

Santee-Lynches Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026-2030



Executive Summary

The Santee-Lynches Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026-2030 was approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on April 24, 2026. The document serves as the latest five-year plan update for Kershaw, Lee, Sumter, and Clarendon counties and the twelve municipalities of the region. The Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments (COG) was pleased to complete this work in partnership with the South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD), FEMA, and the local governments of the region. Unlike past iterations of the plan, the COG completed the 2026-2030 plan through a grant from FEMA, with the four counties contributing the local share, only. The assistance of the steering committee throughout the plan development process was greatly appreciated; its members included the Emergency Management Directors of the four counties as well as Sumter City/County Planning Department staff.

The Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan is composed of an analysis of major natural hazards that affect the Santee-Lynches region and a catalogue of actions that local jurisdictions can take, or are currently taking, to prepare their communities for these hazards. Commonly experienced natural hazards in the region include:

- Floods
- Tornadoes
- Hurricanes
- Drought
- Winter weather
- Wildfires
- Hail
- High wind
- Lightning
- Extreme heat
- Earthquakes

The plan documents the impacts and likelihood of future occurrence of these hazards. From a historical perspective, the effects of hurricanes have been among the most damaging of all natural hazards experienced in the Santee-Lynches region, in terms of property loss and injuries and fatalities. Flooding, drought, hail, and high winds have also created very serious impacts in the region, as well.

The plan specifies that jurisdictions of the region can prepare community assets and infrastructure for the impact of these hazards through measures such as:

- Emergency response planning
- Ensuring back-up power at key facilities
- Critical infrastructure inspections
- Emergency shelter plans
- Emergency communications protocols
- Ditch clearing, vegetation management, and other routine maintenance procedures
- Coordinating with key state and local officials

The plan documents these and other specific actions for all the jurisdictions in the region. See this link [2026.05.26_sl-hazardmitigationplan_revisions.pdf](#) to access the full plan document.

Finally, in addition to helping prepare for and mitigate natural hazards, another important aspect of the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan is the role it plays in federal Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) funding. With a FEMA-approved, locally- adopted plan, the local governments in the region maintain their eligibility for a range of FEMA mitigation and relief grants. These include the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC), and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) programs. These grant programs fund disaster preparation and mitigation, sirens and warnings, flood relief, codes updates, wildfire prevention, property acquisitions, retrofits, reinforcements, demolitions, and other related hazard mitigation activities. Adoption of the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan is a critical step for the local governments of the region in meeting FEMA's requirements for future grant funding, should the need arise.

Once again, the COG appreciates the opportunity to carry out this project for the region. We look forward to a continuing partnership with our counties, towns, and cities with respect to natural hazards planning.