



# Chapter 6

## Capability Assessment

Eastern Shore Hazard Mitigation Plan

2025 Update

## CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT

This Chapter describes the planning process undertaken by the Accomack- Northampton Planning District Commission and participating jurisdictions in the 2025 update of The Eastern Shore of Virginia 2021 Hazard Mitigation Plan. Local participation in the Project Management Team, public engagement, and the steps and milestones completed will be discussed.

Consistent with FEMA Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide the planning process employed in the development of this Plan considered who was involved and what data and information was used to update the plan. An effort was made to coordinate with other local and inter-jurisdictional projects, plans, and activities, and the Plan was developed based upon the best available science, incorporating active participation and buy-in from community leaders, stakeholders, and the public.

### 6.1 OVERVIEW OF PLANNING, REGULATORY, AND INSTUTIONAL CAPABILITES

Coupled with the Risk Assessment, the Capability Assessment helped identify and refine appropriate mitigation strategies for incorporation into Chapter 7 - Mitigation Strategy of the Hazard Mitigation Plan update and ensured that specific goals and objectives are realistically achievable.

#### 6.1.1 FEDERAL AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS

##### **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); The Stafford Act**

This Act constitutes the statutory authority for most Federal disaster response activities especially as they pertain to FEMA and FEMA programs. Federal assistance for the repair of public roads damaged by a natural disaster not covered by the FHWA's ER program is available through the disaster relief program administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency under the Stafford Act.

##### **The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)**

Established in 1968, the NFIP provides federally backed flood insurance in over 22,000 communities in 56 states and jurisdictions across the United States and its territories. Participating communities must agree to regulate new development in identified Special Flood Hazard Areas through the adoption and enforcement of a minimum Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. In Virginia, there are currently 292 communities enrolled in the NFIP. The program also requires, as a condition of every federally-backed mortgage within an identified Special Flood Hazard Area, the purchase and maintenance of a flood insurance policy for the life of the loan.

Community participation in the NFIP is voluntary. Flood insurance is designed to provide an alternative to disaster assistance to reduce the escalating costs of repairing damage to buildings and their contents caused by floods. Flood damage is reduced by nearly \$1 billion a year through communities implementing sound floodplain management requirements and property owners purchasing flood insurance. Additionally, buildings constructed in compliance with NFIP building standards suffer approximately eighty percent (80%) less damage annually than those not built-in compliance.



In addition to providing flood insurance and reducing flood damages through floodplain management regulations, the NFIP identifies and maps the Nation's floodplains. Mapping flood hazards creates broad-based awareness of the flood hazards and provides the data needed for floodplain management programs and to actuarially rate new construction for flood insurance.

**Federal Highway Administration (FHWA); Emergency Transportation Operations (ETO)**

The FHWA, through the ETO programs, provides tools, guidance, capacity building, and best practices that aid local and state departments of transportation and their partners in their efforts to improve transportation network efficiency and public/responder safety when a non-recurring event either interrupts or overwhelms transportation operations. Non-recurring events may range from traffic incidents to traffic Planning for Special Event (PSE) to disaster or emergency transportation operations (Disaster ETO). Work in ETO program areas focus on using highway operational tools to enhance mobility and motorist and responder safety. Partnerships in ETO program areas involve non-traditional transportation stakeholders since ETO programs involve transportation, public safety (fire, rescue, emergency medical service, law enforcement) and emergency management communities. ETO, as a discipline, spans a full range of activities: from transportation-centric (fender benders) to those where transportation is a critical response component (e.g., hurricane evacuations).



**Federal Highway Administration (FHWA); Federal-aid Highway Emergency Relief Program**

The Emergency Relief (ER) program - administered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) - is intended to supplement the commitment of resources by states, counties, and municipalities (or other Federal agencies when appropriate) to help pay for unusually heavy expenses resulting from extraordinary conditions. The United States Congress has authorized ER funding as part of the FHWA's Federal-aid highway program. ER funds are available for the repair of Federal-aid highways or roads on Federal lands that have been seriously damaged by natural disasters over a wide area or by catastrophic failures from an external cause. Examples of natural disasters include floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, tidal waves, severe storms, or landslides. A bridge collapsing after being struck by a barge is an example of a catastrophic failure.

State highway agencies, working with local officials, have established the functional classification of all public roads, ranging from high service level arterials to lower service local streets. Federal-aid highways are all the public roads not functionally classified as either local or rural minor collectors. As a result, Federal-aid highways include the more important state, county, and city roads. Based on the functional classifications, about one-quarter of the overall public road mileage has been designated as Federal-aid highways. The FHWA's ER program is limited to the repair of Federal-aid highways (as previously defined) or roads on Federal lands. See the Federal Emergency Management Agency's disaster relief program under the Stafford Act for the repair of public roads not covered by the FHWA's ER program.

**U.S. Department of Energy (DOE); Building Technologies Program**



The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is working to encourage cost-effective, durable, and energy-efficient building reconstruction in areas struck by natural disasters. The Building Technologies Program offers information and resources for state and local officials, builders, and consumers, as well as training opportunities on building technologies and designs that can make a long-term difference in areas vulnerable to natural disasters. When applied, these technologies can result in safer, healthier, more economically viable communities that are less susceptible to disaster.

**Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Virginia TMDLs**

During an assessment period, if the water body surpasses the water quality criteria, Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s (USEPA) Water Quality Management and Planning Regulation (40 CFR Part 130) both require states to develop a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for each pollutant. A TMDL Implementation Plan is developed to reduce bacteria levels to attain water quality standards allowing delisting of impaired waters from the Section 303(d) List. See State Capabilities - Virginia DEQ for more information.

**6.1.2 - STATE AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS**

**Virginia Department of Emergency Management**

The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) identifies its mission as leading “Virginia’s prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery efforts to save lives and protect all Virginians, prioritizing under-resourced communities and embracing equity. It is a call we fulfill to ensure the security and resilience of every community in the state, and to drive equitable mitigation and recovery outcomes.” VDEM responsibilities are categorized into five (5) mission areas, as follows: Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery. The following are VDEM plans and resources relevant to hazard mitigation within the region:



*Commonwealth of Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan*

The current Commonwealth of Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan (CoVaHMP) was adopted in 2023. Consistent with FEMA regulations, the CoVaHMP provides guidance on hazard mitigation activities within the Commonwealth. The State originally established a hazard mitigation plan in 2004, updating the plan in 2007, 2010, 2013, 2018, and then most recently in 2023.

*Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan*

An update to the Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operation Plan was last adopted in July 2019, with “major revision-changes” in October 2021. The Plan provides the framework for how the State will support impacted local governments, individuals, and businesses in the event of disasters, and outlines how Virginia will work with the federal government to deliver federal disaster assistance. The plan consists of a Basic Plan as well as sub-plans covering Emergency Support Functions, other Support Functions, and seven hazard-specific volumes.

*Virginia Emergency Alert Systems (EAS) Stations*



Virginia is divided into 14 Local Areas (formerly "operational areas") which coordinate EAS activities under the direction of the Local Emergency Communications Committee (LECC). The LECC Chair and Vice-Chair are appointed by the FCC and the State Chair; they are also members of the State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC). The Rappahannock-Rapidan region is within Local Area 2 with its office in Culpeper.

Specific AM/FM radio stations provide updated disaster and directional information to listeners in the Commonwealth. Thirty-seven radio stations cover fourteen regions in Virginia.

*Virginia Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP)*

Interoperability is the ability of public safety agencies to talk across disciplines and jurisdictions via radio communications systems, exchanging voice and/or data with one another on demand in real time, when needed, and as authorized. The lack of interoperable communications is not a new public safety problem, but new events continue to remind us of the pressing problem it poses to public safety departments and emergency response agencies. Major disaster events have demonstrated the need for improved communications systems and collaboration and planning among various jurisdictions.

The Virginia SCIP serves as the backbone for regional and local interoperable communications planning. It establishes a future vision for communications interoperability and aligns the Commonwealth's emergency response agencies with that vision and the goals, objectives, and initiatives for achieving that vision. The first Virginia SCIP was released in 2005, and it defined statewide initiatives designed to improve interoperable communications. The current version of the SCIP was adopted in 2013.

**Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation**

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is the state's leading natural resource conservation agency. DCR's stated mission "is to conserve Virginia's natural and recreational resources." DCR supports a variety of environmental programs organized within six areas (Administration, Natural Heritage, Planning and Recreation Resources, Soil and Water, State Parks, and Dam Safety and Floodplain Management) and numerous policy and/or advisory boards including the Board of Conservation and Recreation, Virginia Cave Board, Board on Conservation and Development of Public Beaches, and the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board).

*Virginia Flood Damage Reduction Act*

Virginia's General Assembly enacted the Virginia Flood Damage Reduction Act of 1989, the result of several disastrous floods or coastal storms that hit the State between 1969 and 1985. To improve Virginia's flood protection programs and place related programs in one agency, responsibility for coordination of all state floodplain programs was transferred in 1987 from the Water Control Board to DCR. DCR was named manager of the State's floodplain program and designated coordinating agency of the National Flood Insurance Program under the Act, §10.1-602, and a Governor's memorandum released in July 1997.

Floodplain Management Program staff works with localities to establish and enforce floodplain management zoning. Localities use the program's State model ordinances, in which minimum standards for local regulations are set, to write their own local ordinances. Local governments can



set more restrictive standards to ensure higher levels of protection for residents in flood hazard areas. Also, the State has used the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code to set construction standards for structures built in Federal Emergency Management Agency designated flood hazard areas.

Floodplain zoning regulates how development is allowed within floodplains. The Floodplain Management Program's main goal is to protect people and their property from unwise floodplain development. It also protects society from costs associated with developed floodplains.

#### *Community Flood Preparedness Fund*

Virginia's General Assembly established the Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF) to provide grant and loan financing for resilience planning efforts to local and regional government bodies across the Commonwealth. To date, DCR and the Virginia Resources Authority have administered three rounds of grant offerings, from which awards have totaled \$97.74 million in funding provided by the Commonwealth. Of this amount, \$65.9 million, or 67.5%, has gone to communities meeting the fund's definition of low-income communities.

#### *Resilient Virginia Revolving Fund*

The Resilient Virginia Revolving Fund (RVRF) is a second state fund for flood resilience, which was established in the Code of Virginia (Title 10.1, Chapter 6, Article 1.4) in 2022. The fund was established to hold sums from a variety of sources and distribute these sums as loans and grants to local governments for flood resilience projects such as residential structural and non-structural flood mitigation.

DCR's intention is to focus the CFPF on large, community-scale projects while leveraging the RVRF primarily for property-scale mitigation efforts. Following a public comment period, DCR issued grant manuals for Round 6 of the CFPF and the RVRF Loan Fund 2025 draft manual.

### **Virginia Department of Environmental Quality**

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is the Commonwealth's environmental agency, responsible for administering laws and regulations related to air quality, water quality, water supply, renewable energy, and land protection. DEQ's mission "is to protect and enhance the environment of Virginia in order to promote the health and well-being of the Commonwealth's citizens, residents, and visitors in accordance with applicable laws and regulations."

The Virginia Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program is a process to improve water quality and restore impaired waters in Virginia. Specifically, TMDL is the maximum pollutant that a waterbody can assimilate without surpassing the state water quality standards for protection of the five beneficial uses: drinking water, recreational (i.e., primary contact/swimming), fishing, shell fishing, and aquatic life.

#### *Virginia Stormwater Management Act and Regulations*

The Virginia Stormwater Management Act and Virginia Stormwater Management Permit regulations provide the ability to manage the quantity and quality of stormwater runoff on a



construction site, as well as on a regional or watershed basis. Compared with impervious surfaces (such as pavement or rooftops), pervious surfaces (such as meadows and woodlands) absorb and filter rainfall and reduce runoff. When meadows and woodlands are developed, the increase in impervious surfaces increases the amount of runoff that occurs when it rains. This increase in runoff can overwhelm waterways, causing erosion, localized flooding, and property damage.

Virginia DEQ is also a member agency in the Virginia Emergency Support Team (VEST), a group of more than 300 state, federal, private, and nonprofit representatives that work together to respond to calls for assistance from local governments throughout the Commonwealth. In response to natural and human-caused disasters, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) expands its capability through the VEST. The VEST is organized by Emergency Support Functions (ESFs), and DEQ has leading and support roles and responsibilities under several support functions including Oil and Hazardous Materials Response, Public Works and Engineering, Public Health and Medical Services, and Agriculture and Natural Resources.

### **Department of Housing and Community Development**

The Commonwealth of Virginia is responsible for enacting the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (VUSBC), and each county or city is responsible for enforcing the code locally. The code contains the building regulations that must be complied with when constructing a new building or structure or an addition to an existing building, maintaining, or repairing an existing building, or renovating or changing the use of a building or structure.

Enforcement of the VUSBC is the responsibility of the local government’s building inspections department. The VUSBC contains enforcement procedures that must be used by the enforcing agency.

As provided in the Uniform Statewide Building Code Law, Chapter 6 (36-97 et seq.) of Title 36 of the Code of Virginia, the USBC supersedes the building codes and regulations of the counties, municipalities and other political subdivisions and state agencies related to any construction, reconstruction, alterations, conversion, repair or use of buildings and installation of equipment therein. The USBC does not supersede zoning ordinances or other land use controls that do not affect the manner of construction or materials to be used in the construction, alteration, or repair.

### **6.1.3 - REGIONAL AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS**

#### **Accomack- Northampton Planning District Commission (A-N PDC)**

Created by the Commonwealth of Virginia, the County of Accomack, and the County of Northampton and joined by the Town of Chincoteague, the A-NPDC has been the Eastern Shore of Virginia’s regional planning organization since 1970. Tasked with supporting local planning and community development efforts and providing technical assistance on behalf of the Commonwealth, the A-NPDC focuses on issues of regional importance. We also staff the Accomack-Northampton Regional Housing Authority and the Eastern Shore of Virginia Housing Alliance.

#### **Accomack-Northampton Regional Housing Authority**

Created by the County of Accomack and the County of Northampton, the Authority is tasked with providing safe, sanitary, and affordable housing to low income residents of the Eastern Shore. The A-



NRHA focuses on developing rental housing and manages the regional Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program. The Authority also owns several apartment complexes and continues work to provide a sufficient number of attractive and affordable rental units.

**Eastern Shore of Virginia Housing Alliance**

The Alliance is a non-profit Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO). The Alliance focuses on preparing Eastern Shore residents for the responsibilities of homeownership. The Alliance also continues its vital work in reconstructing and rehabilitating houses that have no indoor plumbing.

**Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF)**

Since 1966, CBF has tirelessly worked to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers and streams. What began as a movement recognizing the Bay's declining health has grown into a remarkable science-based collaborative effort considered a global model for ecosystem restoration. With support across communities, ideologies, and political parties, considerable progress has been made.

Even as the region's population has increased by nearly fifty percent, pollution has been significantly reduced. Fish and crab populations are generally improving, and underwater dead zones are shrinking over time. The Bay and its waterways are proving resilient, responding to land-based pollution reduction efforts.

**Virginia Institute of Marine Studies (VIMS) - University of William and Mary**

VIMS is a premier coastal and marine sciences research institute and a state agency with a mandate to conduct research and provide sound scientific advice to the Commonwealth of Virginia. In the years since our founding in 1940, VIMS have developed unique capabilities in people, practices and infrastructure that allow us to provide the honest, unbiased science and guidance needed to help address the pressing issues facing our rivers, estuaries, coasts, and oceans.

**6.2 ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL CAPACITY**

To evaluate the ability of AN- PDC localities to plan, develop, and implement hazard mitigation strategies, the following sections present local capability assessments for each jurisdiction. This capability assessment is designed to highlight both the administrative capabilities available to the community to assist with proactive hazard mitigation and the other technical community assets that may help facilitate the planning and implementation of natural hazard mitigation over time.

The Towns within Accomac County and Northampton County participated in the planning process but will be securing funding through their Participating County. A-N PDC staff and County staff collaborated to incorporate information relevant to these towns. While Town representatives served as important stakeholders in the process, their direct contributions to this plan update were limited due to staffing constraints.

**Regional Capability Matrices are on the following pages.**



### 6.3 FISCAL AND FINANCIAL CAPABILITIES

This assessment is designed to highlight both the financial and outreach capabilities available to the community to assist with proactive hazard mitigation and the other community assets that may help facilitate the planning and implementation of natural hazard mitigation over time.

The Towns within Accomac County and Northampton County participated in the planning process but will be securing funding through their Participating County. A-N PDC staff and County staff collaborated to incorporate information relevant to these towns. While Town representatives served as important stakeholders in the process, their direct contributions to this plan update were limited due to staffing constraints.

**Table 6.1 Administrative and Technical Capability Assessment is on the following page.**

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**6.4 REGIONAL COLLABORATION AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL CAPABILITIES**

To evaluate the ability of AN- PDC localities to plan, develop, and implement hazard mitigation strategies, the capability assessment is designed to highlight both the regulatory tools available to the community to assist with natural hazard mitigation and the other community assets that may help facilitate the planning and implementation of natural hazard mitigation over time.

The Towns within Accomac County and Northampton County participated in the planning process but will be securing funding through their Participating County. A-N PDC staff and County staff collaborated to incorporate information relevant to these towns. While Town representatives served as important stakeholders in the process, their direct contributions to this plan update were limited due to overall capability constraints.

**6.2 Capability Assessment Summary Matrix is on the following page.**

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\*Participating Jurisdictions are the two Counties Accomack, and Northampton and the Town of Chincoteague

The remaining localities were stakeholders in the planning process.



## 6.5.1 - ACCOMACK COUNTY CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT

### Form of Governance

Accomack County is governed by an elected Board of Supervisors with seven (7) members with daily administration handled on the Board's behalf by a County Administrator and associated County staff.

### Guiding Community Documents

Accomack County's Comprehensive Plan was updated in 2018, much of the content refers to dated data from the early 2000's. The comprehensive plan further emphasizes the need to protect groundwater, open space, historic resources, agricultural lands, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Wallops Flight Facility (WFF), and to strengthen existing towns and communities.

### Zoning & Subdivision Ordinance

The zoning regulations and subdivision ordinance was created with consideration for the existing use of property, the suitability of properties for various uses, the trends of growth or change, the current and future requirements of the community as to land for various purposes as determined by population and economic studies, the transportation requirements of the community, and the requirements for schools, parks, playgrounds, and other public services; and for the conservation of properties and their values and the encouragement of the most appropriate use of land throughout the County, in accordance with Code of Virginia (1950), § 15.2-2284, as amended.

### Building Codes

The Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code is based on the International Code Council (ICC) series of codes with state amendments. The 2018 editions are currently in effect, as of July 1st, 2022.

### Flood Management

Since 1953, there have been 14 Federal Disaster Declarations for hurricanes, flooding, and severe storms in the County, three of which occurred in the past five years (FEMA Disaster Declarations, 2022). There are 14 severe repetitive loss (SRL) properties and 92 NFIP-recognized repetitive loss (RL) properties in the County (FEMA NFIP Data Report, 2022), which has increased substantially since 2015. According to the FEMA Flood Risk Report in 2015, there were only 3 SRL and 37 RL properties, which was 12 more than there were in 2003 (FEMA Flood Risk Report 2015, FEMA NFIP Report December 2003). There has been a steady decrease in the total number of active insurance policies for the County, as more homeowners learn of the changes to the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM).

With the 2015 updates to the FIRM, there were changes to the associated Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) for the County. The total area of the SFHA increased by 12 square miles and decreased by 16.6 square miles for a net decrease of 4.6 square miles including 1,111 buildings. The area within the V zone increased by 3.6 square miles and decreased by 44.8 square miles for a net decrease of 41.2 square miles including 300 buildings. This is extremely important as 1,411 structures that previously were required to have flood insurance under a mortgage are no longer required to have



even basic flood insurance coverage. Flood insurance is cost prohibitive for many residents in the County. Without insurance, should there be flooding, the recovery time for residents, businesses, and the overall community will be much longer.

The County participates in the Community Rating System (CRS) program in order to provide a policy discount to residents and businesses in the unincorporated areas of the County. Since 2016, Accomack County’s CRS rating has dropped from 8 to 6, now providing residents a 20% discount for insurance.

**Emergency Preparedness**

Accomack County uses the Code Red emergency notification system. Before disasters occur, Emergency Management coordinates training, planning and exercises for all county entities having a role in disaster response. We also promote and provide public education to residents and visitors on ways to be better prepared to survive all types of disaster.

During disasters, Emergency Management coordinates requests from response agencies for resources such as personnel, equipment, technical assistance and, when appropriate, request federal assistance. After a disaster is stabilized, Emergency Management coordinates local, state, and federal programs to assist recovery efforts for the county and its citizens.

Improvements defined in the 2021 Hazard Mitigation Plan were made in the areas of: enhancing the Alert system to allow for county wide warnings, participating in ICS scenarios and tabletop exercises at the county E911 Center, and the completion of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

Tables 6.6.1 below represents the identified capabilities of the County; all data was provided by representatives of those jurisdictions or through online County resources.

**Table 6.6.1: Capability Matrix - Accomack County (updated with 2023 data)**

Capability	Accomack County
Comprehensive Plan	Yes
Land Use Plan	Yes
Subdivision Ordinance	Yes
Zoning Ordinance	Yes
NFIP/FPM Ordinance	Yes
- Effective FIRM Date	5/17/2015
- Substantial Damage Language	Yes
- Certified Floodplain Manager	Yes
- Maintain Elevation Certificates	Yes
- # of Repetitive Losses	3
- Building Type of Repetitive Losses	Nonresidential – 2; Single Family -1
CRS Rating	5
Stormwater Program	Yes
Building Code Version	VA USBC 2018
Full-time Building Official	Yes
- Conduct “As-built” Inspections	Yes
BCEGS Rating (Evaluated 2006)	Residential - 4; Commercial - 4



Capability	Accomack County
Local Emergency Operations Plan	Yes
Hazard Mitigation Plan	Yes
Warning Systems in Place	
- Storm Ready Certified	Yes
- Weather Radio Reception	Fair
- Outdoor Warning Sirens	No
- Emergency Notification (SMS Text)	Yes
- Other? (e.g., cable over-ride)	No
GIS system	
- Hazard Data	Yes
- Building footprints	Yes
- Tied to Assessor data	Yes
- Land Use designations	Yes
Structural Protection Projects	No
Property Owner Protection Projects	Yes-Acquisition/Elevation
Critical Facilities Protected	No
Natural Resource Inventory	Yes
Cultural Resources Inventory	Yes
Erosion Control Procedures	Yes
Sediment Control Procedures	Yes
Public Information Program/Outlet	Yes
Environmental Education Program	Yes

*Data provided by the Community*

**6.5.2 - NORTHAMPTON COUNTY CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT**

**Form of Governance**

Northampton County is governed by an elected Board of Supervisors with seven (7) members with daily administration handled on the Board’s behalf by a County Administrator and associated County staff.

**Guiding Community Documents**

Northampton County’s Comprehensive Plan was just updated and adopted in April of 2021. The comprehensive plan further emphasizes the need to protect groundwater, open space, historic resources, agricultural lands, and to guide growth around existing towns and communities.

**Zoning & Subdivision Ordinance**

The zoning regulations and subdivision ordinance was created with consideration for the existing use of property, the suitability of properties for various uses, the trends of growth or change, the current and future requirements of the community as to land for various purposes as determined by population and economic studies, the transportation requirements of the community, and the requirements for schools, parks, playgrounds, and other public services; and for the conservation of properties and their values and the encouragement of the most appropriate use of land throughout the County, in accordance with Code of Virginia (1950), § 15.2-2284, as amended.



### Building Codes

The 2021 Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code is based on the International Code Council (ICC) series of codes with state amendments.

### Flood Management

According to the 2022 FEMA NFIP Data Report, there have been 15 Federal Disaster Declarations for flooding in the County for hurricanes, flooding, and severe storms (FEMA Disaster Declarations, 2022). County contains **one** severe repetitive loss (SRL) and **11** repetitive loss (RL) properties, which is a substantial increase from having no SLR or RL in 2015. Similar to Accomack County, there has been a steady decrease in the total number of insurance policies as more homeowners learn of the changes to the 2015 Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). which has increased substantially since 2015. According to the FEMA Flood Risk Report in 2015, there were only 3 SRL and 37 RL properties, which was 12 more than there were in 2003 (FEMA Flood Risk Report 2015, FEMA NFIP Report December 2003). There has been a steady decrease in the total number of active insurance policies for the County, as more homeowners learn of the changes to the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM).

With the 2015 updates to the FIRM, there were changes to the associated Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) for the County. The total area of the SFHA increased by 12 square miles and decreased by 16.6 square miles for a net decrease of 4.6 square miles including 1,111 buildings. The area within the V zone increased by 3.6 square miles and decreased by 44.8 square miles for a net decrease of 41.2 square miles including 300 buildings. This is extremely important as 1,411 structures that previously were required to have flood insurance under a mortgage are no longer required to have even basic flood insurance coverage. Flood insurance is cost prohibitive for many residents in the County. Without insurance, should there be flooding, the recovery time for residents, businesses, and the overall community will be much longer.

### Emergency Preparedness

Northampton County uses the Citizen Alert emergency notification system. The Department of Emergency Management (EM) coordinates efforts to ensure the County is able to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from any type of natural or man-caused disaster. The County uses an all hazards approach to emergency preparedness, which means planning efforts consider all types of natural and man-caused disasters that could occur in the County.

EM falls under the Department of Emergency Medical Services. However, emergency management encompasses the entire County. EM works in collaboration with other community groups, including the Red Cross, the Voluntary Action Center, and others.

Improvements defined in the 2021 Hazard Mitigation Plan were made in the areas of: enhancing the Alert system to allow for county wide warnings, participating in ICS scenarios and tabletop exercises at the county E911 Center, and the completion of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

Tables 6.6.2 below represents the identified capabilities of the County; all data was provided by representatives of those jurisdictions or through online County resources.

**Table 6.6.2: Capability Matrix - Northampton County**



Capability	Northampton County
Comprehensive Plan	Yes
Land Use Plan	Yes
Subdivision Ordinance	Yes
Zoning Ordinance	Yes
NFIP/FPM Ordinance	Yes
- Effective FIRM Date	3/1/2015
- Substantial Damage Language	Yes
- Certified Floodplain Manager	No
- Maintain Elevation Certificates	Yes
- # of Repetitive Losses	3
- Building Type of Repetitive Losses	Nonresidential – 2; Single Family -1
CRS Rating	N/A
Stormwater Program	Yes
Building Code Version	VA USBC 2021
Full-time Building Official	Yes
- Conduct “As-built” Inspections	Yes
BCEGS Rating (Evaluated 2006)	Residential - 4; Commercial - 4
Local Emergency Operations Plan	Yes
Hazard Mitigation Plan	Yes
Warning Systems in Place	
- Storm Ready Certified	No
- Emergency Notification (SMS Text)	Yes
- Other? (e.g., cable over-ride)	No
GIS system	
- Hazard Data	Yes
- Building footprints	Yes
- Tied to Assessor data	Yes
- Land Use designations	Yes
Structural Protection Projects	No
Critical Facilities Protected	No
Natural Resource Inventory	Yes
Cultural Resources Inventory	Yes
Erosion Control Procedures	Yes
Sediment Control Procedures	Yes
Public Information Program/Outlet	Yes
Environmental Education Program	Yes

Data provided by the Community and online resources.

### 6.6.3 – TOWN OF ACCOMAC CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT

#### Form of Governance

Town of Accomac is governed by an elected Town Council with seven (7) members with daily administration handled on the Council’s behalf by a Town Administrator and associated Town staff.

#### Guiding Community Documents



Town of Accomac participated for the first time in the 2021 hazard mitigation planning process. The Town has not updated their Comprehensive Plan since 1989, and their Planning Commission is working on an update. The comprehensive plan will discuss the need to protect groundwater, open space, historic resources, agricultural lands, and to how the community wishes to guide growth.

**Zoning & Subdivision Ordinance**

The zoning regulations and subdivision ordinance was created with consideration for the existing use of property, the suitability of properties for various uses, the trends of growth or change, the current and future requirements of the community as to land for various purposes as determined by population and economic studies, the transportation requirements of the community, and the requirements for schools, parks, playgrounds, and other public services; and for the conservation of properties and their values and the encouragement of the most appropriate use of land throughout the County, in accordance with Code of Virginia (1950), § 15.2-2284, as amended.

**Building Codes**

The 2021 Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code is based on the International Code Council (ICC) series of codes with state amendments.

**Flood Management**

The Town joined the NFIP on March 16, 2009. There are no identified Special Flood Hazard Areas in the Town.

**Emergency Preparedness**

The Town of Accomac relies on Accomack County for Emergency Management. The County uses the Code Red emergency notification system. Before disasters occur, Emergency Management coordinates training, planning and exercises for all county entities having a role in disaster response. We also promote and provide public education to residents and visitors on ways to be better prepared to survive all types of disaster.

Tables 6.6.3 below represents the identified capabilities of the County; all data was provided by representatives of those jurisdictions or through online County resources.

**Table 6.6.3: Capability Matrix – Town Accomac**

Capability	Town of Accomac
Comprehensive Plan	Yes
Land Use Plan	Relies on Accomack County
Subdivision Ordinance	Relies on Accomack County
Zoning Ordinance	Relies on Accomack County
NFIP/FPM Ordinance	Yes
- Effective FIRM Date	3/1//2015
- Substantial Damage Language	Yes
- Certified Floodplain Manager	No
- Maintain Elevation Certificates	Yes



Capability	Town of Accomac
- # of Repetitive Losses	3
- Building Type of Repetitive Losses	Nonresidential – 2; Single Family -1
CRS Rating	Not Joined
Emergency Operations Plan	Relies on Accomack County
Building Code Version	VA USBC 2021
Full-time Building Official	Relies on Accomack County

Data provided by the Community or through online resources.

**6.6.4 – TOWN OF BELLE HAVEN CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT**

**Form of Governance**

Town of Belle Haven is governed by an elected Town Council with five (5) members with daily administration handled on the Council’s behalf by a Town Administrator and associated Town staff.

**Guiding Community Documents**

Town of Belle Haven participated for the first time during this current hazard mitigation planning process. The Town has not updated their Comprehensive Plan since 1989, and their Planning Commission is working on an update. The comprehensive plan will discuss the need to protect groundwater, open space, historic resources, agricultural lands, and to how the community wishes to guide growth.

**Zoning & Subdivision Ordinance**

The zoning regulations and subdivision ordinance was created with consideration for the existing use of property, the suitability of properties for various uses, the trends of growth or change, the current and future requirements of the community as to land for various purposes as determined by population and economic studies, the transportation requirements of the community, and the requirements for schools, parks, playgrounds, and other public services; and for the conservation of properties and their values and the encouragement of the most appropriate use of land throughout the County, in accordance with Code of Virginia (1950), § 15.2-2284, as amended.

**Building Codes**

The 2021 Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code is based on the International Code Council (ICC) series of codes with state amendments.

**Flood Management**

The Town joined the NFIP on March 16, 2009. There are no identified Special Flood Hazard Areas in the Town.

**Emergency Preparedness**

The Town of Belle Haven relies on Accomack County for Emergency Management. The County uses the Code Red emergency notification system. Before disasters occur, Emergency Management coordinates training, planning and exercises for all county entities having a role in disaster response.



We also promote and provide public education to residents and visitors on ways to be better prepared to survive all types of disaster.

Tables 6.6.4 below represents the identified capabilities of the County; all data was provided by representatives of those jurisdictions or through online County resources.

**Table 6.6.4: Capability Matrix – Town Belle Haven (updated with 2023 data)**

Capability	Town of Belle Haven
Comprehensive Plan	Relies on Accomack County
Land Use Plan	Relies on Accomack County
Subdivision Ordinance	Relies on Accomack County
Zoning Ordinance	Relies on Accomack County
NFIP/FPM Ordinance	Yes
- Effective FIRM Date	3/1//2015
- Substantial Damage Language	Yes
- Certified Floodplain Manager	No
- Maintain Elevation Certificates	Yes
- # of Repetitive Losses	3
- Building Type of Repetitive Losses	Nonresidential – 2; Single Family -1
CRS Rating	Not Joined
Emergency Operations Plan	Relies on Accomack County
Building Code Version	VA USBC 2021
Full-time Building Official	Relies on Accomack County

*Data provided by the Community or through online resources.*

### 6.6.5 – TOWN OF BLOXOM CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT

#### Form of Governance

Town of Bloxom governed by an elected Town Council with daily administration handled on the Council’s behalf by Town staff.

#### Guiding Community Documents

Town of Bloxom has participated in the hazard mitigation planning process since 2011. Bloxom has not updated their comprehensive plan since 2000. The comprehensive plan discusses the need to protect groundwater, open space, historic resources, agricultural lands, and to how the community wishes to guide growth.

#### Zoning & Subdivision Ordinance

The zoning regulations and subdivision ordinance was created with consideration for the existing use of property, the suitability of properties for various uses, the trends of growth or change, the current and future requirements of the community as to land for various purposes as determined by population and economic studies, the transportation requirements of the community, and the



requirements for schools, parks, playgrounds, and other public services; and for the conservation of properties and their values and the encouragement of the most appropriate use of land throughout the County, in accordance with Code of Virginia (1950), § 15.2-2284, as amended.

**Building Codes**

The 2021 Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code is based on the International Code Council (ICC) series of codes with state amendments.

**Flood Management**

Although there are no policies in the Town, Bloxom joined the NFIP on October 16, 2012. There is no identified Special Flood Hazard Area in the Town.

**Emergency Preparedness**

The Town of Bloxom relies on Accomack County for Emergency Management. The County uses the Code Red emergency notification system. Before disasters occur, Emergency Management coordinates training, planning and exercises for all county entities having a role in disaster response. We also promote and provide public education to residents and visitors on ways to be better prepared to survive all types of disaster.

Tables 6.6.5 below represents the identified capabilities of the County; all data was provided by representatives of those jurisdictions or through online County resources.

**Table 6.6.5: Capability Matrix – Town Bloxom (updated with 2023 data)**

Capability	Town of Bloxom
Comprehensive Plan	Relies on Accomack County
Land Use Plan	Relies on Accomack County
Subdivision Ordinance	Relies on Accomack County
Zoning Ordinance	Relies on Accomack County
NFIP/FPM Ordinance	Yes
- Effective FIRM Date	3/1//2015
- Substantial Damage Language	Yes
- Certified Floodplain Manager	No
- Maintain Elevation Certificates	Yes
- # of Repetitive Losses	3
- Building Type of Repetitive Losses	Nonresidential – 2; Single Family -1
CRS Rating	Not Joined
Emergency Operations Plan	Relies on Accomack County
Building Code Version	VA USBC 2021
Full-time Building Official	Relies on Accomack County

*Data provided by the Community or through online resources.*

**6.6.6 – TOWN OF CAPE CHARLES CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT**

**Form of Governance**



Town of Cape Charles governed by an elected Town Council with seven (7) members with daily administration handled on the Council’s behalf by a Town Manager and associated Town staff.

**Guiding Community Documents**

Town of Cape Charles has participated in the hazard mitigation planning process since 2011. Bloxom has not updated their comprehensive plan since 2000. The comprehensive plan discusses the need to protect groundwater, open space, historic resources, agricultural lands, and to how the community wishes to guide growth.

**Zoning & Subdivision Ordinance**

The zoning regulations and subdivision ordinance was created with consideration for the existing use of property, the suitability of properties for various uses, the trends of growth or change, the current and future requirements of the community as to land for various purposes as determined by population and economic studies, the transportation requirements of the community, and the requirements for schools, parks, playgrounds, and other public services; and for the conservation of properties and their values and the encouragement of the most appropriate use of land throughout the County, in accordance with Code of Virginia (1950), § 15.2-2284, as amended.

**Building Codes**

The 2021 Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code is based on the International Code Council (ICC) series of codes with state amendments.

**Flood Management**

The Town of Cape Charles joined the NFIP on February 2, 1983. The Town currently has 169 policies, a decrease of 65 since January 2016 (FEMA NFIP Data Report, 2022). The new Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) is most likely the cause of the vast reduction in the number of overall policies.

**Emergency Preparedness**

The Town of Cape Charles participates in the Community Rating System (CRS) program, which provides incentives for NFIP communities to complete activities that reduce flood hazard risk. When a community completes specified activities, the insurance premiums of these policyholders in communities are reduced. The Town received a new score of 8 in the last review.

Tables 6.6.5 below represents the identified capabilities of the County; all data was provided by representatives of those jurisdictions or through online County resources.

**Table 6.6.6: Capability Matrix – Town of Cape Charles**

Capability	Town of Cape Charles
Comprehensive Plan	Yes
Land Use Plan	Yes
Subdivision Ordinance	Yes
Zoning Ordinance	Yes
NFIP/FPM Ordinance	Yes



Capability	Town of Cape Charles
- Effective FIRM Date	3/1//2015
- Substantial Damage Language	Yes
- Certified Floodplain Manager	Yes
- Maintain Elevation Certificates	Yes
- # of Repetitive Losses	3
- Building Type of Repetitive Losses	Nonresidential – 2; Single Family -1
CRS Rating	Not Joined
Emergency Operations Plan	Relies on Northampton County
Building Code Version	VA USBC 2021
Full-time Building Official	Yes

Data provided by the Community or through online resources.

**6.6.7 – TOWN OF CHERITON CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT**

**Form of Governance**

Town of Cheriton governed by an elected Town Council with seven (7) members with daily administration handled on the Council’s behalf by Town staff.

**Guiding Community Documents**

The Town of Cheriton began participating in the hazard mitigation planning process in 2016. The Town was covered under the County’s Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Town updated their comprehensive plan in 2010. The comprehensive plan discusses the need to protect groundwater, open space, historic resources, agricultural lands, and to how the community wishes to guide growth.

**Zoning & Subdivision Ordinance**

The zoning regulations and subdivision ordinance was created with consideration for the existing use of property, the suitability of properties for various uses, the trends of growth or change, the current and future requirements of the community as to land for various purposes as determined by population and economic studies, the transportation requirements of the community, and the requirements for schools, parks, playgrounds, and other public services; and for the conservation of properties and their values and the encouragement of the most appropriate use of land throughout the County, in accordance with Code of Virginia (1950), § 15.2-2284, as amended.

**Building Codes**

The 2021 Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code is based on the International Code Council (ICC) series of codes with state amendments.

**Flood Management**

The Town joined the NFIP in July of 2020 after adopting a floodplain management ordinance and enforcement procedures.

**Emergency Preparedness**



The Town of Cheriton relies on Northampton County for Emergency Management. The County uses the Citizen Alert emergency notification system. Before disasters occur, Emergency Management coordinates training, planning and exercises for all county entities having a role in disaster response. We also promote and provide public education to residents and visitors on ways to be better prepared to survive all types of disaster.

Tables 6.6.7 below represents the identified capabilities of the County; all data was provided by representatives of those jurisdictions or through online County resources.

**Table 6.6.7: Capability Matrix – Town of Cheriton (updated with 2023 data)**

Capability	Town of Cheriton
Comprehensive Plan	Relies on Northampton County
Land Use Plan	Relies on Northampton County
Subdivision Ordinance	Relies on Northampton County
Zoning Ordinance	Relies on Northampton County
NFIP/FPM Ordinance	Yes
- Effective FIRM Date	3/1//2015
- Substantial Damage Language	Yes
- Certified Floodplain Manager	No
- Maintain Elevation Certificates	Yes
- # of Repetitive Losses	3
- Building Type of Repetitive Losses	Nonresidential – 2; Single Family -1
CRS Rating	Not Joined
Emergency Operations Plan	Relies on Northampton County
Building Code Version	VA USBC 2021
Full-time Building Official	Relies on Northampton County

*Data provided by the Community or through online resources.*

### 6.6.8 – TOWN OF CHINCOTEAGUE CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT

#### Form of Governance

The Town government is composed of a mayor and six council members, each with a four-year term with daily administration handled on the Council’s behalf by a Town Administrator and associated Town staff.

#### Guiding Community Documents

Town of Chincoteague has participated in the hazard mitigation planning process since 2011. Chincoteague was last updated in 2020. The comprehensive plan discusses the need to protect groundwater, open space, historic resources, agricultural lands, and to how the community wishes to guide growth.

#### Zoning & Subdivision Ordinance

The zoning regulations and subdivision ordinance was created with consideration for the existing use of property, the suitability of properties for various uses, the trends of growth or change, the current and future requirements of the community as to land for various purposes as determined by



population and economic studies, the transportation requirements of the community, and the requirements for schools, parks, playgrounds, and other public services; and for the conservation of properties and their values and the encouragement of the most appropriate use of land throughout the County, in accordance with Code of Virginia (1950), § 15.2-2284, as amended.

### Building Codes

The 2021 Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code is based on the International Code Council (ICC) series of codes with state amendments.

### Flood Management

Town of Chincoteague participates in the Community Rating System (CRS) of the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The NFIP provides participants protection against catastrophic damage of loss from flooding. Communities participate in the NFIP by adopting and enforcing local ordinances that reduce future flood losses by regulating new construction. These measures include the adoption of floodplain zoning provisions, designed to limit damage to structures in flood hazard areas, and the adoption of special building codes for affected areas. Homeowners, renters, and business owners living in communities that participate in the NFIP are eligible for federally backed flood insurance.

The Community Rating System rewards communities that voluntarily take steps beyond the minimum requirements of the Flood Insurance Program with discounts on flood insurance premiums. Eligible activities fall under one or more of the following categories: flood preparedness; flood damage reduction; mapping and regulations; and public awareness. In 2003, Chincoteague improved its rating to Class 8, entitling the community to a 10% discount on flood insurance premiums. Chincoteague’s current rating is still Class 8; however, the Town has been actively putting measures in place in hopes to lowering the Class rating to 7. The Town currently has 1,710 policies according to the 2022 FEMA NFIP Data Report. Depending on the distribution of NFIP polices, these should provide a portion of the cost of repair. Purchasing NFIP contents insurance is not usually required unless the property is being used to secure a loan. In this case, NFIP building insurance is a requirement to receive a mortgage on the property. Most of the covered losses will be for repair of existing buildings and will not be for replacement of personal property. In 2003, there was approximately \$46.3 million in properties that are uncovered for residential structural loss. This amount increased to approximately \$89.5 million in 2011 for the Town. In 2003, private residential property owners would have suffered an estimated \$107.9 million in structural and contents damage in the event of a 100-year flood. In 2011, this estimate increased to approximately \$208.3 million (Eastern Shore of Virginia Coastal Flood Vulnerability Assessment, 2006 and 2011).

Chincoteague has three Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) as of the most recent 2015 FIRM. The 1984 FIRM shows the old Town boundaries and the 1992 FIRM shows the rest of Chincoteague Island. In 1989, the Town of Chincoteague annexed the remainder of Chincoteague Island. As a result, both the 1984 FIRM and 1992 FIRM are incorrect in showing the Town’s boundaries. An updated FIRM was provided to the Town by FEMA with an effective date of March 16, 2009.

The 2015 FIRM removed 0.6 square miles from the SFHA, which removed 1,167 buildings from the SFHA, such that they are no longer required to have insurance if they are under a mortgage. Couple this with the increase in rates, and the conditions for decreases in the number residents choosing to



maintain insurance coverage. Previously all properties were at the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) of 7, 8 or 9 feet, but the new FIRM has the majority of the commercial and most densely populated area at 4 feet BFE, with the highest BFE now at 6 feet. Construction standards are focused around this FEMA value, and so, if an under estimate, buildings are typically not built high enough, and mitigation moneys to raise buildings would only cover costs to construct to BFE. This can decrease the ability of the residents and the community to rebound following a large flooding event that may vary from the FIRM reflected exposure risk. The new FIRM is represented in Figure 5. The FIRM does not take into account any changes in relative sea-level rise or increases in storm frequency.

**Emergency Preparedness**

The Town of Chincoteague has a robust all hazards emergency management program. Emergency Management staff monitors daily weather and intelligence briefings to protect citizens and visitors from natural and man-made disasters. The Public Safety Committee meets bi-monthly to discuss safety issues of the island, including those pertaining to emergency management . During an emergency, the Town operates within the guidelines of the Emergency Operations Plan, which is reviewed and updated regularly and is re-adopted by the Town Council every 4 years, as is required by the Commonwealth of Virginia. The purpose of this plan is to establish the legal and organizational basis for operations in the Town of Chincoteague in response to any type of disaster or large-scale emergency situation.

The Town of Chincoteague’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is located in the Municipal Building. The EOC is staffed with emergency personnel during disasters to mitigate the dangers to life safety, public property, and private property.

Tables 6.6.7 below represents the identified capabilities of the County; all data was provided by representatives of those jurisdictions or through online County resources.

**Table 6.6.7: Capability Matrix – Town of Chincoteague (updated with 2023 data)**

Capability	Town of Chincoteague
Comprehensive Plan	Relies on Accomack County
Land Use Plan	Relies on Accomack County
Subdivision Ordinance	Relies on Accomack County
Zoning Ordinance	Relies on Accomack County
NFIP/FPM Ordinance	Yes
- Effective FIRM Date	3/1//2015
- Substantial Damage Language	Yes
- Certified Floodplain Manager	No
- Maintain Elevation Certificates	Yes
- # of Repetitive Losses	3
- Building Type of Repetitive Losses	Nonresidential – 2; Single Family -1
CRS Rating	Not Joined
Emergency Operations Plan	Relies on Accomack County
Building Code Version	VA USBC 2021
Full-time Building Official	Relies on Accomack County

Data provided by the Community or through online resources.



**6.6.8 – TOWN OF EASTVILLE CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT**

**Form of Governance**

Town of Eastville governed by an elected Town Council with seven (7) members with daily administration handled on the Council’s behalf by a Town Administrator and associated Town staff.

**Guiding Community Documents**

Eastville has participated in the hazard mitigation planning process since 2011. During the 2006 Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Town defaulted to the County.

**Zoning & Subdivision Ordinance**

The zoning regulations and subdivision ordinance was created with consideration for the existing use of property, the suitability of properties for various uses, the trends of growth or change, the current and future requirements of the community as to land for various purposes as determined by population and economic studies, the transportation requirements of the community, and the requirements for schools, parks, playgrounds, and other public services; and for the conservation of properties and their values and the encouragement of the most appropriate use of land throughout the County, in accordance with Code of Virginia (1950), § 15.2-2284, as amended.

**Building Codes**

The 2021 Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code is based on the International Code Council (ICC) series of codes with state amendments.

**Flood Management**

The Town does not participate in the NFIP.

**Emergency Preparedness**

The Town of Eastville relies on Northampton County for Emergency Management. The County uses the Citizen Alert emergency notification system. Before disasters occur, Emergency Management coordinates training, planning and exercises for all county entities having a role in disaster response. We also promote and provide public education to residents and visitors on ways to be better prepared to survive all types of disaster.

Tables 6.6.8 below represents the identified capabilities of the County; all data was provided by representatives of those jurisdictions or through online County resources.

**Table 6.6.8: Capability Matrix – Town of Eastville**

Capability	Town of Eastville
Comprehensive Plan	Relies on Northampton County
Land Use Plan	Relies on Northampton County
Subdivision Ordinance	Relies on Northampton County
Zoning Ordinance	Relies on Northampton County
NFIP/FPM Ordinance	No
- Effective FIRM Date	3/1//2015



Capability	Town of Eastville
- Substantial Damage Language	No
- Certified Floodplain Manager	No
- Maintain Elevation Certificates	No
- # of Repetitive Losses	3
- Building Type of Repetitive Losses	Nonresidential – 2; Single Family -1
CRS Rating	Not Joined
Emergency Operations Plan	Relies on Northampton County
Building Code Version	VA USBC 2021
Full-time Building Official	Relies on Northampton County

Data provided by the Community or through online resources.

### 6.6.9 – TOWN OF EXMORE CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT

#### Form of Governance

Town of Exmore governed by an elected Town Council with seven (7) members with daily administration handled on the Council’s behalf by a Town Manager and associated Town staff.

#### Guiding Community Documents

Town of Exmore has participated in the hazard mitigation planning process since 2011. During the 2006 Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Town defaulted to the County. Town of Exmore’s comprehensive plan was last updated in 2015. The comprehensive plan discusses the need to protect groundwater, open space, historic resources, agricultural lands, and to how the community wishes to guide growth.

#### Zoning & Subdivision Ordinance

The zoning regulations and subdivision ordinance was created with consideration for the existing use of property, the suitability of properties for various uses, the trends of growth or change, the current and future requirements of the community as to land for various purposes as determined by population and economic studies, the transportation requirements of the community, and the requirements for schools, parks, playgrounds, and other public services; and for the conservation of properties and their values and the encouragement of the most appropriate use of land throughout the County, in accordance with Code of Virginia (1950), § 15.2-2284, as amended.

#### Building Codes

The 2021 Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code is based on the International Code Council (ICC) series of codes with state amendments.

#### Flood Management

The Town of Exmore joined the NFIP program on February 8, 2001. The Town does not participate in the CRS program and has no identified Special Flood Hazard Areas.

#### Emergency Preparedness

The Town of Exmore relies on Northampton County for Emergency Management. The County uses the Citizen Alert emergency notification system. Before disasters occur, Emergency Management



coordinates training, planning and exercises for all county entities having a role in disaster response. We also promote and provide public education to residents and visitors on ways to be better prepared to survive all types of disaster.

Tables 6.6.9 below represents the identified capabilities of the County; all data was provided by representatives of those jurisdictions or through online County resources.

**Table 6.6.9: Capability Matrix – Town of Exmore**

Capability	Town of Exmore
Comprehensive Plan	Yes
Land Use Plan	Yes
Subdivision Ordinance	Yes
Zoning Ordinance	Yes
NFIP/FPM Ordinance	Yes
- Effective FIRM Date	3/1//2015
- Substantial Damage Language	Yes
- Certified Floodplain Manager	No
- Maintain Elevation Certificates	Yes
- # of Repetitive Losses	3
- Building Type of Repetitive Losses	Nonresidential – 2; Single Family -1
CRS Rating	Not Joined
Emergency Operations Plan	Relies on Northampton County
Building Code Version	VA USBC 2021
Full-time Building Official	Relies on Northampton County

*Data provided by the Community or through online resources.*

**6.6.10 – TOWN OF HALLWOOD CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT**

**Form of Governance**

Town of Hallwood governed by an elected Town Council with daily administration handled on the Council’s behalf by Town staff.

**Guiding Community Documents**

Town of Hallwood has participated in the hazard mitigation planning process since 2011 Hallwood’s comprehensive plan has not received a major update since 2002. The comprehensive plan discusses the need to protect groundwater, open space, historic resources, agricultural lands, and to how the community wishes to guide growth.

**Zoning & Subdivision Ordinance**

Hallwood’s zoning ordinance was adopted in 2007. The zoning regulations and subdivision ordinance was created with consideration for the existing use of property, the suitability of properties for various uses, the trends of growth or change, the current and future requirements of the community as to land for various purposes as determined by population and economic studies, the transportation requirements of the community, and the requirements for schools, parks, playgrounds, and other public services; and for the conservation of properties and their values and



the encouragement of the most appropriate use of land throughout the County, in accordance with Code of Virginia (1950), § 15.2-2284, as amended.

**Building Codes**

The 2021 Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code is based on the International Code Council (ICC) series of codes with state amendments.

**Flood Management**

The Town of Hallwood joined the NFIP program in 2000. Nassawadox does not participate in the CRS program.

**Emergency Preparedness**

The Town of Hallwood relies on Accomack County for Emergency Management. The County uses the Code Red emergency notification system. Before disasters occur, Emergency Management coordinates training, planning and exercises for all county entities having a role in disaster response. We also promote and provide public education to residents and visitors on ways to be better prepared to survive all types of disaster.

Tables 6.6.10 below represents the identified capabilities of the County; all data was provided by representatives of those jurisdictions or through online County resources.

**Table 6.6.10: Capability Matrix – Town of Hallwood**

Capability	Town of Hallwood
Comprehensive Plan	Relies on Accomack County
Land Use Plan	Relies on Accomack County
Subdivision Ordinance	Relies on Accomack County
Zoning Ordinance	Relies on Accomack County
NFIP/FPM Ordinance	Yes
- Effective FIRM Date	3/1//2015
- Substantial Damage Language	Yes
- Certified Floodplain Manager	No
- Maintain Elevation Certificates	Yes
- # of Repetitive Losses	3
- Building Type of Repetitive Losses	Nonresidential – 2; Single Family -1
CRS Rating	Not Joined
Emergency Operations Plan	Relies on Accomack County
Building Code Version	VA USBC 2021
Full-time Building Official	Relies on Accomack County

*Data provided by the Community or through online resources.*

**6.6.11 – TOWN OF KELLER CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT**

**Form of Governance**

Town of Keller governed by an elected Town Council with seven (7) members, Mayor and Vice Mayor with daily administration handled on the Council’s behalf by associated Town staff.



**Guiding Community Documents**

The Town of Keller has participated in the hazard mitigation planning process since 2011. Keller’s comprehensive plan has not been updated since 2006. The Town is interested in pursuing an updated comprehensive plan. The comprehensive plan discusses the need to protect groundwater, open space, historic resources, agricultural lands, and to how the community wishes to guide growth.

**Zoning & Subdivision Ordinance**

The zoning regulations and subdivision ordinance was created with consideration for the existing use of property, the suitability of properties for various uses, the trends of growth or change, the current and future requirements of the community as to land for various purposes as determined by population and economic studies, the transportation requirements of the community, and the requirements for schools, parks, playgrounds, and other public services; and for the conservation of properties and their values and the encouragement of the most appropriate use of land throughout the County, in accordance with Code of Virginia (1950), § 15.2-2284, as amended.

**Building Codes**

The 2021 Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code is based on the International Code Council (ICC) series of codes with state amendments.

**Flood Management**

The Town of Keller does not currently participate in the NFIP but has expressed interest in potentially joining the program. No areas of the Town lie within a Special Flood Hazard Area.

**Emergency Preparedness**

The Town of Keller relies on Accomack County for Emergency Management. The County uses the Code Red emergency notification system. Before disasters occur, Emergency Management coordinates training, planning and exercises for all county entities having a role in disaster response. We also promote and provide public education to residents and visitors on ways to be better prepared to survive all types of disaster.

Tables 6.6.11 below represents the identified capabilities of the County; all data was provided by representatives of those jurisdictions or through online County resources.

**Table 6.6.11: Capability Matrix – Town of Keller**

Capability	Town of Keller
Comprehensive Plan	Yes
Land Use Plan	yes
Subdivision Ordinance	Relies on Accomack County
Zoning Ordinance	Yes
NFIP/FPM Ordinance	No
- Effective FIRM Date	5/17/2015
- Substantial Damage Language	No
- Certified Floodplain Manager	No
- Maintain Elevation Certificates	No



Capability	Town of Keller
- # of Repetitive Losses	3
- Building Type of Repetitive Losses	Nonresidential – 2; Single Family -1
CRS Rating	Not Joined
Emergency Operations Plan	Relies on Accomack County
Building Code Version	VA USBC 2021
Full-time Building Official	Relies on Accomack County

Data provided by the Community or through online resources.

**6.6.12 – TOWN OF MELFA CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT**

**Form of Governance**

Town of Melfa governed by an elected Town Council with daily administration handled on the Council’s behalf by a Town Administrator and associated Town staff.

**Guiding Community Documents**

Town of Melfa has participated in the hazard mitigation planning process since 2016 and the last update to the Town’s comprehensive plan was in 1997. The comprehensive plan discusses the need to protect groundwater, open space, historic resources, agricultural lands, and to how the community wishes to guide growth.

**Zoning & Subdivision Ordinance**

The zoning regulations and subdivision ordinance was created with consideration for the existing use of property, the suitability of properties for various uses, the trends of growth or change, the current and future requirements of the community as to land for various purposes as determined by population and economic studies, the transportation requirements of the community, and the requirements for schools, parks, playgrounds, and other public services; and for the conservation of properties and their values and the encouragement of the most appropriate use of land throughout the County, in accordance with Code of Virginia (1950), § 15.2-2284, as amended.

**Building Codes**

The 2021 Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code is based on the International Code Council (ICC) series of codes with state amendments.

**Flood Management**

The Town of Melfa does not currently participate in the NFIP but has expressed interest in potentially joining the program. No areas of the Town lie within a Special Flood Hazard Area.

**Emergency Preparedness**

The Town of Melfa relies on Accomack County for Emergency Management. The County uses the Code Red emergency notification system. Before disasters occur, Emergency Management coordinates training, planning and exercises for all county entities having a role in disaster response. We also promote and provide public education to residents and visitors on ways to be better prepared to survive all types of disaster.



Tables 6.6.12 below represents the identified capabilities of the County; all data was provided by representatives of those jurisdictions or through online County resources.

**Table 6.6.12: Capability Matrix – Town of Melfa**

Capability	Town of Melfa
Comprehensive Plan	Relies on Accomack County
Land Use Plan	Relies on Accomack County
Subdivision Ordinance	Relies on Accomack County
Zoning Ordinance	Relies on Accomack County
NFIP/FPM Ordinance	No
- Effective FIRM Date	5/17/2015
- Substantial Damage Language	No
- Certified Floodplain Manager	No
- Maintain Elevation Certificates	No
- # of Repetitive Losses	3
- Building Type of Repetitive Losses	Nonresidential – 2; Single Family -1
CRS Rating	Not Joined
Emergency Operations Plan	Relies on Accomack County
Building Code Version	VA USBC 2021
Full-time Building Official	Relies on Accomack County

*Data provided by the Community or through online resources.*

**6.6.13 – TOWN OF NASSAWADOX CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT**

**Form of Governance**

Town of Nassawadox governed by an elected Town Council with five (5) members with daily administration handled on the Council’s behalf by a Town Administrator and associated Town staff.

**Guiding Community Documents**

Town of Nassawadox has participated in the hazard mitigation planning process since 2011. During the 2006 Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Town defaulted to the County. Town of Nassawadox’s comprehensive plan was last updated in 2018. The comprehensive plan discusses the need to protect groundwater, open space, historic resources, agricultural lands, and to how the community wishes to guide growth.

**Zoning & Subdivision Ordinance**

The zoning regulations and subdivision ordinance was created with consideration for the existing use of property, the suitability of properties for various uses, the trends of growth or change, the current and future requirements of the community as to land for various purposes as determined by population and economic studies, the transportation requirements of the community, and the requirements for schools, parks, playgrounds, and other public services; and for the conservation of properties and their values and the encouragement of the most appropriate use of land throughout the County, in accordance with Code of Virginia (1950), § 15.2-2284, as amended.

**Building Codes**



The 2021 Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code is based on the International Code Council (ICC) series of codes with state amendments.

**Flood Management**

The Town of Nassawadox joined the NFIP program on May 8, 2007. Nassawadox does not have any identified Special Flood Hazard Areas.

**Emergency Preparedness**

The Town of Nassawadox relies on Northampton County for Emergency Management. The County uses the Citizen Alert emergency notification system. Before disasters occur, Emergency Management coordinates training, planning and exercises for all county entities having a role in disaster response. We also promote and provide public education to residents and visitors on ways to be better prepared to survive all types of disaster.

Tables 6.6.13 below represents the identified capabilities of the County; all data was provided by representatives of those jurisdictions or through online County resources.

**Table 6.6.13: Capability Matrix – Town of Nassawadox**

Capability	Town of Nassawadox
Comprehensive Plan	Relies on Northampton County
Land Use Plan	Relies on Northampton County
Subdivision Ordinance	Relies on Northampton County
Zoning Ordinance	Relies on Northampton County
NFIP/FPM Ordinance	Yes
- Effective FIRM Date	3/1//2015
- Substantial Damage Language	Yes
- Certified Floodplain Manager	No
- Maintain Elevation Certificates	Yes
- # of Repetitive Losses	3
- Building Type of Repetitive Losses	Nonresidential – 2; Single Family -1
CRS Rating	Not Joined
Emergency Operations Plan	Relies on Northampton County
Building Code Version	VA USBC 2021
Full-time Building Official	Relies on Northampton County

*Data provided by the Community or through online resources.*

**6.6.14 – TOWN OF ONANCOCK CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT**

**Form of Governance**

Town of Onancock governed by an elected six-person Town Council and a Mayor with daily administration handled on the Council’s behalf by a Town Administrator and associated Town staff.

**Guiding Community Documents**

The Town of Onancock has participated in the hazard mitigation planning process since 2006. The Town updated their comprehensive plan in 2021.



**Zoning & Subdivision Ordinance**

The zoning regulations and subdivision ordinance was created with consideration for the existing use of property, the suitability of properties for various uses, the trends of growth or change, the current and future requirements of the community as to land for various purposes as determined by population and economic studies, the transportation requirements of the community, and the requirements for schools, parks, playgrounds, and other public services; and for the conservation of properties and their values and the encouragement of the most appropriate use of land throughout the County, in accordance with Code of Virginia (1950), § 15.2-2284, as amended.

**Building Codes**

The 2021 Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code is based on the International Code Council (ICC) series of codes with state amendments.

**Flood Management**

The Town of Onancock joined the NFIP on December 15, 1981. The Town does not participate in the Community Ranking System (CRS). Unlike many of the coastal Towns on the Eastern Shore, the amount of land in the SFHA remained the same with the new 2015 FIRM.

**Emergency Preparedness**

The Town of Onancock relies on Accomack County for Emergency Management. The County uses the Code Red emergency notification system. Before disasters occur, Emergency Management coordinates training, planning and exercises for all county entities having a role in disaster response. We also promote and provide public education to residents and visitors on ways to be better prepared to survive all types of disaster.

Tables 6.6.14 below represents the identified capabilities of the County; all data was provided by representatives of those jurisdictions or through online County resources.

**Table 6.6.14: Capability Matrix – Town of Onancock (updated with 2023 data)**

Capability	Town of Onancock
Comprehensive Plan	Yes
Land Use Plan	Yes
Subdivision Ordinance	Yes – Relies on Accomack County
Zoning Ordinance	Yes – Relies on Accomack County
NFIP/FPM Ordinance	Yes
- Effective FIRM Date	5/17/2015
- Substantial Damage Language	Yes
- Certified Floodplain Manager	No
- Maintain Elevation Certificates	Yes
- # of Repetitive Losses	3
- Building Type of Repetitive Losses	Nonresidential – 2; Single Family -1
CRS Rating	Not Joined
Emergency Operations Plan	Yes - Relies on Accomack County
Building Code Version	VA USBC 2021



Capability	Town of Onancock
Full-time Building Official	Relies on Accomack County

*Data provided by the Community or through online resources.*

**6.6.15 – TOWN OF ONLEY CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT**

**Form of Governance**

Town of Onley governed by an elected Town Council with seven (7) members with daily administration handled on the Council’s behalf by a Town Manager and associated Town staff.

**Guiding Community Documents**

The Town of Onley has participated in the hazard mitigation planning process since 2011. Onley last updated their comprehensive plan in 2024. The comprehensive plan discusses the need to protect groundwater, open space, historic resources, agricultural lands, and to how the community wishes to guide growth.

**Zoning & Subdivision Ordinance**

The zoning regulations and subdivision ordinance was created with consideration for the existing use of property, the suitability of properties for various uses, the trends of growth or change, the current and future requirements of the community as to land for various purposes as determined by population and economic studies, the transportation requirements of the community, and the requirements for schools, parks, playgrounds, and other public services; and for the conservation of properties and their values and the encouragement of the most appropriate use of land throughout the County, in accordance with Code of Virginia (1950), § 15.2-2284, as amended.

**Building Codes**

The 2021 Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code is based on the International Code Council (ICC) series of codes with state amendments.

**Flood Management**

The Town of Onley joined the NFIP on February 1, 2012. There are no Special Flood Hazard Areas within the town.

**Emergency Preparedness**

The Town of Onley relies on Accomack County for Emergency Management. The County uses the Code Red emergency notification system. Before disasters occur, Emergency Management coordinates training, planning and exercises for all county entities having a role in disaster response. We also promote and provide public education to residents and visitors on ways to be better prepared to survive all types of disaster.

Tables 6.6.15 below represents the identified capabilities of the County; all data was provided by representatives of those jurisdictions or through online County resources.



**Table 6.6.15: Capability Matrix – Town of Onley**

Capability	Town of Onley
Comprehensive Plan	Relies on Accomack County
Land Use Plan	Relies on Accomack County
Subdivision Ordinance	Relies on Accomack County
Zoning Ordinance	Relies on Accomack County
NFIP/FPM Ordinance	Yes
- Effective FIRM Date	5/17/2015
- Substantial Damage Language	Yes
- Certified Floodplain Manager	No
- Maintain Elevation Certificates	Yes
- # of Repetitive Losses	3
- Building Type of Repetitive Losses	Nonresidential – 2; Single Family -1
CRS Rating	Not Joined
Emergency Operations Plan	Yes - Relies on Accomack County
Building Code Version	VA USBC 2021
Full-time Building Official	Relies on Accomack County

*Data provided by the Community or through online resources.*

**6.6.16 – TOWN OF PAINTER CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT**

**Form of Governance**

Town of Painter governed by an elected Town Council with daily administration handled on the Council’s behalf by a Mayor and associated Town staff.

**Guiding Community Documents**

Town of Painter has participated in the hazard mitigation planning process since 2021.

**Building Codes**

The 2021 Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code is based on the International Code Council (ICC) series of codes with state amendments. The Town relies on the Accomack County for review.

**Flood Management**

The Town of Painter does not participate in the NFIP. There are no Special Flood Hazard Areas within the Town.

**Emergency Preparedness**

The Town of Painter relies on Accomack County for Emergency Management. The County uses the Code Red emergency notification system. Before disasters occur, Emergency Management coordinates training, planning and exercises for all county entities having a role in disaster response. We also promote and provide public education to residents and visitors on ways to be better prepared to survive all types of disaster.



Tables 6.6.16 below represents the identified capabilities of the County; all data was provided by representatives of those jurisdictions or through online County resources.

**Table 6.6.16: Capability Matrix – Town of Painter**

Capability	Town of Painter
Comprehensive Plan	Relies on Accomack County
Land Use Plan	Relies on Accomack County
Subdivision Ordinance	Relies on Accomack County
Zoning Ordinance	Relies on Accomack County
NFIP/FPM Ordinance	Not Joined
- Effective FIRM Date	5/17/2015
- Substantial Damage Language	No
- Certified Floodplain Manager	No
- Maintain Elevation Certificates	Yes
- # of Repetitive Losses	3
- Building Type of Repetitive Losses	Nonresidential – 2; Single Family -1
CRS Rating	Not Joined
Emergency Operations Plan	Yes - Relies on Accomack County
Building Code Version	VA USBC 2021
Full-time Building Official	Relies on Accomack County

*Data provided by the Community or through online resources.*

**6.6.17 – TOWN OF PARKSLEY CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT**

**Form of Governance**

Town of Parksley governed by an elected Town Council with six (6) members with daily administration handled on the Council’s behalf by a Town Administrator and associated Town staff.

**Guiding Community Documents**

Town of Parksley has participated in the hazard mitigation planning process since 2011. Town of Parksley does not have a comprehensive plan. The Accomack County comprehensive plan and Town of Parksley Zoning Ordinance serve as the guiding documents.

**Zoning & Subdivision Ordinance**

Town of Parksley Zoning Ordinance adopted recently in 2024 was created with consideration for the existing use of property, the suitability of properties for various uses, the trends of growth or change, the current and future requirements of the community as to land for various purposes as determined by population and economic studies, in accordance with Code of Virginia (1950), § 15.2-2284, as amended.

**Building Codes**

The 2021 Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code is based on the International Code Council (ICC) series of codes with state amendments.

**Flood Management**



The Town of Parksley joined the NFIP on December 22, 2008. . There are no Special Flood Hazard Areas within the Town.

**Emergency Preparedness**

The Town of Parksley relies on Accomack County for Emergency Management. The County uses the Code Red emergency notification system. Before disasters occur, Emergency Management coordinates training, planning and exercises for all county entities having a role in disaster response. We also promote and provide public education to residents and visitors on ways to be better prepared to survive all types of disaster.

Tables 6.6.17 below represents the identified capabilities of the County; all data was provided by representatives of those jurisdictions or through online County resources.

**Table 6.6.17: Capability Matrix – Town of Parksley**

Capability	Town of Parksley
Comprehensive Plan	Relies on Accomack County
Land Use Plan	Relies on Accomack County
Subdivision Ordinance	Relies on Accomack County
Zoning Ordinance	Relies on Accomack County
NFIP/FPM Ordinance	Yes - Relies on Accomack County
- Effective FIRM Date	5/17/2015
- Substantial Damage Language	Yes
- Certified Floodplain Manager	No
- Maintain Elevation Certificates	Yes
- # of Repetitive Losses	3
- Building Type of Repetitive Losses	Nonresidential – 2; Single Family -1
CRS Rating	Not Joined
Emergency Operations Plan	Yes - Relies on Accomack County
StormReady Certification	Accomack County Department of Public Safety
Building Code Version	VA USBC 2021
Full-time Building Official	Relies on Accomack County

*Data provided by the Community or through online resources.*

**6.6.18 – TOWN OF SAXIS CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT**

**Form of Governance**

Town of Saxis governed by an elected Town Council with five (5) members with daily administration handled on the Council’s behalf by the Mayor and Town Clerk. The town office is located at the town harbor. The town clerk is a part time employee with office hours Tuesday & Thursday 6:00 PM to 8 PM.

**Guiding Community Documents**



Town of Saxis has participated in the hazard mitigation planning process since 2011. The Town of Saxis is responsible for protecting our community's health, safety, and welfare through effective enforcement of codes and ordinances.

**Building Codes**

The 2021 Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code is based on the International Code Council (ICC) series of codes with state amendments.

**Flood Management**

The Town of Saxis joined the NFIP on November 17, 1982, and has an effective FIRM panel date of March 17, 2015. With the 2015 FIRM, the majority of the Town is still designated to lie within the A-zone of the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), meaning that they will be inundated by the 1-percent-annual-chance flood (or 100-year storm) event. The base flood elevation (BFE) has increased throughout the Town to a current designation of eight-foot BFE, with the very southern and northern parts of Town designated at nine feet. The Town’s Zoning requires a two feet freeboard above the BFE.

**Emergency Preparedness**

The Town of Saxis relies on Accomack County for Emergency Management. The County uses the Code Red emergency notification system. Before disasters occur, Emergency Management coordinates training, planning and exercises for all county entities having a role in disaster response. We also promote and provide public education to residents and visitors on ways to be better prepared to survive all types of disaster.

Tables 6.6.18 below represents the identified capabilities of the County; all data was provided by representatives of those jurisdictions or through online County resources.

**Table 6.6.18: Capability Matrix – Town of Saxis**

Capability	Town of Saxis
Comprehensive Plan	Relies on Accomack County
Land Use Plan	Relies on Accomack County
Subdivision Ordinance	Relies on Accomack County
Zoning Ordinance	Relies on Accomack County
NFIP/FPM Ordinance	Yes - Relies on Accomack County
- Effective FIRM Date	5/17/2015
- Substantial Damage Language	Yes
- Certified Floodplain Manager	No
- Maintain Elevation Certificates	Yes
- # of Repetitive Losses	3
- Building Type of Repetitive Losses	Nonresidential – 2; Single Family -1
CRS Rating	Not Joined
Emergency Operations Plan	Yes - Relies on Accomack County
Building Code Version	VA USBC 2021
Full-time Building Official	Relies on Accomack County

Data provided by the Community or through online resources.



### 6.6.19 – TOWN OF TANGIER CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT

#### Form of Governance

Town of Tangier governed by an elected Town Council with **five** (5) members with daily administration handled on the Council’s behalf by a Town Administrator and associated Town staff.

#### Guiding Community Documents

Town of Tangier has participated in the hazard mitigation planning process since **2011**. Town of Tangier **has not updated their comprehensive plan since 2000**. The comprehensive plan discusses the need to protect groundwater, open space, historic resources, agricultural lands, and to how the community wishes to guide growth.

#### Zoning & Subdivision Ordinance

The zoning regulations and subdivision ordinance was created with consideration for the existing use of property, the suitability of properties for various uses, the trends of growth or change, the current and future requirements of the community as to land for various purposes as determined by population and economic studies, the transportation requirements of the community, and the requirements for schools, parks, playgrounds, and other public services; and for the conservation of properties and their values and the encouragement of the most appropriate use of land throughout the County, in accordance with Code of Virginia (1950), § 15.2-2284, as amended.

#### Building Codes

**The 2021 Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code is based on the International Code Council (ICC) series of codes with state amendments.**

#### Flood Management

The Town of Tangier joined the NFIP on October 15, 1982.

According to the 2015 Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM), there is a portion of the town within the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), including the V Zone. The updated 2015 FIRM reveals a net reduction of 29 buildings in the SFHA. The new FIRM thus has more area in the 0.2-percent-annual-chance flood zone and in the X zone (not in any flood zone) than the previous FIRM. The base flood elevation (BFE) for the areas in the A zone are now only 4 feet, where previously many areas were indicated to need a BFE of 5 feet. The indication is that structures need only be built at 4 feet elevation in areas where they were previously required to be built at 5 feet. The Town uses Accomack County zoning requirements, which as of 2015 require homes to be built at 2 feet above the FEMA BFE; however, FEMA will only pay for homes to be built or raised to the BFE indicated by the FIRM.

Coastal Barrier Resource Act (CBRA) lands exist within the Town and are located in the southeast corner. In addition, there are CBRA lands outside the Town limits that border the corporate boundaries to the south and to the east. After November 16, 1990, flood insurance cannot be purchased from the federal government for any new development or substantial improvement of an existing structure on these lands. Besides the prohibition on purchase of flood insurance, other federal monies that cannot be expended in this area include disaster assistance, Community Block



Development Grants (CDBG), flood control projects, construction of new federal highways, and beach nourishment projects.

**Emergency Preparedness**

The Town of Tangier relies on Accomack County for Emergency Management. The County uses the Code Red emergency notification system. Before disasters occur, Emergency Management coordinates training, planning and exercises for all county entities having a role in disaster response. We also promote and provide public education to residents and visitors on ways to be better prepared to survive all types of disaster.

Tables 6.6.19 below represents the identified capabilities of the County; all data was provided by representatives of those jurisdictions or through online County resources.

**Table 6.6.19: Capability Matrix – Town of Tangier**

Capability	Town of Tangier
Comprehensive Plan	Yes – Tangier Town Plan
Land Use Plan	Yes – Tangier Town Plan
Subdivision Ordinance	Yes
Zoning Ordinance	Yes – Tangier Zoning Ordinance
NFIP/FPM Ordinance	Yes -
- Effective FIRM Date	5/17/2015
- Substantial Damage Language	Yes
- Certified Floodplain Manager	No
- Maintain Elevation Certificates	Yes
- # of Repetitive Losses	3
- Building Type of Repetitive Losses	Nonresidential – 2; Single Family -1
CRS Rating	Not Joined
Emergency Operations Plan	Yes - Relies on Accomack County
Building Code Version	VA USBC 2021
Full-time Building Official	Relies on Accomack County

*Data provided by the Community or through online resources.*

**6.6.20 – TOWN OF WACHAPREAGUE CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT**

**Form of Governance**

Town of Wachapreague governed by an elected Town Council with five (5) members with daily administration handled on the Council’s behalf by a Town Administrator and associated Town staff.

**Guiding Community Documents**

Town of Wachapreague has participated in the hazard mitigation planning process since 2011. Town of Wachapreague has not updated their comprehensive plan since 2000. The comprehensive plan discusses the need to protect groundwater, open space, historic resources, agricultural lands, and to how the community wishes to guide growth.

**Zoning & Subdivision Ordinance**



The zoning regulations and subdivision ordinance was created with consideration for the existing use of property, the suitability of properties for various uses, the trends of growth or change, the current and future requirements of the community as to land for various purposes as determined by population and economic studies, the transportation requirements of the community, and the requirements for schools, parks, playgrounds, and other public services; and for the conservation of properties and their values and the encouragement of the most appropriate use of land throughout the County, in accordance with Code of Virginia (1950), § 15.2-2284, as amended.

**Building Codes**

The 2021 Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code is based on the International Code Council (ICC) series of codes with state amendments.

**Flood Management**

The Town of Wachapreague has been a participant in the NFIP program since 1982. Most of the Town lies in the 100-year flood plain with the remainder lying in the 500-year flood plain. Wachapreague also participates in the voluntary Community Rating System (CRS), which encourages the community to establish sound programs to recognize and encourage floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP requirements.

**Emergency Preparedness**

The Town of Wachapreague relies on Accomack County for Emergency Management. The County uses the Code Red emergency notification system. Before disasters occur, Emergency Management coordinates training, planning and exercises for all county entities having a role in disaster response. We also promote and provide public education to residents and visitors on ways to be better prepared to survive all types of disaster.

Tables 6.6.20 below represents the identified capabilities of the County; all data was provided by representatives of those jurisdictions or through online County resources.

**Table 6.6.20: Capability Matrix – Town of Wachapreague**

Capability	Town of Wachapreague
Comprehensive Plan	Yes - Relies on Accomack County
Land Use Plan	Yes - Relies on Accomack County
Subdivision Ordinance	Yes
Zoning Ordinance	Yes
NFIP/FPM Ordinance	Yes - Relies on Accomack County
- Effective FIRM Date	5/17/2015
- Substantial Damage Language	Yes
- Certified Floodplain Manager	No
- Maintain Elevation Certificates	Yes
- # of Repetitive Losses	3
- Building Type of Repetitive Losses	Nonresidential – 2; Single Family -1
CRS Rating	8
Emergency Operations Plan	Yes - Relies on Accomack County
Building Code Version	VA USBC 2021



Capability	Town of Wachapreague
Full-time Building Official	Relies on Accomack County

Data provided by the Community or through online resources.

### 6.6 NFIP AND CRS PARTICIPATION

Flood insurance is primarily available to property owners through FEMA’s National Flood Insurance Program. Policies are only available in localities that actively manage their floodplains through participation in the NFIP.

All NFIP communities can reduce the cost of policyholder premiums by participating in the Community Rating System (CRS). This program awards points to communities implementing flood protection measures beyond the NFIP requirements. These include higher regulatory standards, open space preservation, flood warning systems, and public awareness campaigns.

Community ID	Community ID	NFIP Participating Community – FIRM Eff Date	Policies in Force
Accomack County*	510001	Yes – Effective Date 5/17/2015	1,186
Town of Accomac	510050	Yes – Effective Date 5/17/2015	1
Town of Belle Haven	510242	Yes – Effective Date 5/17/2015	3
Town of Bloxom	510256	Yes – Effective Date 5/17/2015	N/A
Town of Chincoteague*	510002	Yes – Effective Date 5/17/2015	1,671
Town of Hallwood	510218	Yes – Effective Date 5/17/2015	N/A
Town of Keller	510277	No	N/A
Town of Melfa	510012	No	N/A
Town of Onancock	510298	Yes – Effective Date 5/17/2015	30
Town of Onley	510261	Yes – Effective Date 5/17/2015	2
Town of Painter	510285	No	N/A
Town of Parksley	510226	Yes – Effective Date 5/17/2015	1
Town of Saxis	510003	Yes – Effective Date 5/17/2015	39
Town of Tangier	510004	Yes – Effective Date 5/17/2015	47
Town of Wachapreague*	510005	Yes – Effective Date 5/17/2015	69
Northampton County	510105	Yes – Effective Date 3/1//2015	245
Town of Cape Charles*	510106	Yes - – Effective Date 3/1//2015	169
Town of Cheriton	510178	Yes – Effective Date 3/1//2015	1
Town of Eastville	510132	No – Effective Date 3/1//2015	N/A



<b>Town of Exmore</b>	510364	Yes – Effective Date 3/1//2015	6
<b>Town of Nassawadox</b>	510225	Yes – Effective Date 3/1//2015	2

*VFRIS Data, Policy Data from NFIP Pivot Analytical Reporting Tool (PART)*

In Virginia, 30 communities participate in the CRS program. Although this is 10% of the 292 NFIP communities in Virginia, 67% of all flood insurance policies in Virginia are written in CRS communities. This amounts to a total statewide savings of nearly \$7 million annually for over 62,000 policyholders. Nationally, CRS communities represent about 7% of all NFIP communities and about 69% of all flood insurance policies written (source: FEMA CRS Fact Sheet).

Communities listed below participate in the CRS. The CRS class and associated policy discount are also shown.

COMMUNITY	CRS CLASS	POLICY DISCOUNT
<b>Accomack County</b>	5	25%
<b>Town of Cape Charles</b>	8	10%
<b>Town of Chincoteague</b>	8	10%
<b>Town of Wachapreague</b>	8	10%

## 6.7 SUMMARY OF STRENGTHS, GAPS, AND NEED

The Eastern Shore of Virginia region, under the Accomack–Northampton Planning District Commission (A-NPDC), demonstrates several **key strengths**, **gaps**, and **needs** in hazard mitigation based on the current draft plan materials and the FEMA guidance framework.

### Regional Strengths

1. **Regional Collaboration:**

All 18 towns and both counties participated to an extent in a coordinated multi-jurisdictional plan, supported by a Project Management Team (PMT) with representation from local governments, emergency management, VDEM, NASA Wallops, and other critical entities. This collaboration strengthens data sharing, consistency in risk assessment, and unified regional action.

2. **Active Public and Stakeholder Engagement:**

The 2025 plan update includes multilingual outreach (English, Spanish, Haitian Creole), public surveys, and engagement through libraries and town offices. This inclusive effort aligns well with FEMA’s latest emphasis on equitable planning and “whole-community” participation.



3. **Established Floodplain and CRS Programs:**  
Several localities—Accomack County (Class 5), and the towns of Chincoteague, Cape Charles, and Wachapreague (Class 8)—actively participate in FEMA’s Community Rating System, reflecting a mature level of floodplain management and public education.
4. **Alignment with State and Federal Resilience Efforts:**  
The plan update integrates guidance from FEMA’s *Local Mitigation Planning Handbook (2025)* and the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Planning Framework, ensuring compliance and leveraging funding eligibility

**Gaps**

1. **Limited Implementation Capacity:**  
While the planning framework is strong, smaller towns have minimal staff and technical resources to implement and monitor mitigation actions. Many rely on A-NPDC or county-level assistance for NFIP compliance and project management.
2. **Data and Monitoring Deficiencies:**  
Updated local hazard data—especially for **saltwater intrusion, coastal erosion, and sea-level rise projections**—remain fragmented. The plan identifies a need for enhanced monitoring and integration of localized datasets from VIMS and USGS for more accurate modeling of future risks.
3. **Uneven Public Awareness and Engagement Reach:**  
Despite survey efforts, participation varied widely by locality, with most responses from Chincoteague and Accomack County. Many smaller or inland towns had little representation, indicating outreach fatigue or limited access to digital engagement.
4. **Aging and Vulnerable Infrastructure:**  
Critical infrastructure—such as septic systems, roads, and power distribution—remains highly exposed to flooding, coastal storms, and saltwater intrusion. Many facilities were not built to withstand future flood conditions, creating long-term maintenance and replacement challenges.

**Needs**

1. **Dedicated Resilience Funding and Staffing:**  
The region needs sustained funding beyond FEMA grant cycles to implement and maintain mitigation actions. Establishing a dedicated regional resilience coordinator or staff position under A-NPDC could improve long-term coordination, grant tracking, and CRS advancement.
2. **Advanced Data Integration and Risk Mapping:**  
Developing a **regional hazard and vulnerability GIS dashboard**—integrating FEMA Risk MAP, VIMS sea-level rise scenarios, and socioeconomic vulnerability indicators—would enhance decision-making and project prioritization, as recommended in FEMA’s 2025 Handbook and the Coastal Resilience SOW.



3. **Community-Scale Resilience Projects:**

There is a growing need for engineered and nature-based projects addressing shoreline protection, drainage retrofits, and community relocation strategies (especially for Tangier Island and other low-lying areas).

4. **Integration of Equity and Social Vulnerability Metrics:**

The plan and future mitigation actions should embed FEMA’s 2025 emphasis on equitable outcomes—ensuring mitigation benefits extend to low-income, elderly, and historically underserved residents across the Eastern Shore.

DRAFT

