



Richmond-Crater Multi-Region Hazard Mitigation Plan



APPROVAL
PENDING
ADOPTION
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PlanRVA
THE REGIONAL
COMMISSION

CRATER PLANNING
DISTRICT COMMISSION

REPORT DOCUMENTATION

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Richmond-Crater Multi-Region Hazard Mitigation Plan	JULY 2022
ABSTRACT	
<p>The <i>Richmond-Crater Multi-Region Hazard Mitigation Plan</i> has been updated for 2022. The region is vulnerable to a wide range of hazards that threaten the safety of residents and have the potential to damage or destroy both public and private property and disrupt the local economy and overall quality of life. While the threat from hazards may never be fully eliminated, the <i>Richmond-Crater Multi-Region Hazard Mitigation Plan</i> recommends specific actions designed to protect residents, business owners and the built environment.</p>	
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 <p>PlanRVA is where we come together to look ahead. Established in 1969, the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission, known as PlanRVA, has been the home of cooperation among the nine jurisdictions of Central Virginia for more than 50 years. Today, we focus in areas of community development, emergency management, the environment and transportation. We are the seer of the future, convener of our member jurisdictions and regional partners, creator of plans of action and shaper of Central Virginia's future.</p>	 <p>The Crater Planning District Commission is a regional planning agency with major emphasis in the areas of transportation, economic and small business development, the environment, and serving as the convener for major military-related discussions among the region's communities. The PDCs mission is to strengthen the quality of life throughout the Crater planning District region by serving as a regional forum of member local governments to address issues of regional significance, providing technical assistance to localities, and promoting and enhancing the collective consensus on the economic, transportation, social, environmental, and demographic interests of the region.</p>

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1.0 Executive Summary

The Richmond-Crater Multi-Region Hazard Mitigation Plan is an update to plans approved in 2006 by the jurisdictions of PlanRVA and Crater Planning District Commission (PDC), and the combined Richmond-Crater 2011 and 2017 Multi-Regional Hazard Mitigation Plans.

PlanRVA and Crater PDC convened a joint Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee and Working Group, comprised of representatives from the participating localities. The committee and working group met several times during the planning process and worked closely with Salter's Creek Consulting, Inc., to develop the multi-regional plan update. Public input was sought throughout the process in accordance with Federal requirements. The planning process is documented in Section 3.

The area covered by this plan includes the following communities:

- Town of Ashland
- Charles City County
- Chesterfield County
- City of Colonial Heights
- Dinwiddie County
- City of Emporia
- Goochland County
- Greensville County
- Hanover County
- Henrico County
- City of Hopewell
- Town of Jarratt
- Town of McKenney
- New Kent County
- City of Petersburg
- Powhatan County
- Prince George County
- City of Richmond
- Town of Stony Creek
- Town of Surry
- Sussex County
- Town of Wakefield
- Town of Waverly

1.1 Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment

The Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA) serves as the fact base for the regional hazard mitigation plan. The HIRA consists of three parts, found in Section 5:

1. Identification of which hazards could affect the Richmond-Crater region;
2. Profile of hazard events and determination of what areas and community assets are the most vulnerable to damage from these hazards; and,
3. Estimation of losses and prioritization of the potential risks to the community.

For this plan update, hazards in the previous plan were examined and discussed in detail. Several hazards were combined and new hazards were added as a result. A discussion of the impacts of climate change on each hazard, and the social vulnerability of the study area to hazard impacts were added. **Table 1.1** summarizes which hazards were retained and how they were ranked by the planning participants.

Table 1.1: Conclusions on Hazard Risk for Richmond-Crater Region	
CRITICAL HAZARD - HIGH RISK	FLOODING SEVERE WIND EVENTS TORNADOES
CRITICAL HAZARD - MODERATE RISK	SEVERE WINTER WEATHER DROUGHTS AND EXTREME HEAT THUNDERSTORMS
NONCRITICAL HAZARD - LOW RISK	WILDFIRES INFECTIOUS DISEASES EARTHQUAKES SHORELINE EROSION FLOODING DUE TO IMPOUNDMENT FAILURE RADON EXPOSURE
NEGLIGIBLE CONSEQUENCES	SINKHOLES LANDSLIDES

1.2 Capability Assessment

The capability assessment (Section 6) evaluates the current capacity of the communities of the Richmond-Crater region to mitigate the effects of the natural

hazards identified in the HIRA. By providing a summary of each jurisdiction's existing capabilities, the capability assessment serves as the foundation for designing an effective hazard mitigation strategy.

The capability assessment includes an examination of the following local government capabilities:

- *Administrative Capability* – describes the forms of government in the region, including the departments that may be involved in hazard mitigation.
- *Technical Capability* – addresses the technical expertise of local government staff.
- *Fiscal Capability* – examines budgets and current funding mechanisms.
- *Policy and Program Capability* – describes past, present, and future mitigation projects in the region and examines existing plans (e.g., emergency operations plan, comprehensive plan).
- *Legal Authority* – describes how jurisdictions in the region use the four broad government powers (i.e., regulation, acquisition, taxation, and spending) to influence hazard mitigation activities.

1.3 Mitigation Strategy

As part of the plan update, the committee examined and evaluated the goals stated in the 2017 plan word for word. Each of the following updated goal statements represents a broad target to achieve through associated objectives which are fulfilled through implementation of specific Mitigation Action Plans, both for the region as a whole and for each community.

Goal 1: Equitably prepare and protect the whole community against natural hazards

- 1.1 Increase staff capabilities regarding multi-hazard management and mitigation
- 1.2 Conduct outreach and educational opportunities for diverse groups of citizens
- 1.3 Share mitigation successes with citizens and stakeholders
- 1.4 Reduce disparities in how communities prepare for, respond to, and recover from hazards.

Goal 2: Strengthen and develop partnerships for mitigating and reducing hazard impacts

- 2.1 Include stakeholders and other regions in planning and training actions.
- 2.2 Expand outreach and educational opportunities to influence and inform a broad spectrum of stakeholders.
- 2.3 Collaborate on public safety and support effective system redundancies

Goal 3: Encourage sustainable government practices that support the short- and long-term health, safety and welfare of citizens

3.1 Identify and protect important elements of the economic, social, cultural, historic, and environmental fabric of the community and neighborhoods

3.2 Address restoration of long-term housing and continuity of basic government services for affected populations, especially socially vulnerable communities, during recovery from hazard events

Goal 4: Protect critical infrastructure

4.1 Identify opportunities for information- and intelligence-sharing regarding threats and hazards

4.2 Collaborate on utility management and support effective system redundancies

4.3 Identify and assist owners to maintain and upgrade high hazard potential dams, and protect the people and property downstream

Section 7 contains all of the mitigation action plans for each participating jurisdiction and the region, as well as information on how and when the community expects to implement the actions.

1.4 Plan Maintenance Procedures

The plan outlines a procedure for implementation, maintenance, and plan updates. PlanRVA and Crater PDC will be responsible for monitoring this plan. Annual progress reports from the communities will include corrective action plans if needed.

In accordance with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regulations, a written update will be submitted to the Commonwealth and FEMA Region III every five years from the original date of the plan, unless circumstances (e.g., Presidential disaster declaration, changing regulations) require a formal update earlier. The public will be continually informed of changes to the plan as they occur.

1.5 Conclusion

This Richmond-Crater Multi-Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan embodies the continued commitment and dedication of the local governments and community members of the Richmond-Crater region to enhance the safety of residents and businesses by taking actions before a disaster strikes. While little can be done to prevent natural hazard events from occurring, the region is poised to minimize the disruption and devastation that so often accompanies these disasters.