



Hazard Mitigation Program Quells Ivan's Wrath

Full Mitigation Best Practice Story

Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

Ansonia Place, PA - Prior to 1998, Ansonia Place was a quiet creek-side community close to downtown Pittsburgh. It was home to 22 single-family structures and an apartment building.

After the area was badly flooded in January 1996, the homeowners decided to participate in a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program project that eventually acquired and demolished all the structures, including the apartment building. That decision turned out to be the right one, as the events of September 18, 2004, showed.

Tropical Storm Ivan soaked the Pittsburgh region with at least eight inches of rain. According to Ray DeMichiei, Deputy Director of the Pittsburgh Emergency Management Agency, the entire length of Pennsylvania Route 51 had to be closed from the Liberty Tunnel to the City line.

The homes in Ansonia Place, which sits just off Route 51, would probably have suffered first-floor flood damage had they not have been removed. Such flooding would have placed residents and first responders in harm's way and could have resulted in a number of deaths.

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides grants to States and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration. The purpose of the program is to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and to enable mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery from a disaster.



Activity/Project Location

Geographical Area: **Single County (County-wide)**

FEMA Region: **Region III**

State: **Pennsylvania**

County: **Allegheny County**

Key Activity/Project Information

Sector: **Public/Private Partnership**

Hazard Type: **Flooding; Hurricane/Tropical Storm**

Activity/Project Type: **Flood-proofing**

Activity/Project Start Date: **01/1996**

Activity/Project End Date: **Ongoing**

Funding Source: **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)**

Funding Recipient: **Property Owner - Residential**

Activity/Project Economic Analysis

Cost: **Amount Not Available**

Activity/Project Disaster Information

Mitigation Resulted From Federal Disaster? **Yes**

Federal Disaster #: **1093 , 01/21/1996**

Value Tested By Disaster? **Yes**

Tested By Federal Disaster #: **No Federal Disaster specified**

Year First Tested: **2004**

Repetitive Loss Property? **Yes**

Reference URLs

Reference URL 1: <http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/hmgrp/index.shtm>

Reference URL 2: <http://www.pema.state.pa.us/>

Main Points

- After Ansonia Place was badly flooded in January 1996, the homeowners decided to participate in a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program project that eventually acquired and demolished all the structures, including the apartment building.
- Tropical Storm Ivan soaked the Pittsburgh region with at least eight inches of rain.
- The homes in Ansonia Place, which sits just off Route 51, would probably have suffered first-floor flood damage had they not have been removed. Such flooding would have placed residents and first responders in harm's way and could have resulted in a number of deaths.



One of the 22 single-family homes acquired by the Hazard Mitigation Program project.



This area sits between Pennsylvania Route 51 and the commuter line