



THE  
PLAN  
**STRATEGY  
LABS**

FUTURELV  
FUTURE LEARNING VALLEY

COMMUNITY  
ECONOMY  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
SUBDIVISION  
PEOPLE + PLACES  
TRANSPORTATION  
RESOURCES  
HIGHWAYS + BRIDGES  
ORDINANCES + PLANS  
RESEARCH + ANALYSIS  
WATER  
SEWER  
UTILITIES  
CARTOGRAPHY  
PEDESTRIANS  
ENVIRONMENT  
PROJECTIONS  
HOUSING  
PARKS + RECREATION  
CULTURE  
FARMLAND PRESERVATION  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION



# What is a Comprehensive Plan?



# A Regional Comprehensive Plan...

- is the official and legal strategy guiding the growth, development, redevelopment and preservation of the assets of the Lehigh Valley.
- consolidates all the information we already know about our community into one simple, organized, easy-to-read toolkit.
- articulates community goals and aspirations for the years ahead, based on an understanding of current, on-the-ground conditions and accurate projections and trends.
- demands strong community involvement and citizen participation during the creation process, and, once complete, it encourages further engagement to bring all of its various actions and directives into play.
- informs future decision making on how we shape the land, including changes in existing laws on zoning, land development, subdivision, or other key laws that help determine how our communities will change and grow.
- brings all 62 municipalities, private and non-profit sectors, and the public together to recognize shared objectives and collaborate on implementation.
- is a playbook for the region, guiding official decisions, research, reports and funding.

# A Regional Comprehensive Plan is Not...

- the same as zoning or subdivision. It is not an actual code that establishes what is or isn't legal in how we use or develop the land.
- so dense and complicated that it requires a law degree to read and understand.
- a text-only document. Or, at the very least, a good comprehensive plan is not text only! It should also include maps, charts, graphs, tables, graphics and infographics and be accessible on as many platforms as possible.
- an end in itself. It should be MUCH more than a summary of what the region has achieved. In some ways, it's the launch pad for where we would like to go and how we expect to measure our success at getting there.

What is hazard mitigation?



# The effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters. -FEMA



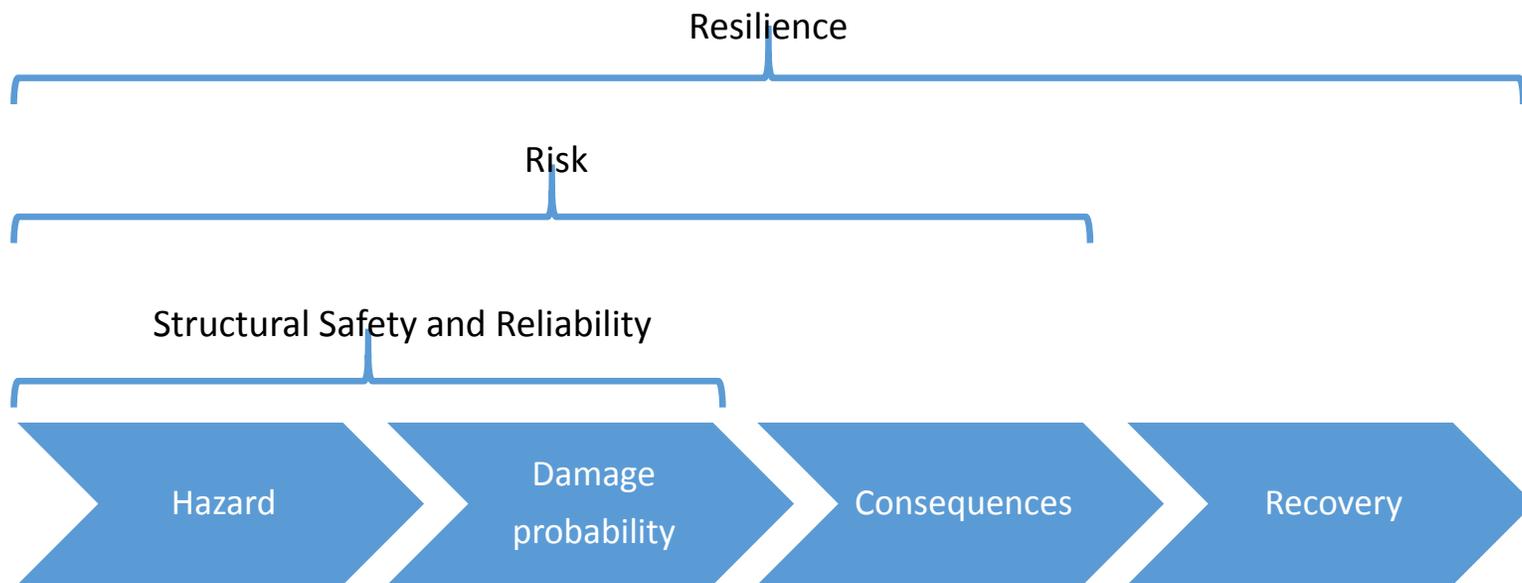
FEMA Hazard Mitigation Planning Process

What is resilience?

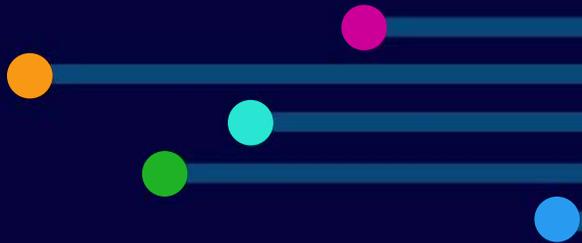


The term “resilience” means the ability to prepare for and adapt to changing conditions and withstand and recover rapidly from disruptions. Resilience includes the ability to withstand and recover from deliberate attacks, accidents, or naturally occurring threats or incidents.

*-Presidential Policy Directive 21 - Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience (2013)*



How is Hazard Mitigation and Resiliency relevant to our community?



# Regional Warning Signs



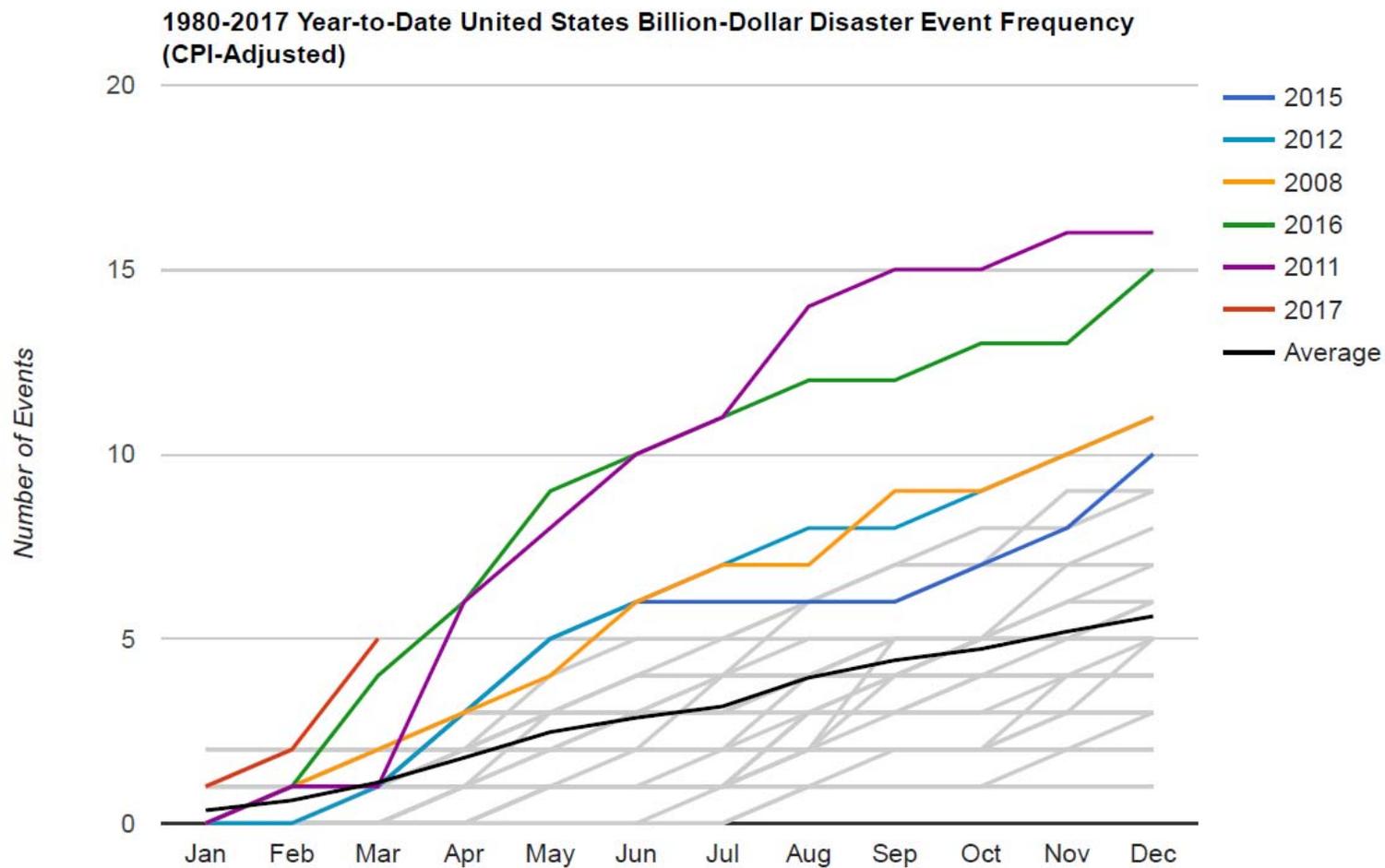
## 2011 Halloween Nor'easter

- Snowfall broke records in at least 20 cities
- Prolonged power outages in Eastern Pennsylvania, including the Lehigh Valley, City of Bethlehem and the campus of Lehigh University
- Student houses evacuated, no transportation, etc.

## 2012 Hurricane Sandy

- Category 3 storm
- Damage affected Pennsylvania and the Lehigh Valley and University, with prolonged power outage, evacuation of the housing facilities, and functionality loss for several services.

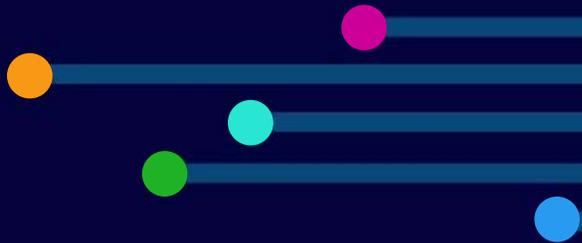
# National Warning Signs



Event statistics are added according to the date on which they ended. Statistics valid as of April 6, 2017.

National Center for Environmental Information

How is Hazard Mitigation and Resiliency relevant to the Comprehensive Plan?



# Lehigh Valley Hazard Mitigation Planning Evolution



Hazard Mitigation  
Plan  
**2006**



Hazard Mitigation  
Plan Update  
**2013**



Hazard Mitigation  
Plan Update  
**2018**



# Climate change goals from the LVPC Climate + Energy Element Report 2014

**Goal 1:** To protect, conserve and enhance natural ecosystems to provide long-term resilience to climate change.

**Goal 2:** To protect public infrastructure from potentially harmful impacts associated with climate change.

**Goal 3:** To protect residents, property and critical facilities from natural hazards as evolving over time due to climate change.

**Goal 4:** To create a land use pattern that helps mitigate climate change impacts through a compact urban development area, mixed land uses, higher densities in urban areas and through preserving land for agricultural and environmental purposes.

**Goal 5:** To provide building and site design practices that help to mitigate climate change impacts.

**Goal 6:** To reduce Lehigh Valley greenhouse gas emissions from residences, government operations and businesses.

# Other resources that can help us collectively prepare for the future!

- Smart Growth America's Building Resilient States: Profiles in Action  
<https://smartgrowthamerica.org/app/uploads/2017/05/building-resilient-states-profiles-in-action.pdf>
- National Institute of Standards and Technology's Community Resilience Planning Guide for Buildings and Infrastructure Systems
- American Planning Association's Planning for Post-Disaster Recovery Briefing Papers
- American Planning Association's Hazard Mitigation: Integrating Best Practices into Planning
- National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster's Long Term Recovery Guide
- The OARS List (Organizations Addressing Resilience and Sustainability)
- FEMA's A Whole Community Approach to Emergency Management: Principles, Themes, and Pathways for Action

## The Plan Schedule



# THANK YOU

for joining us on this journey and for contributing to making the Lehigh Valley a place in which we're proud to live and work for years to come!

# SEE YOU SOON!

June 13, 2017

STRATEGY LAB: Education + Training

8:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Visit [lvpc.org/futurelv.html](http://lvpc.org/futurelv.html)

