

## **REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

### **HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**MEETING DATE:** June 2, 2025

**SUBJECT:** South Mountain Hazard Mitigation Plan Approval

**PRESENTER:** Tim McFalls, Emergency Management and Rescue Manager

**ATTACHMENTS:** (2) Resolution  
Plan Comparison and Action Items

#### **SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

The South Mountains Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan has been developed in cooperation with Henderson, Polk, Rutherford and Transylvania Counties along with the municipalities within the region. The current plan, adopted in 2020, expires July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

During 2024 staff began working with the State's consultant and our surrounding counties on updating the plan. The planning team conducted surveys and held sessions to solicit input for the proposed plan. The draft plan has been reviewed and approved by North Carolina Emergency Management and submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for compliance with the North Carolina Emergency Management Act and the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

An approved Hazard Mitigation Plan is required to receive state and federal disaster assistance for mitigation efforts. The final draft plan may be viewed [HERE](#).

#### **BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

The Board is requested to consider the attached resolution formally adopting the South Mountains Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

#### **Suggested Motion:**

*I move the Board approve the resolution to adopt the South Mountains Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.*

# **Henderson County Board of Commissioners**

1 Historic Courthouse Square • Suite 1 • Hendersonville, NC 28792  
Phone (828) 697-4808 • Fax (828) 692-9855 • [www.hendersoncountync.gov](http://www.hendersoncountync.gov)

**William G. Lapsley**  
Chairman  
**J. Michael Edney**  
Vice-Chairman



**Rebecca K. McCall**  
**Sheila W. Franklin**  
**J. Jay Egolf**

## **RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE SOUTH MOUNTAINS REGIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

WHEREAS, the citizens and property within Henderson County are subject to the effects of natural hazards that pose threats to lives and cause damage to property, and with the knowledge and experience that certain areas of the county are particularly vulnerable to drought, extreme heat, hailstorm, hurricane and tropical storm, lightning, thunderstorm wind/high wind, tornado, winter storm and freeze, flood, hazardous material incident, and wildfire; and

WHEREAS, Henderson County desires to seek ways to mitigate the impact of identified hazard risks; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of North Carolina has in Article 5, Section 160D-501 of Chapter 160D of the North Carolina General Statutes, delegated to local governmental units the responsibility to adopt regulations designed to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare of its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of North Carolina has enacted General Statute Section 166A-19.41 (*State emergency assistance funds*) which provides that for a state of emergency declared pursuant to G.S. 166A-19.20(a) after the deadline established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency pursuant to the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2002, P.L. 106-390, the eligible entity shall have a hazard mitigation plan approved pursuant to the Stafford Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 322 of the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 states that local governments must develop an All-Hazards Mitigation Plan in order to be eligible to receive future Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funds and other disaster-related assistance funding and that said Plan must be updated and adopted within a five-year cycle; and

WHEREAS, the Henderson County has performed a comprehensive review and evaluation of each section of the previously approved Hazard Mitigation Plan and has updated the said plan as required under regulations at 44 CFR Part 201 and according to guidance issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management.

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Board of Commissioners of Henderson County to fulfill this obligation in order that Henderson County will be eligible for federal and state assistance in the event that a state of disaster is declared for a hazard event affecting the County.

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NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Commissioners of Henderson County hereby: adopts the South Mountains Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan and agrees to take such other official action as may be reasonably necessary to carry out the objectives of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the County of Henderson to be affixed.

Adopted this the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June, 2025.

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WILLIAM G. LAPSLEY, CHAIRMAN  
HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

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DENISA LAUFFER, CLERK TO THE BOARD

# South Mountains Hazard Mitigation Plan

2025 Update

## Henderson County Summary and Action Items

### Key Hazards – 2025 FINAL DRAFT:

<b>HIGH RISK</b>	Wildfires Cyber Excessive Heat Tornadoes/Thunderstorms Flooding Infectious Disease
<b>MODERATE RISK</b>	Drought Hurricanes and Coastal Hazards Severe Winter Weather Earthquakes Geological/Landslides Dam Failure Hazardous Substances Terrorism Food Emergency
<b>LOW RISK</b>	Radiological Emergency Electromagnetic Pulse Civil Disturbance

### Key Hazards – 2020:

<b>HIGH RISK</b>	Winter Storm and Freeze Thunderstorm Wind / High Wind Flooding Wildfires
<b>MODERATE RISK</b>	Drought Hurricanes and Coastal Hazards Dam Failure Excessive Heat Geological Hazardous Substances
<b>LOW RISK</b>	Terrorism Earthquakes Radiological Emergency Infectious Disease Cyber Electromagnetic Pulse

## Henderson County Mitigation Action Plan

Action #	Description	Hazard(s) Addressed	Relative Priority	Funding Sources	Responsible Party	Target Completion Date	2025 Action Implementation Status
<b>Prevention</b>							
P-4	Install stream gauges on major waterways throughout the County to collect data on stream water height and velocity (this will also assist in mitigating erosion hazards).	Flooding	High	General Revenue and Grants	County EMA	2030	This will remain an ongoing item based on funding availability.
P-5	Implement scaling as a method of preventative maintenance to reduce the amount of loose debris that could lead to landslides during high precipitation events or seismic events	Geological/Landslides	High	General Revenue and Grants	NCDOT	2030	DOT continues to make improvements in high probability areas along State maintained roads
P-7	Develop a stand-by acquisition grant application that lists properties with a high potential for damage or destruction due to a dam/levee failure.	Dam Failure	Low	General Revenue and Grants	County EMA	2030	Properties have been identified through the GIS layer development. No funding has been awarded for acquisition, so this will remain an action going forward.
P-8	Develop a stand-by acquisition grant application that lists properties located in multi-hazard areas which are prone not only to flash flooding but also to severe landslides. (Examples include properties located near US HWY 74 and NC HWY 9 (Bat Cave)	Flooding Geological/Landslides	High	General Revenue and Grants	County EMA	2030	The County is working with NCEM and FEMA on Mitigation Grants for interested properties. Will continue to pursue this action as possible and as funding is available.
P-11	Join the Community Rating System (CRS) program within the next two years.	Flooding	Moderate	General Revenue	Flood Damage Prevention Administrator	2030	Develop and distribute materials in conjunction with EMA and Building Services.

## SECTION 9 MITIGATION ACTION PLAN

Action #	Description	Hazard(s) Addressed	Relative Priority	Funding Sources	Responsible Party	Target Completion Date	2025 Action Implementation Status
P-12	Seek grant funding for mitigation opportunities eligible under the most current version of the UHMA Guidance and Public Assistance 406 mitigation Guidance at the time of the application. Projects may include, but are not limited to: acquisition, elevation, mitigation reconstruction, and wet/dry flood proofing to commercial and/or residential structures as applicable; redundant power to critical facilities, storm shelters and other activities that reduce the loss of life and property as a result of impacts from natural hazards.	All	Moderate	Federal Grants	Henderson County Emergency Management	As funding becomes available.	Action remains ongoing as funding becomes available.
<b>Property Protection</b>							
PP-1	Incorporate development and construction standards into the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances to further regulate construction in areas prone to landslides.	Geological/Landslides Flooding	High	General Revenue	Planning Dept.	2030	Policymakers continue to review this item. Additional education and information has been shared with industry and community leaders. Action steps related to this were adopted in the 2045 Comprehensive Plan and will be considered during the Land Development Code rewrite process.
PP-2	Circulate an assessment survey to determine what methods or devices County agencies have in place for securing equipment and furniture during earthquake events.	Earthquakes	Low	General Revenue	Facilities Services	2030	Additional improvements have been made as budgeting, upgrades and renovations are taking place.

## SECTION 9 MITIGATION ACTION PLAN

Action #	Description	Hazard(s) Addressed	Relative Priority	Funding Sources	Responsible Party	Target Completion Date	2025 Action Implementation Status
PP-3	Provide redundancy to protect against Cyber Communications/ Record Retention failures, as well as EOC back up internet and EOC internet for activations.	All	High	General Revenue and Grants	IT Dept.	2030	New action for the 2025 update.
PP-4	Establish auxiliary power systems via fixed or portable generators for all primary County buildings and schools. Make certain to include the wiring closets to accommodate technology routing.	All	High	General Revenue and Grants	County EMA Engineering Dept	2030	Ongoing project as budgets allow.
<b>Natural Resource Protection</b>							
NRP-5	Establishing a "green infrastructure" program to link, manage, and expand existing parks, preserves, greenways, etc.	Flooding	Moderate	General Revenue	Parks & Recreation	Ongoing, revisit in 2030	New action. The County has adopted a Greenway Master Plan to encourage planned growth of existing and new greenways.
<b>Emergency Services</b>							
ES-6	Reaffirm plans with emergency service agencies and providers for isolation and evacuation during HAZMAT events.	Hazardous Substances	Moderate	General Revenue and Grants	County EMA	2030, Annually review and update	Ongoing as budget allows.
ES-7	Incorporate the procedures for tracking high water marks following a flood into emergency response plans.	Flooding	Moderate	General Revenue	County EMA	2030	Utilize technology to identify high water marks when able and share data with key stakeholders for forecasting future needs.
ES-8	Leverage existing and emerging technologies to ensure up to date remote sensing data is current, especially in rapidly developing areas.	All	Moderate	General Revenue	IT Department	2030	Utilize current technology to maintain GIS layers for aerial photography for key hazard areas in Henderson County. (examples include LiDar, Oblique imagery)

## SECTION 9 MITIGATION ACTION PLAN

Action #	Description	Hazard(s) Addressed	Relative Priority	Funding Sources	Responsible Party	Target Completion Date	2025 Action Implementation Status
ES-9	Continue to develop response equipment capacity for all hazards response in an austere environment	All	High	General Revenue and Grants	County EMA	2030	Ongoing as budget allows.
ES-10	Incorporate Audible Emergency Notification system for high hazard areas, for flash flooding and mass gatherings.	Flooding, Civil Disturbance	High	General Revenue and Grants	County EMA	2030	New action for the 2025 update.
ES-11	Support resiliency and redundancy for critical infrastructure providers for essential county services.	All	High	General Revenue and Grants	County EMA	2030	New action for the 2025 update.
<b>Public Education and Awareness</b>							
PEA-2	Educate contractors about principles for quality redevelopment and safe housing development through written materials or a County sponsored workshop.	All	Low	General Revenue	Building Services	2030	Building Services and Fire Services will continue to provide education and outreach as available.
PEA-3	Provide new home and property buyers with information on quality redevelopment and safe housing development. The information is probably most efficiently dispersed at the County and local administration buildings.	All	Low	General Revenue	Building Services	2030	This item will continue as additional outreach is needed.
PEA-4	Manually disperse and have a website posting which provides information about the Henderson County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan and relevant mitigation measures the public can take. In addition, provide a response/reply section where	All	High	General Revenue	County EMA	2030, Annually review and update materials	This item will continue as information and materials are updated.



## SECTION 9 MITIGATION ACTION PLAN

Action #	Description	Hazard(s) Addressed	Relative Priority	Funding Sources	Responsible Party	Target Completion Date	2025 Action Implementation Status
	residents can comment on the effectiveness of the current plan and where they can make suggestions for future revisions on then plan.						
PEA-5	Circulate information related to the property owner requirements and regulations related to the maintenance and repair of private roadways.	Geological/Landslides Flooding	High	General Revenue	County EMA/Planning Department	Action to be deleted.	There are no requirements or regulations for maintenance of private roads. Only regulations are on the developer at the time of construction. Action will be removed from future plan updates.
PEA-6	Educate property owners regarding options for mitigating their properties from flooding through outreach activities.	Flooding	High	General Revenue	County EMA	2030	Develop outreach materials for distribution to the public online and in-person.
PEA-7	Educate citizens about safety during flood conditions, including the dangers of driving on flooded roads.	Flooding	Moderate	General Revenue and Grants	County EMA	2030	Continue education initiatives through online and print media.
PEA-8	Distribute flood protection safety pamphlets or brochures to the owners of flood-prone property.	Flooding	Moderate	General Revenue and Grants	County EMA Planning Dept.	2030	Continue education initiatives through online and print media.
PEA-9	Increase Wildfire Risk Awareness	Wildfires	Moderate	General Revenue	County EMA	Ongoing, revisit in 2030	The county EMA works with the NC Forest Service to identify areas for education. These efforts can be increased.

SECTION 9 MITIGATION ACTION PLAN

Structural Projects							
SP-1	Install flood telemetry systems in sewage lift stations.	Flooding	Moderate	General Revenue	Engineering Dept.	Ongoing, revisit in 2030	Lift stations have a monitored SCADA system in place to allow quick response to emergencies.
SP-2	Install watertight covers or inflow guards on sewer manholes, converting and raising manholes in flood prone areas.	Flooding	Moderate	General Revenue	Engineering Dept.	Ongoing, revisit in 2030	Staff continue to evaluate the needs and make improvements as funding allows.