



Frequently Asked Questions Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning

Question: What is hazard mitigation, and what is a Hazard Mitigation Plan?

Answer: Hazard mitigation is defined as any sustained action taken to permanently eliminate or reduce long-term risks to human life and property from natural hazards. A Hazard Mitigation Plan is prepared by local governments and special purpose districts in response to the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390). These plans act as a keyway to federal funding afforded under the Robert T. Stafford Act. These plans meet statutory requirements that include:

- Organizing resources
- Assessing Risk
- Engaging the public
- Identifying Goals and Objectives
- Identifying actions
- Developing plan maintenance and implementation strategies

Question: What is the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000?

Answer: The federal Disaster Mitigation Act (DMA) of 2000 (Public Law 106-390), commonly known as the 2000 Stafford Act amendments, was approved by Congress on October 10, 2000. This act required state and local governments to develop hazard mitigation plans as a condition for federal grant assistance. Among other things, this legislation reinforces the importance of pre-disaster infrastructure mitigation planning to reduce disaster losses nationwide. DMA 2000 is aimed primarily at the control and streamlining of the administration of federal disaster relief and programs to promote mitigation activities. Prior to 2000, federal legislation provided funding for disaster relief, recovery, and some hazard mitigation planning. The DMA improves upon the planning process by emphasizing the importance of communities planning for disasters before they occur.

Question: Does the State of Washington have a State Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan?

Answer: Yes. The State of Washington is also required to respond to the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 by developing a plan. In fact, if the state does not have a plan, no local governments within the state are eligible for any of the grant programs normally available as a result of developing an HMP. By law, the local plans are to be consistent with the recommendations of the state plan. The State of Washington actually has an Enhanced Plan, which means that we receive increased funding amounts after a disaster.

Question: What hazards will the mitigation plan address?

Answer: At a minimum, the plan must address the natural hazards of concern that could impact the County planning area. This plan will address:

- Climate Change
- Drought
- Earthquake
- Flood



- *Hazardous Materials*
- *Landslide*
- *Severe Weather and Winter Storms*
- *Volcano*
- *Wildfire*

Question: Will Climate Change be addressed in the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan?

Answer: *Yes. While climate change will be addressed, although the risk assessment will not include the same type of assessment as other hazards as there is no damage function which can be applied in the same manner as other hazards. There will be detailed discussions of the potential impact of climate change on those applicable hazards of concern.*

Question: How will my jurisdiction benefit by participating?

Answer: *By participating in this planning effort and adopting the updated plan, your community will be eligible to pursue funding under any of FEMA's Stafford Act grant programs. These programs provide millions of dollars worth of grant funding annually for risk reduction measures identified in these plans.*

Question: When will the plan be finished?

Answer: *It is anticipated that this plan update process will take nine-to-twelve months to complete, at which time it will be submitted to Washington State Emergency Management Division and FEMA for their review and approval. This schedule is contingent upon many factors that can impact schedule and timeline. The timeline for submittals will be continuously updated throughout the process as planning milestones are completed.*