

# Plan Ahead

As the costs of disasters continue to rise, emergency management professionals as well as ordinary citizens must find ways to reduce hazard risks to our communities and to ourselves. The efforts made to reduce hazard risks are easily made compatible with other community goals; safer communities are more attractive to employers as well as residents.



Natural hazard mitigation planning is the process of figuring out how to reduce or eliminate the loss of life and property damage resulting from natural hazards such as floods, earthquakes, and tornadoes. Four basic phases are described for the natural hazard mitigation process:

- Organize Resources
- Assess Risks
- Develop a Mitigation Plan
- Implement the Plan and Monitor Progress

For illustration purposes, these phases portray a process that appears to proceed in a single direction. However, the mitigation planning process is rarely a linear process. It is not unusual that ideas developed while assessing risks should need revision and additional information while developing the mitigation plan, or that implementing the plan may result in new goals or additional risk assessments.

## 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 as well as the technical expertise required during the planning process.

## 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 impacts would be for important community assets.

## 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.

## IMPLEMENT THE PLAN AND 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.

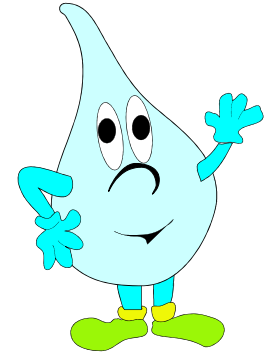
## OKLAHOMA FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION



P.O. Box 8101  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74101-8101  
[www.okflood.org](http://www.okflood.org)  
[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

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## OKLAHOMA FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION



Freddie Floodway wants **YOU** to know about

## HAZARD MITIGATION In Oklahoma

**Mitigation** is defined as sustained actions taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from hazards and their effects. The purpose of mitigation is twofold: to protect people and structures, and to minimize the costs of disaster response and recovery.

**For additional information on how YOU can learn more about mitigation measures, check out these web sites: [www.okflood.org](http://www.okflood.org) and [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)**

# Mitigation Grant Programs



Freddie Floodway Knows

FEMA currently has three mitigation grant programs: The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program, and Pre-Disaster Mitigation program (PDM).

## Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

Authorized under Section 404 of the Stafford Act, the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provides grants to states and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration. The purpose of the program is to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and to enable mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery from a disaster declaration.

## Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)

FMA provides funding to assist states and communities in implementing measures to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to buildings, manufactured homes, and other structures insurable under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). There are three types of grants available under FMA: Planning, Project, and Technical Assistance Grants. FMA Planning Grants are available to prepare Flood Mitigation Plans. NFIP participating communities with approved Flood Mitigation Plans can apply for FMA Project Grants. Funding for the program is provided through the National Flood Insurance Fund, and FMA is funded at \$20 million nationally.

## Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM)

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program provides technical and financial assistance to states and local governments for cost-effective pre-disaster hazard mitigation activities that complement a comprehensive mitigation program and reduce injuries, loss of life, and damage and destruction of property. FEMA provides grants to states and federally recognized Indian tribal governments that, in turn, provide sub-grants to local governments for mitigation activities such as planning and the implementation of projects identified through the evaluation of natural hazards.

## Eligible Activities For FMA:

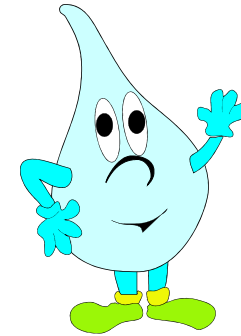
- Acquisition of NFIP insured repetitive loss properties
- Elevation and retrofit of NFIP insured repetitive loss properties
- Relocation or demolition of NFIP insured repetitive loss properties
- Minor structural flood control projects
- Modified elevation projects
- Elevation and/or dry flood proofing of NFIP insured non-residential structures

## Building a Mitigation Program

Mitigation is the cornerstone of emergency management. It's the ongoing effort to lessen the impact disasters have on people's lives and property. Mitigation involves keeping homes away from floodplains, engineering bridges to withstand earthquakes, creating and enforcing effective building codes to protect property from floods, hurricanes and other natural hazards and more.

**MOST IMPORTANTLY, WITHOUT A HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN, YOUR COMMUNITY IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL MITIGATION GRANTS!!!**

## Who Can Help?



Although a strong community leader is important to the mitigation effort, a community planning team is essential. A community planning team ensures better solutions because no one person in the community has all the answers. It gains community acceptance for the mitigation plan, since many viewpoints are represented, and it ensures important information and

assistance are not overlooked. Teams are usually composed of individuals with a variety of skills and areas of expertise. Recommended members include the following:

- A member of the City Council or
- The community planner or a planning board member
- A member of the Conservation Commission
- A building official
- The community engineer
- Public works personnel
- The emergency program manager
- One or more hazard area residents
- One or more representatives of the business community
- Representatives of adjoining communities (if problems and/or solutions are likely to extend outside community boundaries)

Throughout the planning process, public input will be required to ensure workable solutions to hazard problems.

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Contact your local Emergency Management Office  
or American Red Cross chapter for more  
information on MITIGATION