

Hazard Mitigation

Hazard Mitigation Breaks the Cycle

When recurrent disasters take place, such as riverine flooding and ice storms, repeated damage and reconstruction can occur. This reconstruction becomes more expensive as the years go by. Hazard mitigation breaks this expensive cycle of recurrent damage and increasing reconstruction costs by taking a long-term view of rebuilding and recovering from disasters.

What are the Benefits?

Effective hazard mitigation planning can provide the following benefits:

- Identifying actions for risk reduction
- Focusing on the greatest risks and vulnerabilities within a community
- Building partnerships by involving residents, organizations, and businesses
- Increasing public education and awareness of threats and hazards
- Communicating priorities to state and federal officials
- Aligning risk reduction with other community objectives; and
- Creation of more resilient communities – bounce back from disasters faster!

What Types of Mitigation Techniques Can be Employed?

Local Plans and Regulations (LPR) – plans, policies, or codes that influence the way land and buildings are developed and built

Structure and Infrastructure Project (SIP) - upgrading existing structures and infrastructure to protect them from a hazard or remove from hazard area; constructing manmade structures to reduce the impact of hazards

Natural Systems Protection (NRP) – minimize damage and losses and preserve/restore the functions of the environment

Education and Awareness Programs (EAP) – inform and educate citizens, elected officials, and property owners about hazards and potential ways to mitigate them.

Common mitigation actions may include the following:

- Enforcement of building codes, floodplain management codes, and environmental regulations
- Public safety measures such as continual maintenance of roadways, culverts, and dams

- Acquisition or relocation of structures, such as purchasing buildings located in a floodplain
- Acquisition of hazard prone lands in their undeveloped state to ensure they remain so
- Retrofitting structures and design of new construction such as elevating a home or building
- Protecting critical facilities and infrastructure from future hazard events
- Mitigation, disaster recovery, and Continuity of Operations (COOP) planning
- Development and distribution of outreach materials related to hazard mitigation
- Deployment of warning systems
- Drainage system upgrades