

## 9.6 COPLAY BOROUGH

This section presents the jurisdictional annex for Coplay Borough.

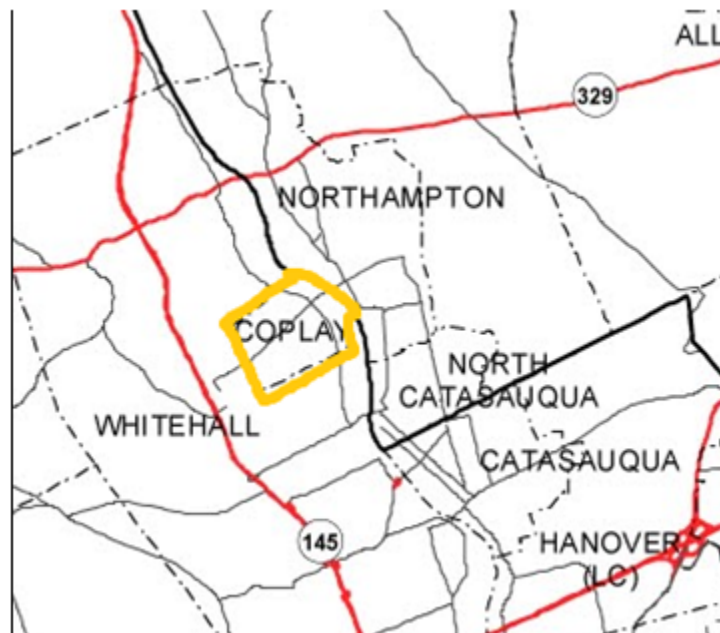
### A. HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN POINT OF CONTACT

Primary Point of Contact		Alternate Point of Contact	
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<u>Department</u>		<u>Department</u>	
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### B. MUNICIPAL PROFILE

Coplay Borough is located in central-eastern Lehigh County, sharing its eastern border with Northampton Borough of Northampton County. Situated along the Lehigh River, about 5 miles north of Allentown, the borough covers 0.6 square miles of land and is home to 3,387 residents (2000 Census). As shown in Figure 1, the borough is surrounded by Whitehall Township (Lehigh County) to the north, south, and west; and by Northampton Borough (Northampton County) to the east. Coplay is primarily residential with only a small base of commercial businesses.

Figure 1



(Source: <http://www.lvpc.org/pdf/maps/baseMap-LehighNorthamptonCounties.pdf>)

The Lehigh River is the only significant body of water in Coplay, and forms the borough's eastern border.

Chestnut Street is the primary east-west corridor running through Coplay, connecting with Whitehall Township to the West and crossing the Lehigh River towards Northampton County to the east. North 2<sup>nd</sup> street runs north-south through the Borough, becoming Coplay Road and connecting with SR 329 to the north, and becoming N. Front Street before intersecting with SR 1014 to the south.

**B.1 Known or Anticipated Future Development**

There is no known or anticipated new development in Coplay Borough as it is mostly built out.

**C. NATURAL HAZARD EVENT HISTORY SPECIFIC TO COPLAY BOROUGH**

Type of Event and Date	FEMA Disaster # (if applicable)	Local Damage and Losses
Earthquake 8/2011	N/A	No damage reported
Windstorm; Hurricane Irene & Tropical Storm Lee 8/2011	N/A	Intermittent power loss and minimal tree damage
Snowstorm 10/2011	N/A	Intermittent power loss and minimal tree damage

**D. HAZARD RISK/VULNERABILITY RISK RANKING**

The following relative ranking of natural and non-natural hazard risks in this municipality was developed using PEMA's Risk Factor methodology described in Section 4, "Risk Assessment"

HAZARD RISK	NATURAL HAZARDS	RISK ASSESSMENT CATEGORY					RISK FACTOR (RF)
		PROBABILITY	IMPACT	SPATIAL EXTENT	WARNING TIME	DURATION	
HIGH	Winter Storm	3	2	4	1	3	2.7
	Flood	3	2	2	3	3	2.5
MODERATE	Subsidence / Sinkholes	2	3	3	2	1	2.4
	Radon Exposure	4	1	2	1	4	2.4
	Extreme Temperatures	4	1	2	1	3	2.3
	Drought	2	1	4	1	4	2.2
	Wildfire	3	1	2	3	3	2.2
	Hailstorm	3	1	3	2	1	2.1
	Wind, incl. Tornado	1	3	2	4	1	2.1
	Lightning	4	1	1	2	1	2
LOW	Earthquake	1	1	4	4	1	1.9
	Landslide	1	1	1	4	1	1.3

HAZARD RISK	MAN-MADE HAZARDS	RISK ASSESSMENT CATEGORY					RISK FACTOR (RF)
		PROBABILITY	IMPACT	SPATIAL EXTENT	WARNING TIME	DURATION	
HIGH	Fire (Urban/Structural)	4	2	1	4	2	2.6
	Environmental Hazard and	3	2	2	4	3	2.6
	Utility Interruption	3	1	3	4	3	2.5
MOD-ERATE	Transportation Accident	4	1	1	4	1	2.2
	Mass Gathering and Civil Disturbance	3	1	1	4	2	2
LOW	Terrorism	1	3	1	4	1	1.9
	Building Collapse	1	3	1	4	1	1.9
	Dam Failure	1	2	2	4	2	1.9
	Nuclear Incident	1	1	1	4	2	1.4
	Levee Failure	0	0	0	0	0	0

### **E. CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT**

This section identifies the following capabilities of the local jurisdiction:

- Planning and Regulatory Capability
- Administrative and Technical Capability
- Fiscal Capability
- Community Classifications

## E.1 Planning and Regulatory Capability

Tool / Program	Status			Dept./Agency Responsible	Effect on Loss Reduction: + Support O Neutral - Hinder	Change Since Last Plan: + Positive - Negative	Comments
	In Place	Date Adopted or Updated	Under Development				
Hazard Mitigation Plan	X	11/14/2006		Lehigh County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) and Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC)	+		
Emergency Operations Plan	X	10/11/2011		Coplay EMA	+		
Disaster Recovery Plan							
Evacuation Plan							
Continuity of Operations Plan							
NFIP							
NFIP – Community Rating System							
Floodplain Regulations (spec. NFIP Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance)	X	10/9/2001		Coplay Council	0		
Floodplain Management Plan	X	10/9/2001		Coplay Council			
Zoning Regulations	X	3/13/2012		Coplay Planning Commission	0		
Subdivision Regulations	X	4/27/1982	X	Coplay Council	0		
Comprehensive Land Use Plan (or General, Master or Growth Mgt. Plan)							
Open Space Management Plan (or Parks/Rec or Greenways Plan)	X	3/8/2005		Coplay Council	0		
Stormwater Management							

Tool / Program	Status			Dept./Agency Responsible	Effect on Loss Reduction: + Support O Neutral - Hinder	Change Since Last Plan: + Positive - Negative	Comments
	In Place	Date Adopted or Updated	Under Development				
Plan / Ordinance							
Natural Resource Protection Plan							
Capital Improvement Plan							
Economic Development Plan							
Historic Preservation Plan							
Farmland Preservation							
Building Code	X	5/11/2004		Coplay Council	0		
Fire Code	X	7/9/1996		Coplay Council	0		
Firewise							
Storm Ready	X	2012		Lehigh County	0		
Other							

## E.2 Administrative and Technical Capability

Staff/Personnel Resources	Yes	No	Department/Agency	Comments
Planners (with land use / land development knowledge)		X		
Planners or engineers (with natural and/or human caused hazards knowledge)		X		
Engineers or professionals trained in building and/or infrastructure construction practices (includes building inspectors)	X		Coplay Borough Council	
Emergency Manager	X		Coplay Borough Council	
NFIP Floodplain Administrator	X		Building Code Official	
Land Surveyors		X		
Scientists or staff familiar with the hazards of the community		X		
Personnel skilled in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and/or FEMA's HAZUS program		X		
Grant writers or fiscal staff to handle large/complex grants		X		
Staff with expertise or training in Benefit-Cost Analysis		X		
Other				



**E.3 Fiscal Capability**

Financial Resources	Yes	No	Department/Agency	Comments
Capital Improvement Programming		X		
Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)	X		Coplay Borough Council	
Special Purpose Taxes	X		Coplay Borough Council	
Gas / Electric Utility Fees		X		
Water / Sewer Fees		X		
Stormwater Utility Fees		X		
Development Impact Fees	X		Coplay Borough Council	
General Obligation, Revenue, and/or Special Tax Bonds	X		Coplay Borough Council	
Partnering Arrangements or Intergovernmental Agreements	X		Coplay Borough Council	
Other				

## E.4 Community Classifications

Program	Classification	Date Classified
Community Rating System (CRS)	NP	N/A
Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS)	TBD	TBD
Public Protection	TBD	TBD
Storm Ready	Lehigh County	TBD
Firewise	NP	N/A

N/A = Not applicable. NP = Not participating. TBD = To Be Determined.

The classifications listed above relate to the community's effectiveness in providing services that may impact its vulnerability to the natural hazards identified. These classifications can be viewed as a gauge of the community's capabilities in all phases of emergency management (preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation) and are used as an underwriting parameter for determining the costs of various forms of insurance. The CRS class applies to flood insurance while the BCEGS and Public Protection classifications apply to standard property insurance. CRS classifications range on a scale of 1 to 10 with class one (1) being the best possible classification, and class 10 representing no classification benefit. Firewise classifications include a higher classification when the subject property is located beyond 1000 feet of a creditable fire hydrant and is within 5 road miles of a recognized Fire Station. Storm Ready communities are better prepared to save lives from the onslaught of severe weather through advanced planning, education and awareness.

Criteria for classification credits are outlined in the following documents:

- The Community Rating System Coordinators Manual
- The Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule
- The ISO Mitigation online ISO's Public Protection website at <http://www.isomitigation.com/ppc/0000/ppc0001.html>
- The National Weather Service Storm Ready website at <http://www.weather.gov/stormready/howto.htm>
- The National Firewise Communities website at <http://firewise.org/>

## F. MITIGATION STRATEGY

### F.1 Past Mitigation Activities/Efforts

- Roadway flooding at 12<sup>th</sup> St. & Tapler Dr. during most rain events; installation of new storm drain system; construction completed in 2003

### F.2 Hazard Vulnerabilities Identified

It is estimated that in Coplay Borough, no residents live within the 1% annual chance flood area (NFIP Special Flood Hazard Area). Of the municipality's total land area, 0% is located within the 1% annual chance flood area. None of the municipality's general building stock replacement cost value (structure and contents) is located within the 1% annual chance flood area.

There are no NFIP policies in the community. There are no structures located within the 1% annual chance flood area, and no policies are issued to property owners in the 1% annual chance flood area.

HAZUS-MH estimates that for a 1% annual chance flood, none of the municipality's general building stock replacement cost value (structure and contents) will be damaged, 15 people may be displaced, 4 people may seek short-term sheltering, and an estimated 76 tons of debris could be generated.

Please refer to the Hazard Profiles for additional vulnerability information relevant to this jurisdiction.

### F.3 Hazard Mitigation Strategy

Note below some of the identified mitigation initiatives in Table F are dependent upon available funding (grants and local match availability) and may be modified or omitted at any time based on the occurrence of new hazard events and changes in municipal priorities.

Action No.	Action	Mitigation Technique Category	Hazard(s) Addressed	Priority (H/M/L)	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding Sources	Lead Agency / Department	Implementation Schedule	Applies to New and/or Existing Structures*
1	Work with local utilities, during utility outages	Property Protection; Natural Resource Protection	Severe Storms; Utility Outages	High	Medium	Borough Budget	Borough; working with utilities	Short	Existing
2	Maintain adequate fleet of vehicles and equipment to handle anticipated emergency response	Emergency Services	All	High	Medium	Borough Budget; available public protection and emergency services grant programs	Borough	Ongoing	N/S
3	Maintain compliance with and good-standing in the NFIP including adoption and enforcement of floodplain management requirements (e.g. regulating all new and substantially improved construction in Special Hazard Flood Areas), floodplain identification and mapping, and flood insurance outreach to the community.  Further, continue to meet and/or exceed the minimum	Property Protection	Flood	High	Low - Medium	Local Budget	Municipality (via Municipal Engineer/NFIP Floodplain Administrator) with support from PEMA, ISO FEMA	On-going	New & Existing

Action No.	Action	Mitigation Technique Category	Hazard(s) Addressed	Priority (H/M/L)	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding Sources	Lead Agency / Department	Implementation Schedule	Applies to New and/or Existing Structures*
	NFIP standards and criteria through the following NFIP-related continued compliance actions below.								
4	<p>Conduct and facilitate community and public education and outreach for residents and businesses to include, but not be limited to, the following to promote and effect natural hazard risk reduction:</p> <p>Provide and maintain links to the HMP website, and regularly post notices on the Boroughs homepage referencing the HMP webpages.</p> <p>Use email notification system and newsletters to better educate the public on flood insurance, the availability of mitigation grant funding, and personal natural hazard risk reduction measures.</p> <p>Work with neighborhood associations, civic and business groups to disseminate information on flood insurance and the availability of mitigation grant funding.</p>								
	See above.	Public Education and Awareness	All Hazards	High	Low-Medium	Municipal Budget	Municipality with support from Planning Partners, PEMA, FEMA	Short Term	N/A
5	Begin the process to adopt higher regulatory standards to manage flood risk (i.e. increased freeboard, cumulative substantial damage/improvements) and sinkhole risk (e.g. carbonate bedrock standards).	Prevention	Flood; Subsidence / Sinkholes	High	Low	Municipal Budget	Municipality (via Municipal Engineer/NFIP Floodplain Administrator) with support from PEMA, FEMA. LVPC for Carbonate Bedrock Standard model ordinance.	Short Term	New & Existing
6	Continue to support the implementation, monitoring, maintenance, and updating of this Plan, as defined in Section 7.0	All Categories	All Hazards	High	Low – High (for 5-year update)	Municipal Budget, possibly FEMA Mitigation Grant Funding for 5-year	Municipality (via mitigation planning point of contacts) with support from Planning Partners (through their	On-going	New & Existing

Action No.	Action	Mitigation Technique Category	Hazard(s) Addressed	Priority (H/M/L)	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding Sources	Lead Agency / Department	Implementation Schedule	Applies to New and/or Existing Structures*
						update	Points of Contact), PEMA		
7	Complete the ongoing updates of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans	Emergency Services	All Hazards	High	Low	Municipal Budget	Municipality with support from PEMA	On-going	New & Existing
8	Create/enhance/ maintain mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities for continuity of operations.	Emergency Services	All Hazards	High	Low	Municipal Budget	Municipality with support from Surrounding municipalities and County	On-going	New & Existing
9	Identify and develop agreements with entities that can provide support with FEMA/PEMA paperwork after disasters; qualified damage assessment personnel – Improve post-disaster capabilities – damage assessment; FEMA/PEMA paperwork compilation, submissions, record-keeping	Public Education and Awareness, Emergency Services	All Hazards	Medium	Medium	Municipal budget	Municipality with support from County, PEMA, FEMA	Short Term	NA
10	Work with regional agencies (i.e. County and PEMA) to help develop damage assessment capabilities at the local level through such things as training programs, certification of qualified individuals (e.g. code officials, floodplain managers, engineers).	Public Education and Awareness, Emergency Services	All Hazards	Medium	Medium	Municipal budget, FEMA HMA and HLS grant programs	Municipality with support from County, PEMA	Short Term DOF	NA

Notes:

\*Does this mitigation initiative reduce the effects of hazards on new and/or existing buildings and/or infrastructure? Not applicable (NA) is inserted if this does not apply.

**Costs:**

Where actual project costs have been reasonably estimated:

Low = < \$10,000

Medium = \$10,000 to \$100,000

High = > \$100,000

Where actual project costs cannot reasonably be established at this time:

Low = Possible to fund under existing budget. Project is part of, or can be part of an existing on-going program.

Medium = Could budget for under existing work-plan, but would require a reapportionment of the budget or a budget amendment, or the cost of the project would have to be spread over multiple years.

High = Would require an increase in revenue via an alternative source (i.e., bonds, grants, fee increases) to implement. Existing funding levels are not adequate to cover the costs of the proposed project.

**Potential FEMA HMA Funding Sources:**

PDM = Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program

FMA = Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program

RFC = Repetitive Flood Claims Grant Program

SRL = Severe Repetitive Loss Grant Program

HMGP = Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

**Timeline:**

Short = 1 to 5 years. Long Term = 5 years or greater. OG = On-going program.

DOF = Depending on funding.

## G. ANALYSIS OF MITIGATION ACTIONS

Municipal mitigation actions were evaluated and prioritized primarily using the PA STEEL methodology discussed in Section 6 of this plan. Per the cost-benefit weighted PA STEEL methodology, those actions receiving 20 or more favorable ratings were generally considered high-priority actions. However, other factors beyond the PA STEEL numeric ranking may have been considered by the municipality during project prioritization. For example, a project might be assigned a medium priority because of the uncertainty of a funding source, and could be changed to high once a funding source has been identified such as a grant.

Mitigation Action		PA STEEL CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS																				Results			
		(+) Favorable						(-) Less favorable						(N) Not Applicable											
		P Political			A Administrative			S Social		T Technical		E Economic			E Environmental					L Legal			SUMMARY (EQUAL WEIGHTING)	SUMMARY (BENEFITS & COSTS PRIORITIZED)	
Political Support	Local Champion	Public Support	Staffing	Funding Allocation	Maintenance / Operations	Community Acceptance	Effect on Segment of Population	Technically Feasible	Long-Term Solution	Secondary Impacts	Benefit of Action (x3)	Cost of Action (x3)	Contributes to Economic Goals	Outside Funding Required	Effect on Land / Water	Effect on Endangered Species	Effect on HAZMAT / Waste Site	Consistent w/ Community Environmental Goals	Consistent w/ Federal Laws	State Authority	Existing Local Authority	Potential Legal Challenge			
1	Work with utilities	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	N	+	-	N	+	+	+	+	+	-	15(+) 6(-) 2(N)	19(+) 6(-) 2(N)
2	Maintain vehicles and equipment for emergency response	+	+	-	N	-	+	N	N	N	N	+	+	N	+	N	N	N	N	N	N	+	N	7(+) 2(-) 14(N)	11(+) 2(-) 14(N)
3	Maintain NFIP compliance	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	N	+	+	N	+	-	19 (+) 2 (-) 2 (N)	23 (+) 2 (-)





## H. FUTURE NEEDS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND RISK/VULNERABILITY

A more detailed flood loss analysis could be conducted on a structural level (versus the Census block analysis conducted for the HMP). The location of each building, details regarding the building (see additional data needed below) and the assessed or fair market value could be included in HAZUS-MH. The FEMA DFIRM boundaries, FEMA Flood Insurance Study detailed studies, base flood elevations and available Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) data or digital elevation models (DEM) could be used to generate a more accurate flood depth grid and then integrated into the HAZUS model. The flood depth-damage functions could be updated using the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer damage functions for residential building stock to better correlate HAZUS-MH results with FEMA benefit-cost analysis models. HAZUS-MH would then estimate more accurate potential losses per structure.

Additional data needed to perform the analysis described above:

- Specific building information – first-floor elevation (elevation certificates), number of stories, foundation type, basement, square footage, occupancy type, year built, type of construction etc.
- Assessed or fair market value of structure
- LiDAR or high resolution DEM

## I. HAZARD AREA EXTENT AND LOCATION

A hazard area extent and location map has been generated and is provided below for Coplay Borough to illustrate the probable areas impacted within Coplay Borough. This map is based on the best available data at the time of the preparation of this Plan, and is considered to be adequate for planning purposes. Maps have only been generated for those hazards that can be clearly identified using mapping techniques and technologies, and for which Coplay Borough has significant exposure. The Planning Area maps are provided in the hazard profiles within Section 4, Volume I of this Plan.

## J. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

No additional comments at this time.

