects	Hazard(s) Addressed	Responsible Department	HMP Year/Start Timeline	Status as of 2016	Status as of 2021	Add'l. Info.
-	Increase the safety of residents and visitors by replacing the bridge	ALL	VDOT	2006	Complete	-	
-	Protect new construction by continuing to enforce the building code provisions protecting structures from flooding and wind events	Wind, Coastal Flooding, Stormwater Flooding, Fire	Building & Zoning	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	
-	Incorporate the Eastern Shore of Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan into the Chincoteague Comprehensive Plan	ALL	Planning Council	2011/2015	Complete	-	
<b>Goal 3 – Local Governments Encourage Self-sufficiency and Personal Responsibility for Managing Risk</b>							
<i>Strategy 3.1 – Promote the benefits of flood insurance from the National Flood Insurance Program.</i>							
<i>Strategy 3.2 – Educate residents and businesses on potential hazards.</i>							
Priority Rank	Town of Chincoteague – Goal 3: Description of Projects	Hazard(s) Addressed	Responsible Department	HMP Year/Start Timeline	Status as of 2016	Status as of 2021	Add'l. Info.
1	Implement a public information campaign on the benefits of flood insurance with a focus on Chincoteague's local needs.	Flooding	Town	Annually	Ongoing	Ongoing	
1	Protect new construction by continuing to enforce the building code provisions protecting structures from flooding and wind events.	Wind, Coastal Flooding, Stormwater Flooding, Fire	Building & Zoning	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	
Priority Rank	Town of Chincoteague – Completed Projects	Hazard(s) Addressed	Responsible Department	HMP Year/Start Timeline	Status as of 2016	Status as of 2021	Add'l. Info.
-	Start a public information campaign on the benefits of flood insurance with a focus on Chincoteague's local needs.	Flooding	Town	2006/2007	Complete, Ongoing	Complete, Ongoing	
-	Review FEMA Region III Coastal Analysis Risk Map and amend Town ordinances, if required.	Coastal Flooding	Planning Council	2012	Complete, Ongoing	Complete, Ongoing	
-	Develop and provide residents and businesses with hazard risk assessment maps and response plan. Consider creating in non-English language(s) as well. Distribute to transient population/visitors through chamber and rental companies.	ALL	Planning Council	2012	Complete, Ongoing	Complete, Ongoing	

## Eastern Shore of Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan 2021

<b>Goal 4 – Local Governments to Ensure Infrastructure will Continuously Function During and After a Hazard Event</b>							
<i>Strategy 4.1 – Retrofit the causeway and bridge to maintain connection to the mainland</i>							
<i>Strategy 4.2 – Ensure adequate water resources will be available during and after hazard events</i>							
<i>Strategy 4.3 – Maintain beach access to the Assateague Island National Seashore following hazard events</i>							
<b>Priority Rank</b>	<b>Town of Chincoteague – Goal 4: Description of Projects</b>	<b>Hazard(s) Addressed</b>	<b>Responsible Department</b>	<b>HMP Year/Start Timeline</b>	<b>Status as of 2016</b>	<b>Status as of 2021</b>	<b>Add'l. Info.</b>
1	Perform a storm water infrastructure improvement project on Maddox Boulevard at the traffic circle to reduce frequent flooding of access corridor to National Seashore and Wildlife Refuge	Stormwater Flooding, Biohazards	Public Works	2012	Ongoing	Ongoing	
1	Develop enforceable standards for fill and drainage to mitigate flooding hazards.	Coastal Flooding, Stormwater Flooding, Biohazards	Town	2012	Ongoing	Ongoing	
2	Widen the Route 175 Causeway including expansion of shoulders, construction of an emergency lane/bike lane, and construction of a center safety barrier to maintain a safe corridor.	ALL	VDOT, State	2011	Not Started	Not Started	Funding
<b>Priority Rank</b>	<b>Town of Chincoteague – Completed Projects</b>	<b>Hazard(s) Addressed</b>	<b>Responsible Department</b>	<b>HMP Year/Start Timeline</b>	<b>Status as of 2016</b>	<b>Status as of 2021</b>	<b>Add'l. Info.</b>
-	Obtain and install a generator on the high-rise water tower in the Town	ALL	Public Works	2008/2021	Ongoing	Complete	
-	Develop a cooperative agreement between Chincoteague and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and incorporate a short-term response plan to ensure access to the Assateague Island National Seashore following a hazard event	ALL	Town, USFWS, NPS	2011	Ongoing	Complete	

## Town of Chincoteague Mitigation Strategies

Goal 5 – Local Governments will Make Efforts to Reach Functional and Access Needs Population							
<i>Strategy 5.1 – Identify locations of seasonal housing including mobile homes, campgrounds, etc.</i>							
Priority Rank	Town of Chincoteague – Goal 5: Description of Projects	Hazard(s) Addressed	Responsible Department	HMP Year/Start Timeline	Status as of 2016	Status as of 2021	Add'l. Info.
1	Identify and map tourist lodging for use in emergencies	ALL	Town & USFWS	2006	Ongoing	Ongoing	
1	Identify locations of functional and access needs populations using newest U.S. Census data and emergency management/response personnel personal knowledge	ALL	Planning Council & EMS	2011	Ongoing	Ongoing	
1	Coordinate functional and access needs assessment into the Town's Emergency Operations Plan	ALL	Planning Council & EMS	2011	Ongoing	Ongoing	
Priority Rank	Town of Chincoteague – Completed Projects	Hazard(s) Addressed	Responsible Department	HMP Year/Start Timeline	Status as of 2016	Status as of 2021	Add'l. Info.
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