

PREFACE

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS UTILIZED IN THIS PLAN

AHM	Association for Hazard Mitigation
Assoc.	Association
BCD COG	Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments
Bldg.	Building
BFE	Base Flood Elevation
BSA	Boy Scouts of America
Bur.	Bureau
CAMEO	Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations software
Chas.	Charleston
Co.	County (<i>when referring to government agencies/associations</i>)
Co.	Company (<i>when referring to business organizations</i>)
COBRA	Coastal Barrier Resource Act
Const.	Construction
Cons.	Conservation
Corp.	Corporation
CRS	Community Rating System
CSI	Construction Specifications Institute
Ctr.	Center
DCA	Deputy County Administrator
Dept.	Department
DHEC	Department of Health and Environmental Control
Div.	Division
DNR	Department of Natural Resources
DOT	Department of Transportation
E.	East
Educ.	Education
Eng.	Engineer
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
EOP	Emergency Operations Plan
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPD	Emergency Preparedness Division/Department
ESF	Emergency Support Function
ESRI	Environmental Systems Research Institute
Fac.	Facility
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
GA	Georgia
GIS	Geographic Information System
Haz.	Hazardous
HAZUS	Earthquake Loss Estimation Methodology Software
ISO	Insurance Services Office
LLR	Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
Matl.	Material
MEOC	Municipal Emergency Operation Center
Mgmt.	Management
MHRR	Minimum Hazard Resistance Requirements

MSL	Mean Sea Level
Mt.	Mount
Mun.	Municipal
MUSC	Medical University of South Carolina
N.	North
Nat.	National
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
NIMA	National Imaging and Mapping Agency
NGDC	National Geophysical Data Center
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPDES	Non-point pollution discharge elimination system
NWS	National Weather Service
OCRM	Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management
P & C	<i>Post and Courier</i>
prop	Property
PRC	Parks and Recreation Commission
Pres.	Preservation
Q3	FEMA flood zone mapping software
S.	South
SC	South Carolina
SC DOI	South Carolina Department of Insurance
SLED	South Carolina Law Enforcement Division
SNF	Spent Nuclear Fuel Shipment Program
SPA	State Ports Authority
Special Purpose District Governments:	Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission, Charleston County School District Charleston Water System, Cooper River Parks and Playground Commission, Mt. Pleasant Waterworks Commission, North Charleston District, North Charleston Sewer District, James Island Public Service District Commission, St. Andrews Parish Park and Playground Commission, St. Andrews Public Service District, St. John's Fire District Commission, St. Paul's Fire District Commission
TIGER	Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing
US	United States
USACOE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USC	University of South Carolina
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USDOI	United States Department of the Interior
USGS	United States Geological Survey
W.	West

OVERVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM

The Community Rating System (CRS) is a nation-wide program sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). This program has been in existence since 1990 and has as its objectives reducing flood losses, facilitating accurate insurance ratings, and promoting awareness of flood insurance. The CRS program is administered by Insurance Services Office (ISO), the same organization which provides fire department rating services for insurance companies throughout the United States.

The CRS program is a voluntary program. It accomplishes its objectives by providing incentives in the form of flood insurance premium discounts for the citizens of communities which participate in the program. Participating in the CRS program involves performing activities which exceed minimal FEMA requirements for participating in the National Flood Insurance Program. Credit points are assigned according to a schedule, which is periodically revised, based on the types and level of activities performed by a community. These activities include but are not limited to such items as providing flood related information to citizens, conducting inspections and performing needed maintenance of drainageways, providing emergency warning to the citizens in the event of a flood, and conducting floodplain management planning. The possible activities included in Section VI of this *Charleston Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan* are categorized in accordance with the CRS program. The six categories of potential activities addressed are preventive measures, property protection activities, activities to promote natural and beneficial functions of floodplains/preserve resources, emergency service activities, structural projects, and public information activities.

According to Insurance Services Organization data (Van Troost, 2002), there are currently 948 communities in the United States that participate in the Community Rating System. In South Carolina, there are twenty-eight (28) participating communities, and twelve (12) of those South Carolina communities are in Charleston County (approximately 43%). The Charleston Region has an excellent participation rate in this program.

There are 10 classifications to the CRS program (1 to 10) with premium reductions for the properties in the Special Flood Hazard Area (AA@ and AV@ flood zones) ranging from 0 to 45% depending upon the rating received by the community. The lower the rating in the CRS program the higher the insurance premium reduction (e.g. a Class 8 community receives a 10% reduction whereas a Class 9 receives a 5% reduction and a Class 10 receives a 0% reduction). The participating communities within Charleston County are currently either Class 5, Class 6, Class 7, Class 8 or Class 9 communities.

The benefits of participating in the CRS program include but are not limited to reduced flood insurance rates, enhanced floodplain management planning, national recognition, incentives to maintain flood programs, and becoming qualified for certain types of federal assistance (e.g. Flood Mitigation Assistance grant funding, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding, and Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program funding) as a result of having an approved hazard mitigation plan. One of the potentially most important benefits is the enhanced preparedness for hazard events that occurs through better educating the citizens and the community officials regarding how to address the inevitable hazard events that will occur.

Additional information regarding the CRS program is available in the Charleston County Public Libraries, at the offices of several of the local jurisdictions within the Region, and through FEMA directly on their internet site at <http://www.fema.gov>.

OVERVIEW OF APROJECT IMPACT@

“Project Impact” is a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) sponsored initiative aimed at assisting communities in becoming more disaster resistant. “Project Impact” is intended to involve the public, private, and non-profit sectors in forming partnerships to achieve the goal of reducing the amount of loss associated with a hazard event. This initiative began in 1997 with seven pilot communities, and ultimately expanded to approximately 250 communities nation-wide. Charleston County was selected as the 1999 “Project Impact” community for the State of South Carolina. All of the local jurisdictions within the Charleston County Area have partnered together in this “Project Impact” initiative.

The four phases of the “Project Impact” initiative per the FEMA perspective are to build community partnerships, assess risks, prioritize needs, and build support and communicate what is being done to enhance hazard preparedness and response. The “Project Impact” initiative is intended to address any types of hazards which may strike a community. The Charleston Area “Project Impact” initiative is focused primarily upon floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, wildfires, hazardous material incidents and terrorism activities. This *Charleston Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan* addresses each of these types of hazards and serves as a mechanism for the assessing risks and prioritizing needs phases of “Project Impact”. This plan serves as the governing document for project selection associated with the Charleston County Area “Project Impact” initiative.

The goals of the Charleston County Area “Project Impact” initiative are incorporated into the goals of this *Charleston Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan*. Similarly, the proposed decision making organization for the “Project Impact” initiative mirrors the organization of this plan regarding possible activities (Section VI of this plan). “Project Impact” and this plan are therefore directly linked.

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 uses the term “Predisaster Hazard Mitigation” (Title I) to define the “Project-Impact” type of initiative. The concepts of “Predisaster Hazard Mitigation” and “Project Impact” are to create a more disaster-resistant community through the implementation of projects and programs designed to prepare citizens and businesses in advance of a hazard event to minimize losses associated with these events. While the term “Project Impact” may be phased out over time and replaced with either “Predisaster Hazard Mitigation” or “Building a Disaster-Resistant Community”, the overall concept of preparing in advance for hazard events should remain into the future at the Federal level as a result of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000.

Anyone interested in becoming a partner in the Charleston County Area “Project Impact” initiative or seeking additional information about “Disaster Resistant Communities” is encouraged to contact Charleston County Building Services or any of the local jurisdictions within Charleston County for additional information.

OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY ACTION FOR A RENEWED ENVIRONMENT (CARE) PROGRAM

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established the CARE program to assist communities in reducing their air and water environmental pollution. The Charleston County Area Project Impact initiative developed the *Charleston Region Toxics Risk Assessment* during 2007 to assess the environmental pollutants in the region that are priority pollutants. This risk assessment determined that priority pollutants for the Charleston County region are air particulates and ground level ozone, since this pollutant often accompanies particulate air pollution, and water pollution attributed to fecal coliform, turbidity, trace metals and petroleum products. Based upon this risk assessment, an application for funding through the EPA was submitted for funding under the CARE grant program to establish a community-wide educational program to educate citizens as to ways to reduce environmental pollutant loads throughout the region. This application was selected by the EPA for further consideration and potential funding.

The program which is being considered under the CARE grant ties directly with multiple other on-going efforts in the Charleston Region to address environmental pollution. For example, this educational program would supplement efforts being undertaken under the Ozone Early Action Compact that Charleston County entered into with the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control during 2003. The efforts of the Greenbelt Advisory Board also contribute towards the CARE grant, since preserving green spaces helps reduce pollution associated with development as well as assists with air pollution reduction, since trees serve to help reduce pollutant loads to some extent. This program also directly ties into efforts being undertaken by stormwater utilities in the region to comply with the NPDES (non-point pollution discharge elimination system) permit that requires educational activities to reduce water pollution from non-point sources. Efforts being undertaken by the State Ports Authority to reduce their air pollution contributions also tie directly into this program. Multiple projects undertaken by Project Impact also address the water pollution issues and will expand into the air pollution realm under this program.

As a result of this direct correlation between the *Charleston Region Toxics Risk Assessment* and projects undertaken through Project Impact under the *Charleston Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan*, these two documents fully complement each other and are therefore fully integrated with each other for the Charleston Region. Applicable efforts undertaken through either program are considered as activities for both programs.

Similarly, determinations under the stormwater master planning project being undertaken for the Community Rating System for Charleston County likewise support efforts under this risk assessment and Project Impact to determine applicable drainage project improvements and strategies to address stormwater-related flooding and pollution. This stormwater master planning effort therefore also complements the planning initiatives undertaken through this *Charleston Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan* and is fully integrated into this plan, as applicable.