

Chapter 8 - Goals and Objectives

Overview

The purpose of this chapter is to establish the goals and objectives that will guide hazard mitigation efforts in Otsego County. In developing community goals and objectives, it is important to analyze existing community characteristics such as social and economic conditions, services and facilities, environmental conditions, and existing land use. Furthermore, hazard analysis and vulnerability assessment must be considered. Preceding chapters of this hazard mitigation plan have documented these items.

Public meetings were announced to invite local county officials to participate in meetings to define goals and objectives for the Otsego County Hazard Mitigation Plan. The purpose was to present community profiles, discuss hazards and vulnerability, and define and discuss potential goals and objectives. Draft copies of goals and objectives were sent to all communities. NEMCOG and Otsego Emergency Management Office sent meeting notices to townships, cities, villages officials, county board of commissioners and LEPC members. A meeting notice and article about hazard mitigation planning were published in the Gaylord Herald Times, the local daily newspaper. The Goals and Objectives were discussed at community- wide, held by the Otsego County LEPC meeting on March 8, 2004.

Otsego Goals and Objectives

Goals are general guidelines that explain what a community wants to accomplish. Goals are usually long-term and represent broad visions. Objectives define strategies or implementation steps to attain the identified goals. Objectives are specific, measurable and may have completion dates. Local communities are encouraged to incorporate these goals and objectives into their other planning activities, such as master plans and capital improvement plans.

GOAL 1: Protect Public Health and Safety

Objectives:

- Provide community wide hazard warning systems.
- Provide information and resources to increase hazard awareness.
- Maintain existing resources and provide necessary training.
- Identify and obtain necessary resources and equipment to prevent or limit hazard effects.

GOAL 2: Minimize Damage to Public and Private Property

Objectives:

- Apply proactive mitigation measures to prevent hazard damage.
- Obtain necessary equipment, resources and training to protect property if hazard occurs.
- Adopt policies to make property less vulnerable.
- Conduct regularly scheduled training sessions and exercises to prepare for possible hazards.

GOAL 3: Maintain Essential Services

Objectives:

- Aggressively inspect, maintain and upgrade all critical infrastructure and facilities.
- Repair or replace critical infrastructure and facilities that are damaged or degraded.
- Protect critical infrastructure and facilities from hazard damage.
- Obtain necessary resources and equipment to insure essential services are maintained in the event of a hazard.

GOAL 4: Coordinate hazard mitigation with growth/development planning.

Objectives:

- Protect and conserve natural resources.
- Develop hazard resistant growth policies.
- Prevent development in high hazard areas.
- Integrate hazard mitigation planning into land use planning
- Encourage sustainable development