



## SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION

This section presents background information, describes the purpose, and defines the scope of the 2017 update of the Pike County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP).

### 1.1 BACKGROUND

Across the United States, natural and human-caused disasters have led to increasing levels of deaths, injuries, property damage, and interruptions of business and government services. The time, money, and effort spent to recover from these disasters exhausts resources, diverting attention from important public programs and private agendas.

Pike County, Pennsylvania, has experienced a significant number of statewide or County-specific disaster declarations since 1954. The emergency management community, citizens, elected officials, and other stakeholders in Pike County recognize the impact of disasters on their community and concluded that proactive efforts need to be taken to reduce the impact of natural and human-caused hazards.

“Hazard mitigation” describes actions taken to prevent or reduce the long-term risks to life and property caused by a hazard event. Pre-disaster mitigation actions are taken in advance of a hazard event and are essential to breaking the typical disaster cycle of damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage. With careful selection, mitigation actions can be long-term, cost-effective means of reducing the risk of loss.

The Pike County Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee, composed of Pike County and municipal officials, and the Planning Team, composed of Pike County officials, municipal representatives, emergency responders, representatives from state and federal agencies and utility companies, has updated this HMP. Through an open-bid process, Pike County contracted Tetra Tech, Inc. (Tetra Tech), to update the 2012 HMP.

The HMP update is the result of 9 months of collaboration between the citizens and officials of the County and representatives from Tetra Tech to develop a pre-disaster, multi-hazard mitigation plan that will guide the County toward greater disaster resistance, while respecting the character and needs of the community.

### 1.2 PURPOSE

The purpose of this HMP is to minimize the effects that natural, technological, and man-made hazards have on the people, property, environment, and business operations within Pike County. This document exists to provide the background information and rationale for the mitigation actions that the Steering Committee, Planning Team and municipal representatives have chosen to implement across the County.

The document is governed by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) and its implementing regulations (Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] §201.6, published February 26, 2002). Local jurisdictions must comply with the DMA 2000 and these regulations to remain eligible for funding and technical assistance from State and federal hazard mitigation programs.

### 1.3 SCOPE

The implementation actions within this HMP apply to Pike County and any municipalities within the County that adopt this HMP as their own. However, only those municipalities that have participated in the plan update process may adopt this plan and will remain eligible for State and federal hazard mitigation funding through the HMP. For the purpose of this plan, municipal participation was defined as completion and submission of an Evaluation of Identified Hazards Worksheet, Capability Assessment Survey, and Mitigation Strategy 5-Year Plan Review Worksheet and attendance by an official municipal representative at a planning or public meeting conducted as part of the planning process.