



FEMA

Maintaining Your Hazard Mitigation Plan

Reviewing Your Jurisdiction’s Hazard Mitigation Plan Every Year Can Pay Big Dividends.

Annual maintenance provides your community with the opportunity to update your project list and pursue grant projects that can prevent or reduce damage from natural hazards. It also provides an opportunity to see if the plan is on track. Following these steps and answering a few questions provides the reviewing authority the chance to make needed adjustments.

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[Step 2 - Coordinating with Other State and Federal Agencies](#)

Many state and federal agencies specialize in gathering hazard-related information that can be useful in preparing HMP plans and grant applications for hazard mitigation projects. Discussions with the State of Alaska may reveal the need to speak with specific state or federal agency representatives who possess the latest information about disasters and projects relevant to your jurisdiction.

[Step 3 - Don't Forget to Alert Citizens about the Annual Review](#)

Before the annual maintenance of your jurisdiction’s hazard mitigation plan begins, invite the public to participate. Alerting citizens that your jurisdiction will be discussing community safety has several benefits:

- The community may gain knowledge about a potentially hazardous condition of which they were unaware;
- Interested citizens will become educated about community efforts

Before the Annual Review Begins:

[Step 1 – Contact the State](#)

The State of Alaska has access to the latest information about changes in state and federal laws, various grant programs, and data about hazards that can improve the quality of the Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) and grant applications for hazard mitigation projects. Below is a list of contacts for your use.

[State Contacts:](#)

The Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM)

Mark Roberts – State Hazard Mitigation Officer Phone: 907-428-7016 Email: Mark.Roberts@Alaska.gov

Ervin Petty – Hazard Mitigation Planner Phone: 907-428-7015 Email: Ervin.Petty@Alaska.gov



Learn How to Maintain Your Hazard Mitigation Plan and Get the Best Results!

This Guide provides information on

- Who to contact for help
- Where to get information

to prevent damage from hazards and promote community safety;

- The community may obtain volunteer resources that can lead or assist in managing a grant project or help implement a mitigation action that might not otherwise be possible; and
- Citizen participation in project implementation may count as “local match” for grant dollars if local match is required.

As the Annual Review Begins:



Provide a sign-up sheet at the meeting to record who participated in the annual review. Have everyone in attendance sign their names and indicate who they represent. Keep a summary of any changes made to the plan during the annual review. By documenting this event, the jurisdiction will easily satisfy Federal Emergency Management Agency’s requirement to document the planning process (Crosswalk Requirement 4 – CFR §201.6(b)) when the 5-year plan update is due.

Discuss and Answer Questions

The following questions are provided to help guide participants through the annual review of a hazard mitigation plan.

Questions to ask the state:

Have the FEMA hazard mitigation planning requirements changed since your hazard mitigation plan was adopted? (For most jurisdictions, the answer is yes. The state can help identify new requirements).

Has the Alaska All-Hazard Risk Mitigation Plan been modified since your plan’s last review?

Have any laws changed that would affect the hazard mitigation plan, goals or mitigation projects?

Are there new mitigation grant

requirements that need to be discussed during the annual review?

Questions about the Risk Assessment

Have new issues or hazard-related problems been identified that aren’t addressed in the hazard mitigation plan?

Has the jurisdiction experienced any new disasters since the plan was adopted or last updated? (If yes, be sure to update the “history of previous occurrences sections” of the plan during the next plan update. Mention all Presidential-declared disasters and Alaska “state-declared” disasters.)

Has the damage from new disasters been documented? Are photographs of the damage and verification of high water marks available.

Have new areas not previously identified in the hazard mitigation plan been damaged by hazardous events since the plan was approved or last updated? Are there any new impacts from recent hazardous events that should now be identified in the plan? If yes, did the hazard mitigation plan accurately anticipate the impacts from the event(s)?

Has the risk assessment of the Alaska All-Hazard Risk Mitigation Plan been reviewed to see if new information is pertinent to the local review?

Have changes (e.g., structures elevated, new dike, new road, retro-fitting for earthquakes, etc.) occurred that might reduce the effects of a hazardous event?

Have changes (e.g., new development in the floodplain, etc.) to the community increased the chance that damage might occur from a hazardous event?

Are new studies or data available that require immediate consideration?

Questions about Goals and Mitigation Measure Implementation

Are the goals of the plan being achieved through implementation of successful mitigation measures?

Have any mitigation measures been implemented since the plan was adopted or last updated? Identify and describe.

Have implemented mitigation measures achieved the desired results?

Have any of the mitigation measures been implemented through other programs?

Have the implemented mitigation measures been successful at preventing or reducing disaster-related damage? Can the estimated dollars saved be determined?

Have any programs or practices hindered or limited the effectiveness of the jurisdiction’s hazard mitigation efforts?

Are the existing mitigation measures still appropriate, given current resources or changes made to the risk assessment?

Do any of the remaining proposed mitigation measures need to be re-prioritized?

Questions about Grant Administration

Do you have any mitigation success stories?

How many projects have been implemented since the plan was adopted or last updated? Were grant dollars used and was the grant closeout process successfully completed?

Which mitigation projects are underway? Are they being funded by federal grants or by other grant sources?

Obtain Hazard Mitigation Planning Resources

“Local Multi-hazard Mitigation Planning Guidance” (July 1, 2008)

<http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=3336>

“FEMA Hazard Mitigation Planning Guides” ... a “How To” series ... for preparing hazard mitigation plans:

- Getting Started: Building Support for Mitigation Planning
- Understanding Your Risks: Identifying Hazards and Estimating Losses
- Developing a Mitigation Plan: Identifying Mitigation Actions and Implementation Strategies

Alaska Hazard Mitigation

- Bringing the Plan to Life: Ensuring the Success of the Hazard Mitigation Plan Using Benefit-Cost Analysis in Mitigation Planning
- Incorporating Historic Resources into Mitigation Planning
- Integrating Human-Caused Hazards into Mitigation Planning
- Multi-Jurisdictional Approaches to Mitigation Planning
- Securing Resources for Mitigation Planning

<http://www.fema.gov/plan/mitplanning/resources.shtm>

Additional Resources for Each Hazard

The following agencies and Worldwide Web Links contain information useful in hazard identification, risk analysis and in developing mitigation measures to reduce damage.

Floods

FEMA= Floodsmart
<http://www.floodsmart.gov/>

FEMA - <http://www.fema.gov/hazard/flood/index.shtm>

National Weather Service
<http://www.nws.noaa.gov>

Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development – Floodplain Management
<http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/nfip/nfip.htm>

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - 2204 3rd Street, Elmendorf AFB, AK 99506 – phone: 907-753-2610
http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/en/cw/flid_haz/communities.htm

Wildfires

FEMA - <http://www.fema.gov/hazard/wildfire/index.shtm>

Fire Ready - <http://fireready.com/>

Firewise - <http://www.firewise.org/>

US Geological Survey (USGS)

<http://www.usgs.gov/hazards/wildfires/>

Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources – Division of Forestry
<http://forestry.alaska.gov/fire/current.htm>

Earthquakes

United States Geological Survey – USGS - <http://www.usgs.gov/hazards/earthquakes/>

FEMA – <http://www.fema.gov/hazard/earthquake/index.shtm>

Alaska Earthquake Information Center
<http://www.aeic.alaska.edu/>

Alaska Sea Grant Program
<http://seagrant.uaf.edu/features/earthquake.php>

Landslides and Erosion

United States Geological Survey – USGS
<http://landslides.usgs.gov>

FEMA - <http://www.fema.gov/hazard/landslide/index.shtm>

Alaska Dept. of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
<http://ready.alaska.gov/plans/mitigation/landava.htm>

Volcanoes

United States Geological Survey – USGS
<http://volcanoes.usgs.gov>

FEMA - <http://www.fema.gov/hazard/volcano/index.shtm>

Alaska-- <http://www.avo.alaska.edu>

Tsunami

FEMA - <http://www.fema.gov/hazard/tsunami/index.shtm>

National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
<http://www.prh.noaa.gov/ptwc/>

Univ. of Washington - <http://www.ess.washington.edu/tsunami/index.html>

Alaska Sea Grant Program
<http://seagrant.uaf.edu/features/earthquake.php>

National Weather Service/West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Center
<http://wcatwc.arh.noaa.gov/events/eventmap.php>

Seiches

USGS - <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/learning/topics/seiche.php>

Snow Avalanches

National Snow and Ice Data Center
<http://nsidc.org/snow/avalanche/>

Severe Weather

FEMA - <http://www.fema.gov/hazard/winter/index.shtm>

National Weather Service
<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>

National Weather Service (Fairbanks)
<http://pafg.arh.noaa.gov/>