

WHAT IS A NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN?

Natural hazard mitigation is any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate the long term risk to human life and property from hazards. Mitigation activities may be implemented prior to, during, or after an incident. However, it has been demonstrated that hazard mitigation is most effective when based on a comprehensive, long term plan that is developed before a disaster occurs.

This Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan has been financed and developed under the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the State of Utah, Department of Public Safety, Division of Homeland Security (DHS).

This Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan was developed in accordance with applicable FEMA regulations, namely 44 CFR §201.6. Generally, these regulations proliferate the following goals: to fulfill federal, state, and local hazard mitigation planning responsibilities; to promote natural hazard mitigation measures, short/long range strategies that minimize loss of life, and damage to property resulting from natural hazard occurrences to which public/private constituents are exposed; and to eliminate or minimize conditions which would have an undesirable impact on our citizens, the economy, environment, and the well-being of the Five County region.

Section 322 of the Stafford Act emphasizes the need for state and local governments to closely coordinate mitigation planning and implementation efforts. This plan is an aid in enhancing public and private awareness to the threat that natural hazards have on property and life. It identifies what can be done to help prevent or reduce the vulnerability, risk and impact of natural hazards. Another function of this Plan is to provide information to local jurisdictions regarding the availability of funding sources for natural hazard mitigation. In 2000, FEMA issued the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, commonly known as DMA 2000. Under this Act, states, communities, and tribal governments must complete FEMA approved natural hazard mitigation plans to be eligible for certain federal assistance programs, such as the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).

The goal of this plan is to assist the five counties of Southwestern Utah, namely, Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane and Washington Counties, in reducing the costs of natural disasters; specifically, Drought, Earthquake, Flood, Landslide, Problem Soils, Radon Gas, Severe Weather, Volcanoes, and Wildfire, through mitigation practices. This plan provides comprehensive hazard identification, risk assessment, vulnerability analysis, mitigation actions, and implementation schedule for the region.

The authors of this plan, Five County Association of Governments, met the regulations set forth by FEMA in completing the plan. Regulations, including future monitoring, evaluating, updating and implementing, will take place as new incidents occur and/ or every five years.

WHAT IS THE PLAN'S MISSION?

The mission of the Five County Association of Governments (FCAOG) Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan is to substantially reduce the vulnerability of communities, within the region, to natural hazards. The plan is intended to promote sound public policy designed to protect citizens, private property, critical facilities, and infrastructure. This can be achieved by increasing public awareness, documenting resources for risk reduction and loss-prevention, and identifying activities which enable the development of safer communities.

NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN GOALS

In an effort to ensure that the mission of this Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan is met, the participants in the development of this plan defined and established a list of goals, which are directly related to accomplishing the mission. Mitigation plan goals are more specific statements of direction that public/private constituents alike can take while working to reduce the risk associated with natural hazards. Goals form a bridge between the broad mission statement and particular action items. The following is a list of the goals and goal statements identified by the participants of this plan. All the goals are important and achievable; as such they are not listed in any specific order.

<i>Goal</i>	<i>Goal Statement</i>
Education/Outreach	-Further awareness and understanding of natural hazards, potential risk and vulnerability, and options available when natural hazard events occur. -Provide information and education to all residents of the Five County region concerning natural hazards.
Emergency Services	-Minimize life safety issues. -Promote, strengthen, and coordinate emergency response plans.
Environmental Protection	Preserve and rehabilitate natural systems to serve natural hazard mitigation functions (i.e. floodplains, wetlands etc.).
Partnership/Coordination	Coordinate public/private sector participation in planning/implementing mitigation strategies.
Prevention	-Reduce the threat of loss of life and property from natural hazards. -Incorporate information on known hazards and make hazard mitigation planning a priority in land use policies and decisions.
Property Protection	Minimize the impact from natural disaster occurrences on public and private property.

HOW CAN I USE THIS PLAN?

This Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan is comprehensive in nature and affects all jurisdictions within the Five County region, including all rural unincorporated communities. While this Plan is non-regulatory in nature, it provides a framework for regional jurisdictions to plan for natural hazards. The resources and information provided herein pertain to all areas of the Five County region. It is the sincere hope of the authors of this Plan, that each respective jurisdiction use the information contained herein to adopt more stringent regulations which will provide the legal authority for hazard risk analysis and mitigation efforts at the local level.

This Plan was developed and organized within the rules and regulations established in 44 CFR §201.6. The plan contains a discussion on the purpose and methodology used to develop the plan, a profile on communities within the Five County region, as well as a hazard identification study and a vulnerability analysis of nine hazards. To assist in the explanation of the above-identified contents each County within the region is analyzed separately. The benefit of this separation is that each County is provided with a separate and distinct hazard identification, vulnerability analysis, and mitigation measures. Ultimately, this framework provides a streamlined Plan which will afford additional readability and implementation.

This Plan contains county-level geographic and demographic information, together with a risk and vulnerability assessment and mitigation strategies. The Plan details goals, objectives, and specific tasks or actions to reduce risk. Natural hazards to be addressed in the Plan were determined through an evaluation of risk and probability of those hazards being most significant to the counties within the region; namely: Drought, Earthquake, Flood, Landslide, Problem Soils, Radon Gas, Severe Weather, Volcanoes, and Wildfire.

All too often, planning documents become too comprehensive and cumbersome; in so doing this limits their ability and renders their permanent placement on the proverbial “shelf.” The authors of this Plan believe that if this Plan fits within the aforementioned, then their efforts have been in vain. This being said, extreme consciousness has been afforded to ensure that this Plan is relevant, and that the goals and strategies provided herein are those that have a heightened, realistic level of achievability.

It is noted that a separate, stand-alone Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan is being developed for the three Bands of the Paiute Tribe of Utah. That plan will conform with the requirements of 44 CFR §201.7.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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