

# TOWN OF CHINCOTEAGUE

## MITIGATION STRATEGIES

The Town of Chincoteague, located on Chincoteague Island, lies off of the northeast coast of Accomack County. The town is known as a gateway to Assateague Island National Seashore and the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge that has an economy reliant on both its natural resources and seasonal tourism. In addition, the community provides housing and visitor support for the neighboring Wallops Flight Facility. Chincoteague Island's unique location and economy has directed a set of mitigation strategies that specifically address the coastal hazards facing the town.

### PLAN MAINTENANCE

The Emergency Management Coordinator will review the Hazard Mitigation Plan every year prior to the July 1 deadline for the Local Capability Readiness Assessment (LCAR). The Coordinator will evaluate the plan and review progress made during the previous years on the goals and projects in the plan. The Coordinator will use the LCAR criteria for hazard mitigation to evaluate the Town's hazard mitigation program. Progress will be reflected in the LCAR. The Coordinator will also recommend any revisions to the Town Council. By July 1, 2015, the Coordinator will assemble a Committee or represent the Town of Chincoteague on a Committee to update the plan. The Committee will work to complete the updates by the end of the calendar year of the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the plan. During the plan maintenance process, the community will have opportunity through advertised public hearings to comment on plan revisions and updates prior to the Town Council approving them.

The Town of Chincoteague has a Town Plan. The Emergency Management Coordinator will provide input and plan materials to the planning group responsible for regular updates to the Town Plan and any other relevant planning documents. During updates of the Town Plan and other relevant planning efforts, the Hazard Mitigation Plan will be reviewed and appropriate material incorporated into the updates.

See Chapter 2, page 7 and 8 for additional information about plan maintenance and evaluation.

## IDENTIFIED MITIGATION GOALS & STRATEGIES – TOWN OF CHINCOTEAGUE

### **Goal 1 - Local Governments Guide a Comprehensive Mitigation Program Including Public Education and Ongoing Hazard Assessments**

*Strategy 1.1 – Ensure emergency management and government operations can continue during and after a hazard event.*

*Strategy 1.1 – Complete hazard assessment mapping and Storm Water Master Plan to better inform Town Council decisions and public outreach efforts.*

### **Goal 2 - Residents, Businesses, Local Governments, and other Community Partners Will Work Independently and Together to Minimize Community Disruption Through Planning and Mitigation Activities**

*Strategy 2.1 - Retrofit housing to withstand a 1%-annual-chance flood event.*

*Strategy 2.2 – Utilize mitigation funds made available following a natural hazard event to retrofit commercial and residential structures to withstand flooding or other hazard events.*

### **Goal 3 - Local Governments Encourage Self-sufficiency and Personal Responsibility for Managing Risk**

*Strategy 3.1 – Promote the benefits of flood insurance from the National Flood Insurance Program.*

*Strategy 3.2 - Educate residents and businesses on potential hazards.*

### **Goal 4 - Local Governments Will Work to Ensure That Infrastructure Will Continuously Function During and After a Hazard Event**

*Strategy 4.1 – Retrofit the causeway and bridge to maintain connection to the mainland.*

*Strategy 4.2 - Ensure adequate water resources will be available during and after hazard events.*

*Strategy 4.3 – Maintain beach access to the Assateague Island National Seashore following hazard events.*

### **Goal 5 - Local Governments Will Make Efforts to Reach Special Needs Populations**

*Strategy 5.1 – Identify locations of seasonal housing including mobile homes, campgrounds, etc.*

## IDENTIFIED MITIGATION PROJECTS – TOWN OF CHINCOTEAGUE

### Goal 1 - Local Governments Guide a Comprehensive Mitigation Program including Public Education and Ongoing Hazard Assessments

*Strategy 1.1 – Ensure emergency management and government operations can continue during and after a hazard event.*

*Strategy 1.1 – Complete hazard assessment mapping and Storm Water Master Plan to better inform Town Council decisions and public outreach efforts.*

Priority Rank	Town of Chincoteague – Goal 1: Description of Projects	Hazard(s) Addressed	Responsible Department	HMP Year / Start Timeline	Status as of 2011	Status as of 2016	Add'l. Info.
1	Set a regional compatibility standard for emergency communications	ALL	ESDPC	2006	Funding attained, Pending	Ongoing	
1	Perform GIS mapping project to evaluate incremental flooding issues.	Flood	Chincoteague Planning & Zoning	2012	Not Started	Not Started	Staff Expertise
1	Study and map critical infrastructure including new FEMA wave analysis.	Flood	Chincoteague Planning & Zoning	2013	Not Started, awaiting FEMA map updates	Not Started	Staff Expertise, Coordination
1	Implement the Storm Water Master Plan	Storm Water Flood, Biohazard	Chincoteague Planning & Zoning	2017	-	Ongoing	
1	Investigate potential tertiary locations for a Chincoteague Emergency Operation Center located off the island and in northern Accomack County	ALL	Emergency Services Coordinator	2009	Ongoing	Ongoing	
1	The Causeway: raise, retrofit, or replace with a bridge so that the island is still accessible during flooding events.	Flood	VDOT	2016	-	Not Started	Funding, Coordination
1	Outfit the Community Center for a shelter of last resort.	ALL	Chincoteague Planning & Zoning	2016	-	Not Started	Funding

### Completed Projects

---	Conduct a Phase 2 Storm Water Master Plan to improve drainage infrastructure for the Town and mitigate flooding hazards.	Storm Water Flood, Biohazard	Chincoteague Dept. of Public Works	Ongoing	Phase 1 Complete	Phase 2 Incomplete	Funding, Staff Expertise
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Town of Chincoteague Mitigation Strategies

---	Produce Responder Bilingual Cards with English on back. An example of the type of message to be included is "Do not drink the water."	ALL	Health Department and the Eastern Shore Disaster Preparedness Coalition (ESDPC)	2006	Complete*		
---	Obtain more changeable warning signs	ALL	VDOT	2006	Complete		
---	Upgrade communications systems and provide for backup in the event of a communication failure	ALL	ESDPC, Tow	2009	Complete		
---	Coordinate studies and maps with Emergency Operations Plan and Comprehensive Plan	ALL	Chincoteague Planning & Zoning	Annually	Ongoing	Ongoing	

\*Spanish Health and Emergency Preparedness informational brochures have been produced and are available to the Hispanic population through a variety of outlets.

Eastern Shore of Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan

<b>Goal 2 - Residents, Businesses, Local Governments, and other Community Partners Will Work Independently and Together to Minimize Community Disruption Through Planning and Mitigation Activities</b>							
<i>Strategy 2.1 - Retrofit housing to reduce risk of coastal flooding.</i>							
<i>Strategy 2.2 – Utilize mitigation funds made available following a natural hazard event to retrofit commercial and residential structures to withstand flooding or other hazard events.</i>							
<b>Priority Rank</b>	<b>Town of Chincoteague – Goal 2: Description of Projects</b>	<b>Hazard(s) Addressed</b>	<b>Responsible Department</b>	<b>HMP Year / Start Timeline</b>	<b>Status as of 2011</b>	<b>Status as of 2016</b>	<b>Add'l. Info.</b>
1	Partner with federal agencies to perform beach nourishment on Assateague Island to mitigate erosion and flooding hazards in Town.	Flood, Erosion	NPS, NFWS, & USACE	Unknown	Not Started	Ongoing	
1	Mitigation of flood prone properties (to include, but not limited to acquisition, elevation, relocation, dry and wet flood proofing of flood prone structures, mitigation reconstruction for NFIP defined Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) properties only), and drainage infrastructure improvements.	Flood, Erosion, Storm Water Flood	A-NPDC & Chincoteague	Post-declared disaster	Ongoing	Some Complete, Ongoing	
1	Prepare and plan for mitigation of coastal erosion along the southern shoreline of Chincoteague Island	Erosion, Flood	Chincoteague Planning	2012	Not Started	Ongoing	
1	Flood proof commercial buildings along Main Street to mitigate flooding hazards.	Flood	Chincoteague & Main Street Merchant Assoc.	2012	Not Started	Not Started	
1	Use hazard mitigation funds to retrofit commercial and residential structures.	Flood	Chincoteague Building & Zoning	Post-declared disaster	Complete, Ongoing	Ongoing	
1	Manage a home elevation project on Chincoteague. Using a cost-benefit analysis, focus on reducing risk to the most vulnerable primary housing.	Flood	Chincoteague Building & Zoning	Post-declared disaster	Not Complete, Ongoing	Ongoing	
4	Increase the safety of residents and visitors on the island by increasing the shoulder and improving sidewalks.	Flood, Fire, Ice & Snow	VDOT	2016	-	Not Started	Transportation during hazard event
<b>Completed Projects</b>							
---	Increase the safety of residents and visitors on the island by replacing the existing bridge.	ALL	VDOT	2006	Complete		

### Town of Chincoteague Mitigation Strategies

---	Investigate the possibility of shoulders or enlarging pull offs on the causeway to aid traffic control during evacuations.	Flood, Fire, Ice & Snow	VDOT	2008	Complete		
---	Protect new construction by continuing to enforce the building code provisions protecting structures from flooding and wind events.	Flood, Wind, Fire	Chincoteague Building & Zoning	Ongoing	Complete, Ongoing	Ongoing	
---	Incorporate the Eastern Shore of Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan into the Chincoteague Town Plan.	ALL	Chincoteague Planning	During next Town. Plan update (2015)	Not Started	Complete	

Eastern Shore of Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan

**Goal 3 - Local Governments Encourage Self-sufficiency and Personal Responsibility for Managing Risk**

*Strategy 3.1 – Promote the benefits of flood insurance from the National Flood Insurance Program.*

*Strategy 3.2 - Educate residents and businesses on potential hazards.*

Priority Rank	Town of Chincoteague County – Goal 3: Description of Projects	Hazard(s) Addressed	Responsible Department	HMP Year / Start Timeline	Status as of 2011	Status as of 2016	Add'l. Info.
1	Implement a public information campaign on the benefits of flood insurance with a focus on Chincoteague’s local needs.	Flood	Chincoteague Administration	Annually	Ongoing	Ongoing	
1	Protect new construction by continuing to enforce the building code provisions protecting structures from flooding and wind events.	Wind, Flood, Fire	Chincoteague Building & Zoning	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	

**Completed Projects**

---	Start a public information campaign on the benefits of flood insurance with a focus on Chincoteague’s local needs.	Flood	Chincoteague Administration	2007	Complete, Ongoing	Complete, Ongoing	
---	Review FEMA Region III Coastal Analysis Risk Map and amend Town ordinances, if required.	Flood	Chincoteague Planning	2012	Not Started	Complete; changed the freeboard requirement	
---	Develop and provide residents and businesses with hazard risk assessment maps and response plan. Consider creating in non-English language(s) as well. Distribute to transient population/visitors through chamber and rental companies.	ALL	Chincoteague Planning	2012	Not Started	Ongoing	

Town of Chincoteague Mitigation Strategies

**Goal 4 - Local Governments Will Work to Ensure That Infrastructure Will Continuously Function During and After a Hazard Event**

Strategy 4.1 – Retrofit the causeway and bridge to maintain connection to the mainland.

Strategy 4.2 - Ensure adequate water resources will be available during and after hazard events.

Strategy 4.3 – Maintain beach access to the Assateague Island National Seashore following hazard events.

Priority Rank	Town of Chincoteague – Goal 4: Description of Projects	Hazard(s) Addressed	Responsible Department	HMP Year / Start Timeline	Status as of 2011	Status as of 2016	Add'l. Info.
1	Develop a cooperative agreement between Chincoteague and the National Fish and Wildlife Service and incorporate a short-term response plan to ensure access to the Assateague Island National Seashore following a hazard event	ALL	Chincoteague & NFWS	2011	Started	Ongoing	
1	Perform a storm water infrastructure improvement project on Maddox Boulevard at the traffic circle to reduce frequent flooding of access corridor to National Seashore and Wildlife Refuge	Storm Water Flood, Biohazards	Chincoteague Public Works	2012	Not Started	Not Started	Funding
1	Develop enforceable standards for fill and drainage to mitigate flooding hazards.	Flood, Storm Water Flooding, Biohazards	Chincoteague Administration	2012	Not Started	Not Started	Staff
2	Widen the Route 175 Causeway including expansion of shoulders, construction of an emergency lane/bike lane, and construction of a center safety barrier to maintain a safe corridor.	Flood, Fire, Ice & Snow	VDOT and other state agencies	Unknown	Not Started	Not Started	Funding, Coordination

**Completed Projects**

---	1. Obtain and install a generator on the high rise water tower in the Town	ALL	Chincoteague Public Works	2008	Complete		
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Eastern Shore of Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan

<b>Goal 5 - Local Governments Will Make Efforts to Reach Special Needs Populations</b>							
<i>Strategy 5.1 – Identify locations of seasonal housing including mobile homes, campgrounds, etc.</i>							
<b>Priority Rank</b>	<b>Town of Chincoteague – Goal 5: Description of Projects</b>	<b>Hazard(s) Addressed</b>	<b>Responsible Department</b>	<b>HMP Year / Start Timeline</b>	<b>Status as of 2011</b>	<b>Status as of 2016</b>	<b>Add'l. Info.</b>
1	Identify and map tourist lodging for use in emergency	ALL	Chincoteague & NFWS	2006	Started	Ongoing	
1	Identify locations of special needs populations using newest U.S. Census data and emergency management/response personnel personal knowledge	ALL	Chincoteague Planning & EMS	2011	Not Started	Ongoing	
1	Coordinate special needs assessment into Chincoteague Emergency Operations Plan.	ALL	Chincoteague Planning & EMS	2011	Not Started	Ongoing	
2	Study and propose mitigation actions for increased exposure of special needs populations to coastal erosion and storm surge at south end of Chincoteague Island	Erosion, Flood	Chincoteague Planning & EMS	2011	Not Started	Not Started	Funding, Staff