



## SECTION 4 RISK ASSESSMENT

### 4.1 Update Process and Participation Summary

In accordance with the FEMA Local Mitigation Planning Handbook, risk is the potential for damage, loss, or other impacts created by the interaction of hazards with community assets. Westmoreland County's risk assessment is organized into the following sections:

- Section 4.2 outlines the hazard identification process for both natural and human-caused hazards of concern for further profiling and evaluation.
- Section 4.3 profiles the hazards of concern (location and extent, range of magnitude, past occurrence, and future occurrence) and assesses vulnerability.
- Section 4.4 summarizes the risk assessment methodology, ranking results, potential losses, and future development and vulnerability.

The Hazard Mitigation Working Group (HMWG) and Planning Team evaluated the 2015 HMP hazards of concern by examining the historic events that have taken place in the county since the last plan update and reviewing the Commonwealth's Hazard Mitigation Plan. In addition, the HMWG and Planning Team completed the risk assessment worksheet (Evaluation of Identified Hazards and Risk Worksheet). The worksheet listed hazards profiled in the 2015 HMP and requested that participants identify whether the frequency of occurrence, magnitude of impact, and/or geographic extent of each hazard increased, decreased, or did not change since the preparation of the 2015 HMP. The worksheet also provided the opportunity to assess hazards not profiled in the HMP to determine if those hazards should be included as part of the update. Responses from the worksheets were reviewed by the HMWG to identify a list of hazards to profile in the 2020 HMP, including one additional hazard of concern (illicit drug use). Each hazard profile also includes an additional subsection that discusses the effect of climate change on vulnerability. Refer to copies of the completed worksheets in Appendix D.