



Case Study: Calhoun County, MI

Calhoun County Chooses BOLDplanning for HMP

In 2016, Calhoun County selected BOLDplanning to update its existing Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). As the solution of choice for more than 10,000 public and private sector organizational plans nationwide, the company provided Calhoun County with expert planning services coupled with its world-class online software platform.

After only a few months, BOLDplanning delivered to the county a fully updated HMP for local, state and federal review. The plan passed both the State of Michigan and FEMA on the first pass—a very rare achievement.

Hazard Mitigation: The Starting Point for Building Calhoun County's Culture of Preparedness

Serving as the Director of the Calhoun County Sheriff's Office, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division since 2007, Durk Dunham knows all too well the importance of planning, especially when it comes to hazard mitigation. In fact, he considers the County's HMP to be its single most important plan because it discusses in finite detail the risks, vulnerabilities and critical infrastructure associated with the County.

"As emergency managers, we are charged with assessing the risks and vulnerabilities of our jurisdictions, and making sure we have our arms around them as they pertain to the safety of the people within our County," said Dunham.

Spanning 709 square miles in the southern portion of the "Wolverine State," Calhoun County, Michigan, is home to approximately 134,487 people. The County, considered both rich in history and on the cutting edge of tomorrow's technology, is located between Chicago and Detroit, at the junction of two major interstate freeways.

The County offers the serenity of country living, the cultural and recreational amenities offered in urban settings as well as multiple potential hazards to be faced by its professional emergency management team.

"Professionalism Defines BOLDplanning.

The goal of our agency was to get the very best work on an extremely important and sensitive project. The level of communication and cooperation provided by BOLDplanning is second to none, and the invaluable services they provide Calhoun County demonstrate the highest quality commitment. These are normal operating procedures for the staff at BOLDplanning."

Durk Dunham
Director, Emergency Management &
Homeland Security
Calhoun County Sheriff's Office



“With such responsibility comes the fundamental need to have a comprehensive and up-to-date mitigation plan. Without one, you may find yourself ‘shooting from the hip’ in a real-life event, and that’s no place anyone in emergency management wants or needs to be.”

The Enbridge Oil Spill

Take the Enbridge Oil Spill for example, which occurred in on July 25, 2010. On this day, approximately 840,000 gallons of crude oil leaked into the Talmadge Creek and Kalamazoo River watersheds due to an oil leak caused by an Enbridge Oil pipeline rupture.

This event was the largest ecological disaster in the history of the Midwest. The presence of oil caused, and continues to cause, concern regarding groundwater, surface water, air quality, soils and sediment, and direct contact.

Needless to say, manmade disasters like the Enbridge Oil Spill are now among the many hazards identified within Calhoun County’s current HMP. Others include severe storms, floods and tornadoes.

Dunham is well aware that writing and/or updating a hazard mitigation plan is no small undertaking. It is a time-consuming and labor-intensive process—one that requires extensive localized research and analysis; the running of HAZUS®-MH maps, and significant stakeholder engagement. In fact, he believes HMPs are a “specialty that should be left up to the professionals.”

Calhoun County Continuity of Operations (COOP) Planning

Calhoun County was so impressed with BOLDplanning and the contents of its newly updated HMP, officials enlisted the company’s help yet again for the development of its Continuity of Operations (COOP) plan in 2018.

BOLDplanning offers a full range of preparedness planning services to help your organization create a culture of preparedness:

- Hazard Mitigation Planning (HMP)
- Emergency Operations Planning (EOP)
- Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP)
- Full-scale, Functional & Tabletop Exercises
- Ongoing Training

Contact BOLDplanning today for a free, no-obligation consultation.

About BOLDplanning Inc.

BOLDplanning Inc. is the preeminent developer of online software for Emergency Operations Planning (EOP), Continuity of Operations/Government Planning (COOP/COG), Business Continuity Planning (BCP) and Hazard Mitigation.

Its comprehensive online system walks planners through each step of the continuity and emergency planning process, becoming the central resource for an organization’s plan development, training and ongoing maintenance. Its consulting team is unrivaled in its knowledge, experience and planning certifications.

The BOLDplanning approach provides an unparalleled platform for both the public and private sector, making the critical process of contingency planning easy and efficient. Currently, BOLDplanning is the solution of choice for more than 10,000 organizational plans.

NOW YOU’RE READY.

Be prepared. Be BOLD.

