



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

After suffering the effects of floods, windstorms, winter storms, and other natural and human-made hazards, the citizens, business leaders, and officials of Northumberland County recognized the need to update the countywide long-term approach to reducing vulnerability to hazards. In 2016, the Northumberland County Department of Public Safety, the agency responsible for hazard mitigation in the County, began a hazard mitigation plan update process to continue to identify the hazards that can affect the County and create or modify existing strategies to reduce damage from these hazards.

The original Northumberland County Hazard Mitigation Plan of 2012 was created using the contracted services of Delta Development Group. This updated 2017 Hazard Mitigation Plan is being prepared using information provided in the original document and updated information being provided by the Northumberland County Planning Team. This document represents the culmination of the multi-jurisdictional planning process that involves numerous stakeholders across the County. The planning process consisted of the following steps:

- Identification and prioritization of the hazards that may affect the County and its municipalities
- Assessment of the County's and municipalities' vulnerability to these hazards
- Identification of the mitigation actions that can reduce that vulnerability
- Development of a strategy for implementing those actions, including identifying the agencies responsible for those implementations

Throughout the planning process, the general public was given the opportunity to comment on or question the existing Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). The Planning Team desired interaction from the general public to not only provide a localized perspective but also as an initial opportunity to educate anyone who may not have knowledge of the HMP. Four formal public meetings as well as many informal planning meetings were

advertised and conducted with this intent at the core. The existing plan was also posted to the Northumberland County Emergency Management Agency's website for any member of the public to independently review.

The following hazards were identified by the Planning Team as presenting the highest risk to the County and its municipalities:

- Flood, flash flood and ice jam
- Drought
- Winter Storms
- Opioids

To mitigate against the effects of these hazards, the Hazard Planning Team identified the following goals for hazard mitigation over the next five years:

- Increase public education and awareness of existing and potential hazards in Northumberland County
- Protect the citizens of Northumberland County as well as public and private property from the impacts of natural and human-caused hazards
- Mitigate the potential for injury/death and damage from natural and human-made hazards in Northumberland County
- Encourage proper information management of data related to natural and human-caused hazards in Northumberland County
- Increase local government awareness of hazard mitigation programs
- Improve emergency services and capabilities in Northumberland County to protect citizens from natural and human-caused hazards

The individual objectives and actions that will be implemented are shown in section 6.4.