

GOVERNMENTAL & PUBLIC INPUT

Planning creates a way to solicit and consider input from diverse interests. Successful community mitigation begins with a commitment from government officials throughout the county.

Involving stakeholders is essential to building community-wide support for the plan. In addition to emergency managers, the planning process involves other government agencies (e.g., zoning, floodplain management, public works, community and economic development), businesses, civic groups, environmental groups and schools. Vital information provided by these groups helps insure that the plan is workable within the framework of the community's priorities.

ADOPTION OF THE PLAN

Local units of government participating in a multi-jurisdictional planning process must adopt the final plan for the municipality to be eligible for future mitigation funds including grants available through FEMA. **Local units (i.e., towns, villages, cities) that do not participate would be NOT eligible to receive funds** until such time that they meet these requirements and adopt a plan.

HISTORY

Since 1993 more than 400 disasters have occurred in the United States, affecting communities in all 50 states, costing the country over **\$500 million dollars per WEEK and killing over 24,000 people.**

MITIGATION PLANNING FACTS

▶ A recent study by the Multihazard Mitigation Council shows that each dollar spent on mitigation saves society an average of four dollars.

▶ The rigorous building standards adopted by 20,000 communities across the country are saving the nation more than \$1.1 billion a year in prevented flood damages.

▶ Hazard mitigation plans and projects reduce overall risks to the population and structures while also reducing reliance on funding from actual disaster declarations.

▶ Section 409 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (P.L. 93-228, as amended) is the impetus for involvement of state and local governments in evaluating and mitigating natural hazards as a condition of receiving federal disaster assistance. Section 409 states that communities are obligated to try to reduce any hazard that has received relief funding in the past. Developing a hazard mitigation plan provides an opportunity to meet this requirement by developing strategies for reduction of potential losses from future natural disasters.

NOTES: _____

For further information please contact:

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Pre-Disaster Mitigation Planning

*Creating Safe,
Sustainable
Communities*



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WHAT IS HAZARD MITIGATION?

Hazard mitigation is sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and their property from hazards.

Floods, ice storms, tornadoes and forest/wild fires – these are all functions of the natural environment and only become hazardous when they threaten our “built” environment with destruction. These hazards will occur one day. When this happens, the results can be appreciably different from past outcomes if our community takes action today.

RISK REDUCTION

The goal of risk reduction is to reduce the risk to life and property, which includes existing structures and future construction, in the pre and post-disaster environments. This is achieved through regulations, local ordinances, land use and building practices and mitigation projects that reduce or eliminate long-term risk from hazards and their effects.

WHY DEVELOP A PLAN?

Mitigation plans form the foundation for a community's long-term strategy to reduce disaster losses and break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction and repeated damage. The planning process is as important as the plan itself. It creates a framework for risk-based decision-making to reduce damages to lives, property and the economy from future disasters.

State, tribal and local governments are required to develop a hazard mitigation plan as a condition for receiving certain types of non-emergency disaster assistance. The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Public Law 93-288), as amended by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, provides the legal basis for state, local and tribal governments to undertake a risk-based approach to reducing risks from natural hazards through mitigation planning.

The City of Darlington, WI was ravaged by floodwaters season after season. The community was disintegrating as people left, structures deteriorated and funds were used to repair past damages instead of build for the future. City's leaders completed a mitigation plan that identified multiple strategies to prevent future damages; many of which were covered by grants. After the flooding of 2007 and 2008, the community realized the benefits of the projects - damages were minimal, property values have increased and the citizens are proud of their work. This and other WI success stories are found at <http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov/mitigation/stories.asp>

REQUIRED INFORMATION

- Flood maps
- Identification of potential hazards
- History of occurrences
- Hazard impact projections
- Location of critical facilities
- Identification of high-risk facilities (schools, fire station, nursing homes, etc.)
- Location of repetitive loss structures
- Development & prioritization of mitigation projects
- Other materials as identified

HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING PROCESS

1. Organize Resources- From the start, communities should focus the resources needed for a successful mitigation planning process. Essential steps include identifying and organizing interested members of the community, particularly those with the technical expertise required during the planning process.

2. Assess Risks- Next; communities need to identify the characteristics and potential consequences of natural hazards. It is important to understand how much of the community can be affected by specific hazards and what the likely impacts would be for important community assets.

3. Develop a Mitigation Plan- Armed with an understanding of the risks posed by natural hazards, communities need to determine what their priorities should be and then look at possible ways to avoid or minimize the undesired effects. The result is a natural hazard mitigation plan and strategy for implementation.

4. Implement the Plan & Monitor Progress- Communities can bring the plan to life in a variety of ways ranging from implementing specific mitigation projects to changes in the day-to-day operation of the local government. To ensure the success of an on-going program, it is critical that the plan remains effective. Thus, it is important to conduct periodic evaluations and make revisions as needed.