

WHARTON COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN



What is a Hazard Mitigation Plan?

A HMP is “the representation of the jurisdiction’s commitment to reduce risks from natural hazards, serving as a guide for decision-makers as they commit resources to reducing the effects of natural hazards” (44 CFR 201.6).

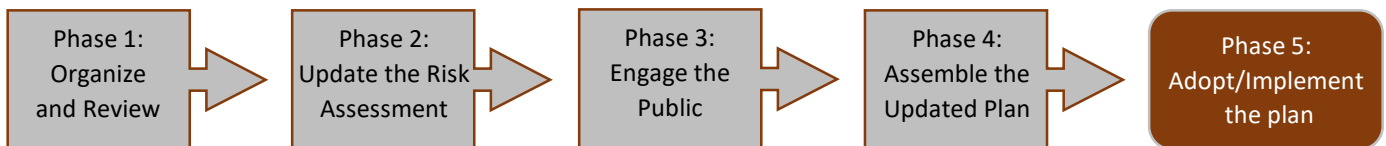
Hazards Evaluated

- Dam/Levee Failure
- Drought
- Expansive Soils
- Extreme Heat
- Earthquake
- Flood
- Hail
- Hurricane and Topical Storms
- Lightning
- Pandemic
- Tornado
- Wildfire
- Wind
- Winter Weather

What are the benefits of participating in the Hazard Mitigation Plan?

- Awareness of risk and vulnerabilities
- Identification of implementable strategies and funding sources
- Reduction of hazard impact (save lives, property, and the local economy)
- Creation of partnerships and develop comprehensive approaches that enhance project grant funding opportunities
- Pooling of resources while avoiding duplication of effort
- Creation of more resilient communities; bounce-back from disasters faster!

Schedule

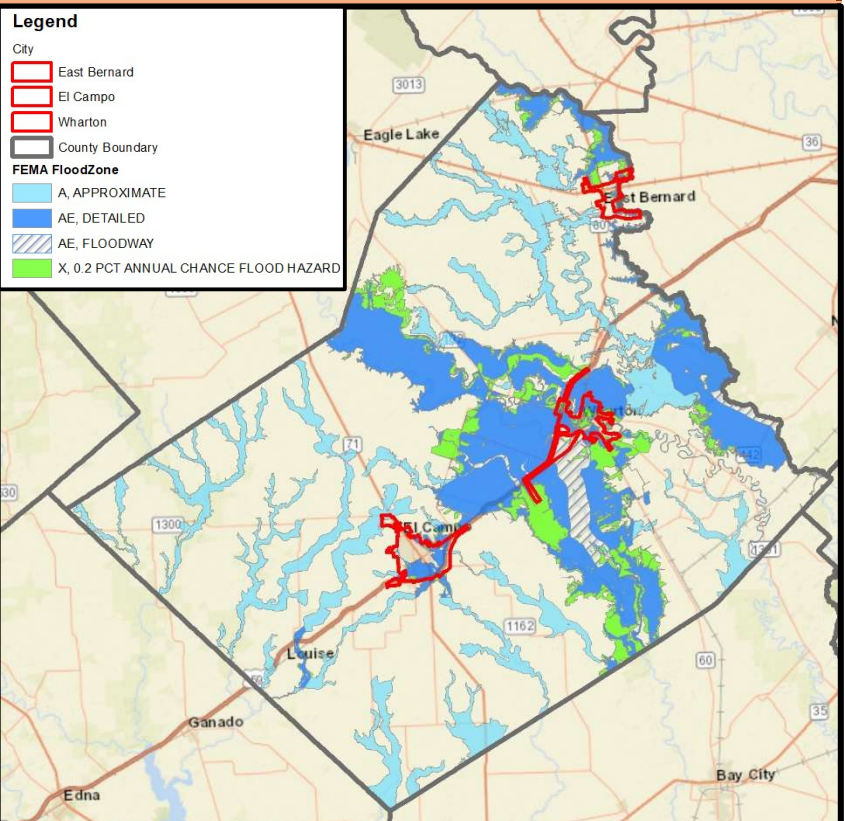


HAZARDS OF HIGHEST CONCERN

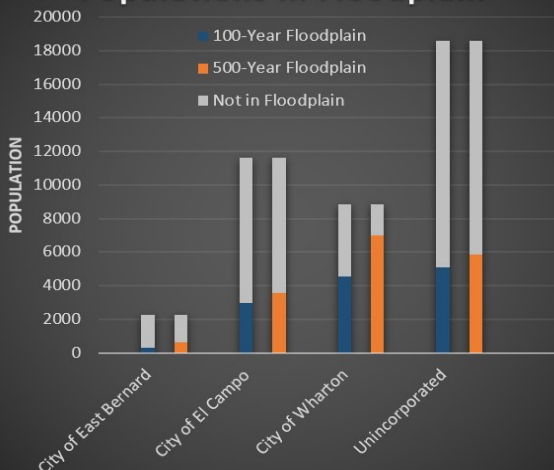
Flood:

- There is a 45% chance of a flash flood occurring within any given year in Wharton County.
- The base flood event, or 100-Year Flood (1% annual chance), has the capability of displacing approximately 12,928 residents in the county.
- The FEMA Flood Zone Map shows Wharton County during a 100-Year and 500-Year event (0.2% annual chance).

FEMA Flood Zone

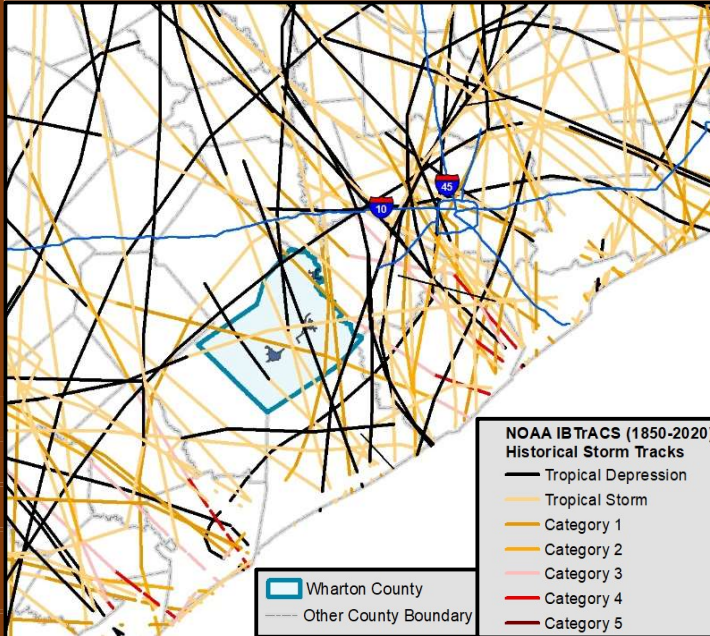


Populations in Floodplain



Hurricanes/Tropical Storms:

Past Hurricanes and Tropical Storms Affecting Wharton County



- Wharton County is predicted to be in the direct line of a hurricane/tropical storm once every 19 years.
- Wharton County will experience the effects of a hurricane/tropical storm once every 3 years.
- During 100-year probabilistic event approximately 10% of buildings (mostly residential) are expected to sustain moderate damage.
- The annualized losses estimate (both structures and content) due to past hurricanes/tropical storm events in Wharton County is \$8,849,000.

HOW YOU CAN HELP?

Public input on the mitigation planning process is very important and residents are encouraged to educate themselves about the existing plan and offer comments on the update. A link to the public survey for the 2021 update to the Wharton County Hazard Mitigation Plan is below. This survey will gather input and evaluate citizens' preparedness for natural disasters. **For more information about hazard mitigation visit the City of Wharton Emergency Management Department website:** http://www.cityofwharton.com/page/em_home

Wharton County Resident? Take our survey!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WhartonCountyHMP>

– Or –

Scan the QR code to complete the survey



Pandemic:

What is considered a Pandemic?

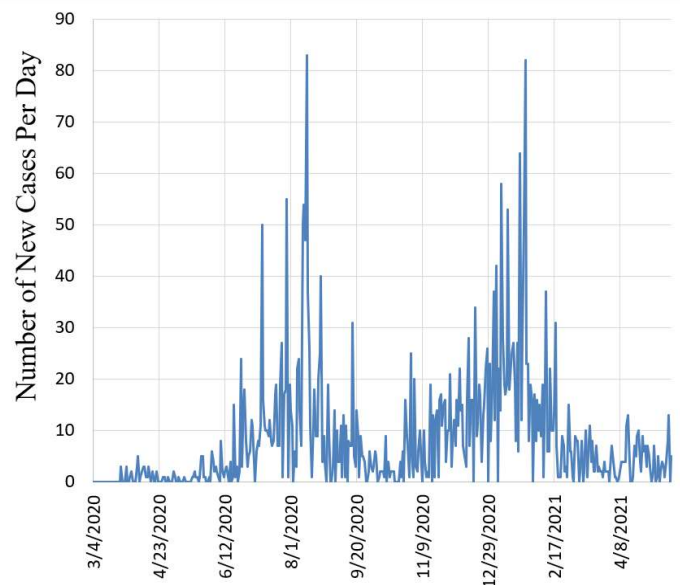
An outbreak of a disease that occurs over a wide geographic area, such as multiple countries or continents, and typically affects a significant proportion of the population.

- Wharton County is predicted to experience a pandemic of some severity within the next 10 years. (See Pandemic Severity Index Table)
- According to the Cleveland Clinic, intervals between pandemics are shortening and frequency is increasing.
- Pandemics can have far-reaching effects on a community's health, economy, and social well-being.
 - The effects of a pandemic were most recently felt due to the outbreak of COVID-19 in 2020.

Pandemic Severity Index (PSI)

Category	Case Fatality Ratio	Example
1	Less than 0.1%	Seasonal Flu
2	0.1 - <0.5%	Asian Flu and Hong Kong Flu
3	0.5 - <1%	Pandemic H1N1 (2009)
4	1.0 - <2.0%	Lassa Fever
5	2.0% or higher	1918 Flu Pandemic

Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in Wharton County



For any questions about hazard mitigation or the process, please contact:

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