

# CHAPTER 33: NORTHAMPTON COUNTY MITIGATION STRATEGIES

Northampton County is the southernmost county on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. There are 6 towns within the county. These towns include: a portion of Belle Haven, Cape Charles, Cheriton, Eastville, Exmore and Nassawadox. The Towns were invited to contribute to the Eastern Shore of Virginia Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (ESHIRA) and Eastern Shore of Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan. Representatives from Exmore, Eastville, and Cape Charles participated in the ESHIRA development. Belle Haven is the only town that did not participate in the hazard mitigation planning process.

## PLAN MAINTENANCE

The Coordinator of Emergency Services 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 hazard mitigation program. Progress will be reflected in the LCAR. The Coordinator will also recommend any revisions to the Board of Supervisors. By July 1, 2022, the Director of Emergency Services will assemble a Committee or represent Northampton County on a Committee to update the plan. Towns will also have an opportunity to participate in the Plan update. The Committee will work to complete the updates by the fifth-year anniversary of the adoption of the plan. The community will have the opportunity to comment on plan revisions and updates prior to the Board of Supervisors approving them.

Northampton County and the incorporated Towns have Comprehensive Plans. The Coordinator of Emergency Services will provide input and plan materials to the planning group responsible for updating the County Comprehensive Plan and any other relevant planning efforts, such as the Town's comprehensive planning. During updates of the Comprehensive 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 – NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

**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 – Increase the capacity of Northampton mitigation program through training and coordination with federal, state and local governments.*

**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 reduce risk of coastal flooding.*

*Strategy 2.2 – Protect new housing by reducing the risk of damage from natural hazards.*

*Strategy 2.3 – Retrofit commercial and residential structures to reduce risk of the most critical natural hazard damage.*

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

*Strategy 3.1 – Increase resident preparedness in the County.*

*Strategy 3.2 – Educate residents about flood insurance available and encourage participation in the National Flood Insurance Program.*

**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 – Maintain traffic flow after a natural hazard event.*

*Strategy 4.2 – Ensure continuity of public water and wastewater systems.*

*Strategy 4.3 – Provide for adequate sheltering during an emergency.*

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

*Strategy 5.1 – Improve communications with special needs residents before and after hazard events.*

## IDENTIFIED MITIGATION PROJECTS – NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

Goal 1 - Local Governments Guide a Comprehensive Mitigation Program including Public Education and Ongoing Hazard Assessments							
Strategy 1.1 – Increase the capacity of Northampton mitigation program through training and coordination with federal, state and local governments							
Priority Rank	Northampton County – Goal 1: Description of Projects	Hazard(s) Addressed	Responsible Department	HMP Year/Start Timeline	Status as of 2016	Status as of 2021	Add'l. Info.
1	Major upgrade of police, fire and EMS communication system to include providing interoperability and redundancy	ALL	911	2021	-	Ongoing	
1	Identify areas that are flood-prone, impacted by erosion, coastal flooding or stormwater then either acquire property, limit development rights or mitigate with stormwater best management practice.	Coastal Erosion, Coastal Flooding, Stormwater Flooding	A-NPDC and County	2021	-	Ongoing	
1	Recommend that the Town of Cape Charles identify potential shelter locations within the town in case the town becomes isolated during an emergency.	ALL	Emergency Services	2006	Not Started	Not Started	
1	Evaluate and develop a priority list of residential and commercial properties that qualify for the HMGP	Flooding	A-NPDC & localities	2011	Ongoing	Ongoing	
3	Institute a recruitment program for volunteer firefighters and EMS. Publicize details on how to volunteer on the County website.	Fire	County	2006/2007	Ongoing	Ongoing	
Priority Rank	Northampton County – Completed Projects	Hazard(s) Addressed	Responsible Department	HMP Year/Start Timeline	Status as of 2016	Status as of 2021	Add'l. Info.
-	Produce Responder Bilingual Cards with English on back. An example of the type of message to be included is "Do not drink the water."	ALL	Health Department & ESDPC	2006/2006	Complete*	Complete	
-	Obtain more changeable warning signs	ALL	VDOT	2006/2006	Complete	Complete	
-	Create a formal waiting list of residential and commercial projects for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.	ALL	County	2006	Complete	Complete	
-	Upgrade communications systems and provide for backup in the event of a communication failure, provide for interoperability and redundancy	ALL	911	2006/2009	Complete	Ongoing	
-	Set a regional compatibility standard for emergency communications	ALL	911	2006	Ongoing	Complete	
-	Upgrade communications systems and provide for backup in the event of a communication failure, provide for interoperability and redundancy	ALL	911	2011	Ongoing	Complete	

## Northampton County Mitigation Strategies

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

Goal 2 - Residents, Businesses, Local Governments, and other Community Partners Will Work Independently and Together to Minimize Community Disruption Through Planning and Mitigation Activities							
<u>Strategy 2.1</u> – Retrofit housing to reduce risk of coastal flooding.							
<u>Strategy 2.2</u> – Protect new housing by reducing the risk of damage from natural hazards.							
<u>Strategy 2.3</u> – Retrofit commercial and residential structures to reduce risk of the most critical natural hazard damage.							
Priority Rank	Northampton County – Goal 2: Description of Projects	Hazard(s) Addressed	Responsible Department	HMP Year/Start Timeline	Status as of 2016	Status as of 2021	Add'l. Info.
1	Maintain a Conservation Preservation Zoning District encompassing coastal areas.	Coastal Erosion, Coastal Flooding, Well Contamination	County	2006	Ongoing	Ongoing	
1	Enforce the primary dune ordinance.	Coastal Erosion, Coastal Flooding, Well Contamination	Planning & Zoning	2006	Ongoing	Ongoing	
1	Consider incentives in the zoning ordinance for developers who reserve land or take other measures to preserve the resource protection area.	Coastal Erosion, Coastal Flooding, Well Contamination	Planning Commission & BOS	2006	Not Started	Not Started	Staff
1	Enforce buffer zone widths set forth in the zoning ordinance along the bayside and seaside waterfront.	Coastal Erosion, Coastal Flooding, Well Contamination	Planning & Zoning	2006	Ongoing	Ongoing	
1	Revise floodplain management regulations aligned with new FEMA guidance	ALL	Planning & Zoning	2011/2012	Ongoing	Ongoing	
1	Incorporate the Eastern Shore of Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan into the Northampton County Comprehensive Plan.	ALL	Planning & Zoning	2011/During next update	Ongoing	Ongoing	
1	Mitigation of flood prone properties (to include, but not limited to acquisition, elevation, relocation, and dry and wet flood proofing of flood prone structures, and mitigation reconstruction for NFIP defined SRL properties only).	Flooding	Planning & Zoning, A-NPDC	Post-declared disaster	Not Started	Not Started	A-NPDC requested for input

# Eastern Shore of Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan 2021

Priority Rank	Northampton County – Completed Projects	Hazard(s) Addressed	Responsible Department	HMP Year/Start Timeline	Status as of 2016	Status as of 2021	Add'l. Info.
-	Conduct a drainage survey of Cheapside	Stormwater Flooding	Planning & Zoning	2006/2007	Complete	Complete	
-	Manage a Residential Mitigation Project	ALL	Emergency Services	Post-declared disaster	Complete	Complete	
-	After any presidential declared disaster, manage Residential and Commercial Mitigation Projects that address the most critical damage that has occurred.	ALL	Emergency Services	Post-declared disaster	Complete	Complete	
-	Install new storm shutters to withstand hurricane winds on EOC building	Wind	Emergency Services	2006/2009	Complete	Complete	
<b>Goal 3 – Local Governments Encourage Self-Sufficiency and Personal Responsibility for Managing Risk</b>							
<i>Strategy 3.1 – Increase resident preparedness in the County</i>							
<i>Strategy 3.2 – Educate residents about flood insurance availability and encourage participation in the National Flood Insurance Program</i>							
Priority Rank	Northampton County – 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	Notify and encourage residents to purchase contents and structure flood insurance to all homes and business located in the County's regulated flood zones	Flooding	Planning Commission	2006/Yearly	Ongoing	Ongoing	County does not mail to residents
1	Provide updated preparedness information on the County's website to include materials for the Hispanic population	ALL	Emergency Services	2011/2007	Ongoing	Ongoing	
Priority Rank	Northampton County – Completed Projects	Hazard(s) Addressed	Responsible Department	HMP Year/Start Timeline	Status as of 2016	Status as of 2021	Add'l. Info.
-	Investigate whether to pursue a better CRS rating to reduce flood insurance premiums for County residents	Flooding	County	2006/2008	Complete	-	
-	Provide preparedness information on the County website	ALL	Emergency Services	2006/2007	Complete, Ongoing	Complete, Ongoing	EverBridge alert system available

## Northampton County Mitigation Strategies

Goal 4 - Local Governments Will Work to Ensure That Infrastructure Will Continuously Function During and After a Hazard Event							
<i>Strategy 4.1 – Maintain traffic flow after a natural hazard event.</i>							
<i>Strategy 4.2 – Ensure continuity of public water and wastewater systems.</i>							
<i>Strategy 4.3 – Provide for adequate sheltering during an emergency.</i>							
Priority Rank	Northampton County – Goal 4: Description of Projects	Hazard(s) Addressed	Responsible Department	HMP Year/Start Timeline	Status as of 2016	Status as of 2021	Add'l. Info.
1	Assess and identify emergency generator power serving public water and wastewater systems for adequacy.	Wind, Snow, Ice, Heat	Public Works	2011/2011	Complete	Complete	
1	Retrofit existing emergency shelters against flooding and wind including backup power supplies.	Wind, Coastal Flooding, Stormwater Flooding	Emergency Services	2011/2012	Ongoing	Ongoing	
1	Identify and mitigate drainage problems at major intersections along Route 13 in Northampton County.	Stormwater Flooding, Biohazards	VDOT	2011/2012	Ongoing	Ongoing	Maintenance improvements
1	Shelter with back-up power will be considered with the prior middle school upgrades.	Wind, Coastal Flooding, Stormwater Flooding	County & Emergency Services	2021	-	Ongoing	
3	Encourage food service and gas stations to have emergency generators.	Wind, Coastal Flooding, Stormwater Flooding	County	2021	-	Ongoing	
Priority Rank	Northampton County – Completed Projects	Hazard(s) Addressed	Responsible Department	HMP Year/Start Timeline	Status as of 2016	Status as of 2021	Add'l. Info.
-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retrofit three lights for backup power to facilitate traffic movement during a large power outage.</li> <li>The light serving the hospital at Rogers Drive (Rt. 606) and Route 13 in Nassawadox</li> <li>A light at the following intersections, Rt. 13 and Rt. 178 in Belle Haven</li> <li>The light at Stone Road (Rt. 184) and Route 13 serving the Town of Cape Charles.</li> </ul>	ALL	VDOT	2006/2009	Complete	Complete	
-	Assess and identify emergency generator power serving public water and wastewater systems for adequacy.	Wind, Snow, Ice, Heat	Public Works	2011/2011	Complete	Complete	

## Eastern Shore of Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan 2021

Goal 5 - Local Governments Will Make Efforts to Reach Special Needs Populations							
<u>Strategy 5.1</u> – Improve communications with special needs residents before and after hazard events.							
<u>Strategy 5.2</u> – Improve cellular and internet capabilities							
Priority Rank	Northampton County – 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	Work with the Department of Social Services, the Eastern Shore Area Agency on Aging, home health agencies and other organizations to identify special-needs residents and ensure that responsible parties are notified of potentially hazardous situations.	ALL	Emergency Services	2011	Not Started	Ongoing	Prior to a hazard event, EMS identifies residents in hazardous situations
1	Work with VDH to maintain a list of seasonal migrant housing locations.	ALL	Emergency Services & ESDPC	2011	Ongoing	Ongoing	EMS works with VDH to identify locations pre-storm
1	Consider plan for sheltering of domestic pets.	ALL	Emergency Services	2011	Still Considering	Ongoing	
1	Increase citizen opt-in to emergency alert system.	ALL	Emergency Services	2021	-	2021	
Completed Projects							
-	Acquire and implement an updated communications system that can be used for citizen notifications.	ALL	Emergency Services	2011	Complete	Complete	

## IDENTIFIED MITIGATION PROJECTS – NORTHAMPTON COUNTY TOWNS

<u>Town</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Hazard(s) Addressed</u>	<u>Responsible Party</u>	<u>Strategy</u>	<u>HMP Year/Start Timeline</u>	<u>2016 Status</u>	<u>2021 Status</u>	<u>Add'l. Info.</u>
Cape Charles	Incorporate the Eastern Shore of Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan into the Cape Charles Town Plan.	ALL	Town Planning & Zoning Staff	2.1, 2.2	During next Plan update	Not Started	Complete	
Cape Charles	Mitigate the Town's Infrastructure against flooding and wind.	Wind, Coastal Flooding, Stormwater Flooding	Town Building/Code Enforcement + Planning & Zoning Staff	2.2	Post-Declared Disaster	Ongoing	Ongoing	
Cape Charles	Maintain records of stormwater flooding events.	Stormwater Flooding, Biohazard	Town Public Works & Utilities Staff	2.2	2011	Ongoing	Ongoing	
Cape Charles	Take actions to improve Community Rating System ranking in order to decrease residents' flood insurance rates.	Flooding	Town Building/Code Enforcement + Planning & Zoning Staff	2.2	2011	Ongoing	Ongoing	
Cape Charles	Mitigate risk to Town water supply by constructing new water tower on south side of Town.	Wind, Well Contamination	Town Public Works & Utilities Staff	2.3	Unknown	Not Started	Not Started	Funding
Cape Charles	Implement coastal erosion mitigation actions into the Town's Beach Management Plan.	Coastal Erosion	Town Planning & Zoning Staff	2.2	2011	Ongoing	Ongoing	
Cape Charles	Promote Hazard Mitigation at local community events and meetings.	ALL	Town Staff, Manager, & Mayor	1.1, 3.2	2011	Ongoing	Ongoing	
Cape Charles	Educate residents, real estate agents, and lenders about recent changes to flood zones in the Town.	Coastal Flooding	Town Building/Code Enforcement + Planning & Zoning Staff	1.1, 3.2	2016	Not started	Ongoing	



## Eastern Shore of Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan 2021

<u>Town</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Hazard(s) Addressed</u>	<u>Responsible Party</u>	<u>Strategy</u>	<u>HMP Year/Start Timeline</u>	<u>2016 Status</u>	<u>2021 Status</u>	<u>Add'l. Info.</u>
Cheriton	Incorporate the Eastern Shore of Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan into the Cheriton Town Plan	ALL	Town Staff	1.1	During next Plan update	Not Started	Ongoing	
Cheriton	Cooperate with VDOT to mitigate stormwater drainage in Cheriton.	Stormwater Flooding, Biohazards	Town Staff, VDOT	2.2, 4.1	2016	Not Started	Ongoing	
Cheriton	Develop and implement a drainage plan to ensure appropriate repairs and regular maintenance to prevent stormwater flooding in the Town.	Stormwater Flooding, Biohazards	Town Staff, or contracted entity	2.2, 4.1	2016	Not Started	Ongoing	
Cheriton	Promote Hazard Mitigation at local community events and meetings.	ALL	Town Staff	1.1, 3.1, 3.2	2016	Not Started	Ongoing	
Cheriton	Develop and distribute multilingual emergency plan & preparedness handouts/signage.	ALL	Northampton County, Town	3.2, 5.1	2016	Not Started	Ongoing	
Cheriton	Work with VDOT to ensure safety of major intersection at Route 13, which is featured in the VDOT Safety Study of April 2016. Most likely adding an arrow to the traffic light signal.	ALL	Town, VDOT	2.3, 4.1	2016	Not Started	Complete	
Eastville	Incorporate the Eastern Shore of Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan into the Eastville Town Plan	ALL	Town Staff	2.1, 2.2	During next Plan update	Not Started	Complete	
Eastville	Adopt minimum standards such that the Town can participate in the National Flood Insurance Program	Flooding	Town Staff	1.1	2011	Not Started	Complete	
Eastville	Cooperate with VDEQ to ensure adequate water supply and quality.	Well Contamination, Drought, Heat	Town Staff, VDEQ	2.2	2011	Started	Complete	
Eastville	Upgrade aging water distribution lines in Eastville.	Well Contamination, Drought, Biohazards	Town Staff	4.1	2011	Not Started	Ongoing	
Eastville	Cooperate with VDOT to mitigate stormwater drainage in Eastville.	Stormwater Flooding, Biohazards	Town Staff, VDOT	2.2	2011	Not Started	Ongoing	
Eastville	Promote Hazard Mitigation at local community events and meetings.	ALL	Town & County Staff	1.1	2011	Ongoing	Complete	
Eastville	Conduct a drainage survey of the Town as well as the areas to the east and south of the Town	Stormwater Flooding, Biohazard	Town & County Staff	2.2, 2.3	2021	-	Not Started	

## Northampton County Mitigation Strategies

<u>Town</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Hazard(s) Addressed</u>	<u>Responsible Party</u>	<u>Strategy</u>	<u>HMP Year/Start Timeline</u>	<u>2016 Status</u>	<u>2021 Status</u>	<u>Add'l. Info.</u>
Exmore	Incorporate the Eastern Shore of Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan into the Exmore Town Plan	ALL	Town Manager & Clerk	1.1	2011 / During next Plan update	Partially Complete	Complete	.
Exmore	Conduct public education and outreach efforts within Town to raise awareness and promote participation of the NFIP.	Flooding	Town Staff	3.1, 3.2, 5.1	2011	Not Started	Not Started	Staff Expertise
Exmore	Replace the Town's aging public water supply wells.	Well Contamination	Town Staff	2.3, 4.2	2011	Not Started	Completed	
Exmore	Cooperate with VDOT and the County to mitigate stormwater drainage in Exmore.	Stormwater Flooding, Biohazard	Town Staff, VDOT	2.2, 4.1	2011	Not Started	Ongoing	
Exmore	Produce a drainage and stormwater study of Exmore's flooding issues in downtown.	Stormwater Flooding, Biohazard	Town Staff	2.2, 4.1, 4.2	2011	Not Started	Not Started	Funding, Coordination
Exmore	Upgrade aging water distribution lines in Exmore.	Well Contamination	Town Staff	4.2	2011	Not Started	Not Started	Funding
Exmore	Culvert Hadlock Lane ditch to mitigate erosion.	Coastal Erosion, Stormwater Flooding, Biohazard	VDOT	2.2, 4.1	2016	Not Started	Not Started	Funding, Coordination
Exmore	Develop emergency plan to utilize treated gray water for fire suppression.	Fire, Well Contamination	Town Staff, County Emergency Management	4.3	2016	Not Started	Not Started	Funding, Staff Expertise
Exmore	Conduct a drainage and storm water study of the Downtown area	Stormwater Flooding, Well Contamination, Biohazard	Town Staff	2.2	2021	-	Not Started	

# Eastern Shore of Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan 2021

<u>Town</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Hazard(s) Addressed</u>	<u>Responsible Party</u>	<u>Strategy</u>	<u>HMP Year/Start Timeline</u>	<u>2016 Status</u>	<u>2021 Status</u>	<u>Add'l. Info.</u>
Nassawadox	Incorporate the Eastern Shore of Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan into the Nassawadox Town Plan	ALL	Town Staff	1.1	During next Plan update.	Not Started	Ongoing	Town is seeking assistance
Nassawadox	Cooperate with VDEQ and others to ensure adequate water supply and quality.	Well Contamination	Town Staff, Riverside, VDEQ, GWC	4.2	2016	Not Started	Ongoing	
Nassawadox	Cooperate with VDOT to mitigate stormwater drainage in Nassawadox.	Stormwater Flooding, Biohazard	Town, VDOT	2.2, 4.1	2016	Not Started	Ongoing	
Nassawadox	Develop and implement a drainage plan to ensure appropriate repairs and regular maintenance to prevent stormwater flooding in the Town.	Stormwater Flooding, Biohazard	Town, VDOT	2.2, 4.1	2016	Not Started	Ongoing	
Nassawadox	Promote Hazard Mitigation at local community events and meetings.	ALL	Town	1.1, 3.1, 3.2	2016	Not Started	Ongoing	Staff
Nassawadox	Replace flat roofing of critical facilities and residential structures with pitched roofs built to (or to exceed) minimum wind standards.	Wind	Town, FEMA	2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 4.3	2016	Not Started	Not Started	Funding
Nassawadox	Develop a location that could serve as the Town Hall and a staging area, equip this building with a generator.	ALL	Town, FEMA	4.3	2016	Not Started	Complete	Funding
Nassawadox	Coordinate with The Nature Conservancy to address drainage issues in Town	Stormwater Flooding, Biohazard	Town, TNC	2.2, 4.1	2021	-	Ongoing	
Nassawadox	Develop Storm Water Plan to assist in the maintenance of drainage ditches	Stormwater Flooding, Biohazard	Town Staff	2.2, 4.1	2021	-	Not Started	Ditch maintenance is ongoing