Polk County Mitigation Action Plan

Action #	Description	Hazard(s) Addressed	Relative Priority	Funding Sources	Responsible Party	Target Completion Date	2025 Action Implementation Status
Prevention							
P-1	Incorporate a GIS to maintain building/parcel data for purposes of conducting more detailed hazard risk assessments and for tracking permitting/land use patterns.	All	Moderate	NCEM/ FEMA/Local Funds	Polk County MIS	This action will be revisited during the 2030 update.	Continue to update GIS system as needed
P-6	Identify and map landslide-prone areas in County	Geological/ Landslides	High	State of NC, Grant funding	NC Geological Survey, County ES	Completed.	Action completed. Data now on County GIS site. Action to be removed during 2030 plan update.
P-7	Work with State of NC to expand FIMAN into Polk County – new gauges are needed on the Green River and White Oak Creek	Flooding	High	NCEM/FEMA Grants	County ES, NCEM	This action will be revisited during the 2030 update.	Still in progress. The County would like to consider three additional sites.
P-8	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	Polk County Emergency Management	As funding becomes available.	Action to remain in plan moving forward.

Action #	Description	Hazard(s) Addressed	Relative Priority	Funding Sources	Responsible Party	Target Completion Date	2025 Action Implementation Status
P-9	Implement a program that identifies streams that are impacted by beaver dams and creates a solution to the flooding caused by the dams.	Flooding	Low	NCEM/FEMA/ Local Funds	NCDOT	This action will be revisited during the 2030 update.	Mitigate as necessary when beaver dams pose a threat to flooding and causing other safety issues.
Property Protection							
PP-4	Create a private bridge registry for bridges built over the county's four major streams.	Flooding	Low	Local Funds	GIS	Project completed.	Project completed. Will be removed during the 2030 plan update.
PP-5	Identify and remove large obstructions in the county's major streams.	Flooding	Low	NCDA&CS/ NCEM/ FEMA/Local Funds	Soil & Water	2028	In the past, major obstructions have been removed, but this will continu to be an issue. Seek grant funding to move this program forward.
PP-6	Acquire generators for emergency shelters.	All	High	FEMA Grant Funding (approximate cost $400,000)	County ES	2025-2030	Ongoing project. NO generators have been purchased at this time. They would be most beneficial at PCHS, PCMS, Sunnyview Elementary School, Cooper Gap Baptist Church, and Tryon 7th Day Adventist Church.
Emergency Services							
ES-3	Enhance weather monitoring to attain earlier severe winter and ice storm warnings, as well as any severe weather related events.	All	Moderate	NCEM/FEMA/ Local Funds	Communications Department	This action will be revisited during the 2030 update.	Many steps have been taken to enhance weather monitoring over the past several years, but with new advancements in equipment and systems, this program will need to be reviewed and updated. Continue to work closely with the National Weather Service.

Action #	Description	Hazard(s) Addressed	Relative Priority	Funding Sources	Responsible Party	Target Completion Date	2025 Action Implementation Status
ES-5	Develop an inventory list of required equipment needed by Emergency Service agencies for hazardous material spills.	Hazardous Substances	Moderate	Local Funds	Polk County Chief's Assoc.	Action completed.	Equipment has been purchased and placed in the Hazmat trailer. This action will be removed during the 2030 plan update.
ES-6	Enhance County emergency Services' radio system for better interoperability with other agencies.	All	High	Grant funding as available, Local Funds (approximate	County ES	2028	A new radio system has been put in place. We still have a few areas that need to be addressed for better coverage.
ES-7	Acquire a drone to assist with assessing and monitoring emergencies.	All	Moderate	Grant funding, County Funding (approximate cost $30,000)	County ES	Completed.	Drone acquired. This action will be removed during the 2030 plan update.
ES-9	Install River Markers	Flooding	Moderate	Local, Grant Funding, State	County ES	2028	Install river markers so that Emergency Services personnel can locate missing and/or injured citizens along the river during recreational months.
ES-10	Acquire weather sirens for all fire departments in the county.	Tornadoes	Moderate	Local, Grant Funding, State	County EM	2028	Acquire weather sirens for all fire departments so we can notify the public during tornados.
ES-11	Work with the LEPC and emergency services to ensure proper SARA Title III reporting.	Hazardous Substances	Moderate	Local Funds	LEPC	This action will be revisited during the 2030 update.	This committee will need to meet and stay up to date on any new requirements that are passed concerning Title III reporting.

Action #	Description	Hazard(s) Addressed	Relative Priority	Funding Sources	Responsible Party	Target Completion Date	2025 Action Implementation Status
ES-12	Improve cell phone coverage in the County.	All	High	State and Federal Grants	County Administration Emergency Management	2030	We would like to improve the cell phone coverage throughout the county. With more people utilizing cell phones as their only means of communications, it is important to reach out to cell phone providers to enhance the coverage in the county.
Structural Projects							
SP-1	Turner-Shoal Dam Upgrade: Construction updates to strengthen the dam.	Flooding /Dam Failure	High	County Funds	County ES, DEQ	2028	Some updates to the dam have been implemented but the dam is still in need of upgrade in some areas. Major repairs are expected to start within the next year. This will be multi-year project.
SP-2	Coordinate with NCDOT to repair/replace storm water drainage on Main Street Saluda	Flooding	Moderate	City Funds (estimated cost of $250,000)	City of Saluda	2030	Main Street drainage includes a 135-year-old rock culvert. The culvert is failing and collapsing the sidewalk.
SP-3	Coordinate with NCDOT to improve the cleaning of side ditches and culverts in the county to prevent water standing on the roadways.	Flooding	High	State	NCDOT	2028	New action for the 2025 plan. Roadways are flooding due to side ditches and culverts being stopped up.
SP-4	Work with State and Federal partners to identify opportunities to assist with repair of private roads and bridges following disasters.	Flooding, Hurricanes and Tropical Storms	High	State and Federal Grants	Polk County Emergency Management	As funding becomes available.	New action for the 2025 plan update.

Action #	Description	Hazard(s) Addressed	Relative Priority	Funding Sources	Responsible Party	Target Completion Date	2025 Action Implementation Status
Public Education and Awareness							
PEA-1	Promote the availability of flood insurance to property owners by direct mail at least once a year.	Flooding	High	Local Funds	Planning and Zoning	Annually	Information has been sent out annually on the tax notices in the past. This program will need to be updated in the future and will be evaluated to determine if new outreach mechanisms are needed.
PEA-2	Provide brochures, flyers, and pamphlets on all hazards that affect Polk County. Information will be placed in departments/agencies that are considered high traffic areas.	All	Low	Local Funds	County ES	Annually	Information has been placed in high traffic areas, but the county will continue to look at ways to improve outreach including through online surveys (carried out in this plan) and other means, such as community events.
PEA-4	Provide a booth with hazard mitigation information at all major community events.	All	Low	Local Funds	County ES	Annually	The county has provided informational booths at many events including fairs and community gatherings. Information displayed will need to be updated periodically.
PEA-5	Work to extend broadband/fiber/cell service and internet in unserved/underserved areas of the County.	All	High	Grant funding as available, Local Fund	County ES	Ongoing	Great progress has been made on this project. Approximately 75% complete as of 2025.