

HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING

What is hazard mitigation planning?

It is a *process* for State, local, and Indian Tribal governments to identify policies, activities, and tools to implement mitigation actions. Mitigation is any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property from a hazard event. This process has four steps:

1. organizing resources;
2. assessing risks;
3. developing a mitigation plan; and
4. implementing the plan and monitoring progress.

Maricopa County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

In 2003 and 2004, Maricopa County, two Indian Tribes, and all incorporated cities and towns in Maricopa County, participated in a multi-jurisdictional mitigation planning effort that resulted in the development of a multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan with separate plans that covered each participating jurisdiction. The Maricopa County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (2004 Plan) and all of the separate plans received official Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approval on November 29, 2004. The 2004 Plan was designed to meet the federal regulations set forth by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, which requires all local, county, tribal and state governments to develop a multi-hazard mitigation plan for their respective jurisdictions in order to be eligible to receive certain hazard mitigation and public assistance funds. The 2004 Plan is nearing the end of the 5-year planning cycle and is set to expire in November 2009.

The Maricopa County Department of Emergency Management (MCDEM) applied for and received a planning grant to fund a multi-jurisdictional effort to review, update and consolidate the 2004 Plan, with resubmittal to FEMA prior to its expiration in November 2009. MCDEM has retained JE Fuller/Hydrology & Geomorphology, Inc. (JEF) to assist and guide the county, cities, towns and tribes through the update process and to prepare the new multi-jurisdictional multi-hazard mitigation plan.

To view the current plan, click here: [2004 Maricopa County Multi-Jurisdiction Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan](#)

Plan Update Process

The plan update process will require the regrouping of the Maricopa County Hazard Mitigation Planning Team, which originally was comprised of one or more lead contacts from each participating jurisdiction as well as public utilities, hospitals, police, fire and sheriff's departments, and other public and private entities. Input must be obtained from neighboring communities, local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities and agencies having authority to regulate development including businesses, academia and other private and non-profit interests. The Hazard Mitigation Planning Team will be meeting regularly to work through a hazard mitigation planning process that involves varying levels of review, revision, and/or update of the following elements:

- Previously identified hazards that may impact or have impacted the community**
- Profiles of the most relevant hazard events**
- Assessment of vulnerability to hazards**

- Assessment of the communities' capability to mitigate hazards
- Hazard mitigation goals and objectives for the community
- Hazard mitigation actions and/or projects
- Implementation strategy for the plan
- Plan maintenance strategy for the next 5-year cycle
- Write and officially adopt plan

STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

In order to meet the goal of having an approved plan by November 2009, MCDEM and JEF have pre-arranged a calendar of meetings for the Hazard Mitigation Planning Team beginning in January 2009 and ending July 2009. The public has an opportunity to comment on the plan during its drafting stages and prior to seeking final approval from the Federal Emergency Management Agency by attending any of the meetings.

To view the Stakeholder Meeting Schedule, click here: [Stakeholder Meeting Schedule](#)

How can I get involved or obtain more information?

For more information on this hazard mitigation planning process, please contact:

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