

Section 5 Capability Assessment

Identifying hazards and determining a county’s vulnerability to those hazards are major steps in the hazard mitigation planning process. An often forgotten component of the planning process is the Capability Assessment. A capability assessment identifies the resources and capabilities that a community possesses to reduce the risk of hazards. A capability assessment examines what you are doing, what you are not doing, what you can do, and what you are doing wrong.

Table 5.1 Summary of Plan Updates (Section 5)

Section	Modifications
5.1	Policies, Plans, and Regulations <ul style="list-style-type: none">Restructured, updated and expanded data
5.2	Human Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none">Restructured, updated and expanded data
5.3	Physical Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none">Restructured, updated and expanded data
5.4	Technological Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none">New item.
5.5	Informational Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none">New item.
5.6	Financial Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none">New item.
5.7	Capacity Needs <ul style="list-style-type: none">New item.

There are six main types of resources:

1. Policies, plans, and regulations
2. Human resources
3. Physical resources
4. Technological resources
5. Informational resources
6. Financial resources

As part of the Capability Assessment the Hazard Mitigation Committee identified those resources they felt were lacking in Autauga County. This plan will address both the efficient and deficient capability resources in Autauga County for each resource category.

5.1 Policies, Plans, and Regulations

Nearly every community has policies, regulations, or programs pertaining to development, land use, infrastructure, growth, and emergency services. In Autauga County, much of these regulations are dealt with on a municipality level. Table 5.1 shows the distribution of municipal regulations in Autauga

- One municipality has comprehensive plans (being updated currently).

- Only one municipality has zoning.
- One municipality has no designated flood areas.
- One of the municipalities has subdivision and other land development ordinances.
- One municipality has adopted building codes – International Building Code.

Autauga County has subdivision regulations and oversees subdivision development within Autaugaville and Billingsley. The Autauga County Engineer’s office conducts inspections and road maintenance for the Towns of Autaugaville and Billingsley.

- The Prattville Planning Commission is currently in the process of updating the City’s Comprehensive Plan. The last comprehensive plan was completed in the 1990’s.
- The Autauga County Engineer’s Office has reviewed the road and bridge system to determine their safety and the possibility for maintenance or replacement.
- The southeast partition (including Prattville) is part of the Montgomery Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO – Transportation Planning) and the balance of the county has memberships in the Central Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO).
- The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a MPO that provides funding for transportation improvement projects within its boundaries.
- The State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) is a state program that provides funding for transportation improvement projects within the balance of the County.
- The Central Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission is working with the Alabama Forestry Commission and the Autauga County Emergency Management Agency to do a tree assessment of Autauga County and develop policies to address potential hazards.
- A Stormwater Management Plan has been developed for Autauga and Pine Creek Watersheds.
- The County and each municipality have addressed emergency management plans.

Table 5.2

Autauga County/Municipal Regulations

Government	Comprehensive Plan	Zoning	Subdivision Regulations	Building Codes	MPO Membership	RPO Membership	Flood Plain Regulations
Autauga County	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Autaugaville, Town of	Under Development	No	County's	No	No	Yes	Yes
Billingsley, Town of	No	No	County's	No	No	Yes	No
Prattville, City of	Yes being Updated	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes

5.2 Human Resources

Human resources include local police, fire, ambulance, and emergency management and response personnel. Human resources are important in hazard preparation and mitigation and disaster response. All departments and organizations work together to assist in hazard mitigation and response.

- There are two municipal police departments in the County (Autaugaville and Prattville). The Autauga County Sheriff's Department covers the balance of the county. Additional coverage is provided by the Alabama State Police.
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is provided by eleven Fire Departments within the County. They are staffed by both paid and volunteer members.
- Fire protection, throughout the county, is provided on a volunteer basis, one paid department (Prattville). There are 11 fire departments operating a total of 68 pieces of apparatus. There is a Special Hazards trailer stationed at Prattville Fire Department, Station #3 that supports all the local fire departments efforts in first response to spills and hazardous material releases.
- Emergency services are dispatched through the county's 9-1-1 center located in the 911 Autauga County Emergency Communication Center Prattville.
- The Army National Guard has an armory located in Prattville
- A number of state and federal agencies maintain field offices across Autauga County providing services in highway maintenance, agriculture, public welfare, employment, and other programs and activities.
- The American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, United Way and several other agencies provide essential services to the needy as well as provide assistance to disaster relief.

5.3 Physical Resources

Physical resources include the equipment, vehicles, public lands, facilities, and buildings available to the community. The emergency service organizations within the County are listed with their respective organizations in section 5.2 *Human Resources*.

- Prattville Baptist Hospital is the only hospital in the County, with 85 beds.
- Autauga Medical Clinic – Autaugaville
- There is an outpatient health center located in Prattville.
- Churches, senior centers, schools and community centers can serve as shelters in the event of a disaster.

5.4 Technological Resources

Technological resources include early warning systems, stream-level monitoring gauges, computer systems, the internet, and 9-1-1 communication systems. There are a number of technological resources available in Autauga County that would aide in hazard mitigation.

- The 9-1-1 system has up to date equipment.
- New GIS technology was installed at the City of Prattville and is available to the Autauga County Emergency Management Agency. This technology will improve emergency 9-1-1 operations and aide in data collection and revision.
- The State of Alabama Emergency Management Agency has provided material, technical data, resources and funding.

5.5 Informational Resources

Information resources include websites, brochures, pamphlets, workshops, and public service announcements.

- 9-1-1 Center
- The Autauga County Emergency Management Agency
- The Autauga County Commission
- The City of Prattville, Town of Autaugaville and Town of Billingsley
- Central Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission
- Information on hazard mitigation and how to protect yourself and your home from common hazards can be found on FEMA (www.fema.gov)

5.6 Financial Resources

Sources of funding are also difficult for small rural communities. Most of the funding for hazard mitigation projects and programs in Autauga County must come from state and federal sources.

- Available Federal and State funds include:
- Transportation Improvement Program (TIP): Provides funding for Transportation improvement projects
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG): Awards funds to municipalities/counties through the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs. Provides funding to benefit low-to-moderate income persons for community development purposes.
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA), Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM): Provides hazard mitigation funding to communities. Autauga County municipalities will be able to take advantage of these funds at the completion of this plan.

5.7 Capability Needs

The Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee identified a list of capability needs for Autauga County. Table 5.3 shows the list of needs the committee identified.

Table 5.3
Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee Identified
Capability Deficiencies

- Develop evacuation routes
- Increase communication and coordination between departments
- Increase public awareness and communication
- Develop a list of contact people for each organization/department
- Education for local municipality elected officials
- Improved communication systems
- Financial resources education/information
- National Incident Management System (NIMS) training