

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

What the Hazard Mitigation Plan accomplishes:

- ◆ identifies all hazards that may impact your Town;
(such as floods, hurricanes, Nor'easters, earthquakes, wildfire, terrorism, traffic accidents)
- ◆ identifies the risks from these hazards;
(such as where the events are likely to occur and what the damage might be)
- ◆ identifies resources or techniques available to help lessen the impact of hazard events; and
(such as critical facilities protection and ordinance /regulation revision)
- ◆ produces a series of maps to use for reference.

Why Prepare a Hazard Mitigation Plan?

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 encourages pre-natural disaster planning to reduce property damage costs and injuries. Completion of a Hazard Mitigation Plan and participation in the National Flood Insurance Program enables a community to apply for fully funded hazard mitigation grants.

The Role of the Local Hazard Mitigation Committee

- 1) Provide information and recommendations to NRPC in a series of meetings.
- 2) Present the Plan at a public information meeting and Board of Selectmen public hearing.

Specific input includes:

- ◆ identify the past hazard events
- ◆ identify critical facilities and community assets
- ◆ determine the potential damage and risks
- ◆ brainstorm existing and potential strategies to mitigate losses
- ◆ recommend and prioritize mitigation actions

Who should participate?

Town Administration
Fire Department
Emergency Management Director
Highway Department
Police Department
Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer
Planning Board
Town Historian
Representatives of Local Businesses
Concerned Citizens
Board of Selectmen

Types of Community Assets & Critical Facilities

- Emergency Operations Center
- Shelters
- Emergency fuel facilities
- Police Station
- Fire Station and substations
- Hospital/medical facility
- Water sources and utilities
- Power plants, substations, transmission lines
- Telephone facilities, water/sewer lines, cell towers
- Dams
- Bridges
- Major highways or roadways
- Highway Department or Public Works garages
- Airport
- Town/City Hall
- Religious facilities and cemeteries
- Schools
- Nursing homes
- Elderly housing
- Day-care facilities
- Correctional facilities
- Special needs populations
- Other congregate care facilities
- Access roads to the above facilities
- Evacuation routes
- Recreational facilities
- Lodges (VFW, Moose, Odd Fellows, etc)
- Municipal dumps, landfills, or transfer stations
- Hazardous material facilities
- Unique or historic cultural resources

Funded through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the NH Bureau of Emergency Management (NH BEM), the Plan is developed by the Nashua Regional Planning Commission, with assistance from a town's Local Hazard Mitigation Committee.

Locally-developed, a Hazard Mitigation Plan documents and maps the existing essential Town and governmental facilities, special needs populations, areas in danger of hazards, large gathering places, utilities, and unique resources. Inventories of past disasters and potential hazards are also gathered. The Plan will provide recommendations for enhancement and protection of these facilities, sites, and areas in the event of a disaster. The Plan and the process undertaken to develop the document will enhance the communication and coordination among community Departments and will raise awareness of the Town and the public at large of the potential, and proactive measures against, disasters.

Hazard Mitigation Plans are especially important for towns and cities to develop in light of new federal legislation. The (US) Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 encourages pre-natural disaster planning to mitigate losses and damages. On November 2004, any municipality in the US without a Hazard Mitigation Plan lost eligibility for disaster clean-up and recovery funding (except emergency provisions) should a disaster occur. In New Hampshire, floods and snow/ice storms account for the majority of disasters. In addition, many other grant opportunities are lost if a community does not have a FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan.