

Executive Summary

Over the past two decades, hazard mitigation has gained increased national attention due to the large number of natural disasters that have occurred throughout the U.S. and the rapid rise in costs associated with those disaster recoveries. It has become apparent that money spent mitigating potential impacts of a disaster event can result in substantial savings of life and property. With these benefit-cost ratios extremely advantageous, the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 was developed as U.S. Federal legislation reinforcing the importance of pre-disaster mitigation planning by calling for local governments to develop mitigation plans (*44 CFR 201*).

A local hazard mitigation plan aims to identify the community's notable risks and specific vulnerabilities and then to create/implement corresponding mitigation projects to address those areas of concern. This methodology helps reduce human, environmental, and economic costs from natural and man-made hazards through the creation of long-term mitigation initiatives.

The advantages of developing a local hazard mitigation plan are numerous and include improved post-disaster decision-making, education on mitigation approaches, and an organizational method for prioritizing mitigation projects. Communities with a mitigation plan receive larger amounts of Federal and State funding opportunities to be used on mitigation projects and can receive these funds faster than communities without a plan. This 2025 update of the Sullivan County Hazard Mitigation Plan addresses Building Resilient Communities and Infrastructure (BRIC), Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA), and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) requirements. Each jurisdiction within the county participated in the preparation of the update, including:

- Sullivan County
- City of Bristol
- City of Kingsport
- Town of Bluff City

In reference to federal code title *44 CFR 201*, the plan is required to be submitted to both TEMA (State) and FEMA (Federal) for review to be approved. When the plan is deemed "approval pending adoption" by FEMA (*44 CFR 201.6(c)5*), each of the participating jurisdictions will adopt the plan through a local resolution.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Region 4
3005 Chamblee Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341



FEMA

August 26, 2025

Mr. Shannon Ball
State Hazard Mitigation Officer
Tennessee Emergency Management Agency
3041 Sidco Drive
Nashville, TN 37204

Reference: Sullivan County Hazard Mitigation Plan

Dear Mr. Ball:

The Federal review of the draft Sullivan County Hazard Mitigation Plan for compliance with the planning requirements contained in 44 CFR §201.6 is complete. The plan is compliant with Federal requirements, subject to formal community adoption. FEMA approval pending adoption does not include the review or approval of content that exceeds the applicable FEMA mitigation planning requirements.

For our office to issue formal approval of the plan, the jurisdiction(s) must submit adoption documentation. Upon receipt of the adoption resolution(s) to our office, we will issue formal approval of the Sullivan County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Once approved, please submit a final copy of the Plan, without draft notations and track changes.

If you or any plan participant need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Kymberly Kudla, of my staff, at (202) 655-6712.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kristen M. Martinenza". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Kristen M. Martinenza, P.E.
Risk Analysis Branch Chief