

Capability Assessment: Springfield-Greene County

Springfield-Greene County Emergency Management

City/County Authorities and Responsibilities

The government has a responsibility to its people and the creation of emergency plans is one way in which government may use its authority to meet its responsibilities. The following is a general outline of some of those authorities and the responsibilities they must be used to fulfill.

Authorities

1. To order an evacuation, redirect funds for emergency use, order a curfew, and commandeer facilities and/or equipment and materials;
2. To implement authorized lines of succession for the chief elected officials with power to initiate necessary emergency activities
3. To implement plans for analysis of possible impacts of potential disasters
4. To implement multi-hazard emergency planning
5. To complete mutual aid agreements with neighboring jurisdictions

Responsibilities

1. To protect the safety and security of citizens
2. To safeguard records vital to transparency of government

Mitigation Management Policies

The Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management is charged with planning and preparing for disaster. That duty includes advising the Greene County Commission and the Springfield City Manager on mitigation measures and in some cases coordinating those measures deemed appropriate by the above. In general, county and city policy encourage cooperation between agencies. Many departments (i.e., County: Resource Management, Highway Department, Sheriff's Office; City: Public Works, Police Dept., Fire Department, ECC, Health Dept., Parks, Airport, City Utilities, Building Development Services, and Planning) identify, assess, and develop mitigation projects.

Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)

The most recent version of the EOP was completed and approved, September 2008. This document covers unincorporated areas of Greene County and the City of Springfield. The plan is approved by both the Greene County Commission and the Springfield City Council. The EOP is an all-hazards document divided into a basic plan and four functional annexes: Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery. Annex I of the EOP contains the All-Hazards Mitigation Plan for unincorporated Greene County and the City of Springfield. This document is actually contained in a stand alone document due to the size of the EOP.

Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

The EOC, does not currently meet FEMA/DHS EOC criteria for a place which key officials can direct and control an emergency response (see ref., Emergency Operating Centers Handbook –

FEMA 1984, EOC Assessment Report – Titan Corporation April 2003, NEMA Report – Physical Security Requirements for EOC Secure Operations Rooms, Facility Planning – Alan Burton 1992). Construction of a new facility to house the EOC is currently in a planning stage. Upon completion the EOC will be larger, better equipped, and more secure. This facility should be available to the Springfield-Greene County area within a few years.

EOC capability includes, ease of access, the facility is located within a six-mile radius of the main county population and provides easy and rapid access for all personnel typically assigned during emergency activation. The EOC is in a good location for survivability with no major threat identified. The center has adequate backup power and water.

The EOC has survivable communications from primary and other operating forces (800 MHz. radio system and amateur radio), the Emergency Alert System, commercial and public broadcast stations, SEMA, adjacent jurisdictions and the incorporated areas of the county. The communications and warning equipment are tested on a monthly basis. Warning sirens are located in the City of Springfield and the Urban Service Area. The Emergency Management Office is responsible for primary activation of the outdoor warning system with the Springfield/Greene County Emergency Communications Center as the backup. Currently, the Emergency Management Office is also responsible through written agreement, for the activation of outdoor warning sirens in the following cities: Ash Grove, Bois D’Arc, Fair Grove, Strafford and Battlefield.

Both the County and City have substantial communications capabilities, both fixed and mobile, to coordinate the scene of an emergency.

The emergency management staff of six has received substantial training. The office staff has a diverse cross-section of experience totaling approximately 90 years of combined public safety service. Applicable officials have limited official training in mitigation; however, they have many years of practical mitigation application to draw from.

Mitigation Prioritization Strategy

Since flash flooding has the greatest impact upon the county, comprehensive storm water plans are in place and are kept updated as the need warrants.

With tornadoes and severe storms always a threat to the area, warning capability assessments have/are being conducted, including, Reverse 911, weather radio placement program, and the potential need to add additional outdoor warning sirens to areas annexed into the City of Springfield as warranted and dense population areas in unincorporated Greene County was warranted.

With over 1500 identified sinkholes in Greene County, studies have been conducted to “map” the sinks to determine their runoff capacity and their size and scope.

Winter storms in the area are a real danger both to peoples lives, to property and the overall economic impact on the affected area(s). Clearing snow and ice from road surfaces is a main

priority for public works and highway crews. The City of Springfield has designated several streets as snow routes.

The potential for a dangerous influenza outbreak has recently garnered national attention. Seasonal flu occurrences coupled with the emergence of virulent strains of the virus such as H1N1 has pushed the government at all levels to instigate public awareness programs focused on flu prevention and containment. The Springfield-Greene County Health Department recently announced their “Fight the Flu” campaign. This program encourages the public to help the community at large by practicing healthy living and staying home during time of personal illness.

Current Criteria Used to Prioritize Mitigation Funding

Mitigation funding primarily is based upon the combination of expected damage as well as, death/injury probabilities.

It is projected that by the year 2020 Greene County will see a net population increase of 45000 to 60000 (20 to 25 percent). Eighty-five to ninety percent of the future Greene County population (245,000 to 270,000) is expected to live in the Springfield urbanized areas of the County. With this intense development occurring, new land use in and around Springfield urban service area will increase. This will be the area where greater access to infrastructure and emergency services will be needed.

Determining Cost-Effectiveness of Mitigation Programs

Cost/Benefit ratio's are determined and calculated on an individual basis. Cost effectiveness is dependent on the potential scope of damages, the probable hazard to human life, estimated savings, and the type of project. For projects utilizing FEMA funding all projects must pass FEMA cost/benefit analysis scrutiny.

Mitigation funding options include current and potential sources of federal, state, local and private funding. The county has historically relied on grant monies (FEMA and/or SBA, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and Department of Economic Development, sometimes with a match, sometimes not) to fund major mitigation projects.

The City of Springfield has historically relied on general revenue monies from tax initiatives to fund projects. Other funding options being considered include those resources identified in SEMA's Regional Planning Commission Hazard Mitigation Planning Guide – 2002.

Table 5A.1 Capability Assessment of Springfield and Greene County

Policies and Programs	City of Springfield	Greene County	Agency/ Department	Effectiveness for Mitigation	Last Update and Rationale for Effectiveness
Zoning Regulations (Updates Ongoing)	X	X	County: Planning & Zoning City: Planning	Low-Medium	Both County/City updates regulations as the need arises.
Building Codes and Regulations (County: 2003 City: 2004)	X	X	County: Building Regulations City: Building Development Services	High	County: BOCA, SBC, Uniform, 2006 International Codes, 2005 Electrical Code City: SBC, Uniform, 2006 International Codes Code enforcement is tight in both areas. Codes are continually reviewed for gaps.
Floodplain Management Recent Study- County: 1996 City: 1991	X	X	County: Building Regulations City: Building Development Services	High	County: XXXXXXXXXXXX City: Subdiv. Ordinance Sect. 409 For both areas, new construction and improvements are not allowed without extensive mitigation improvements. Any encroachment such as fill, new construction within floodway must not create increased flood levels within the community during base flood events.
Flood Insurance	X	X	County: Building Regulations City: Building Development Services	High	County: Joined 1983 NFIP Comm. #:290782 City: Joined 1989 NFIP Comm. #:290419 Both areas participate in the flood insurance program.
Land Use Management Plans	X	X	County: Planning and Zoning City: Planning	Medium	Unincorporated County: Updated 2009 City: Updated 1995 Both areas have extensive ordinances pertaining to land use, which works hand in hand with regulations such as Floodplain Management.
Subdivision Regulations	X	X	County: Planning and Zoning City: Planning	Medium	Both County/City update plans as needed. Both areas have extensive ordinances pertaining to Subdivisions.
Storm water diversion standards	X	X	County: Building Regulations City: Building Development Services	High	County: Updated 1999 City: Updated 2008 These standards are dispersed throughout area ordinances and regulations.
Sediment and Erosion Regulations	X	X	County: Building Regulations City: Building Development Services	Low-Medium	Both County/City update plans as needed. These regulations are addressed by each area.
All-Hazards Emergency Plan	X	X	County/City: Office of Emergency Management	Medium	County/City: Updated 2008 EOP is updated on yearly basis and rewritten every five years.