

NEMA Mitigation White Paper 2009

Recommendations for an Effective National Mitigation Effort

"Building stronger partnerships, increased resilience, and disaster resistance for a safer nation."



Endorsing Organizations

- American Public Works Association
- American Society of Civil Engineers
- Association of Bermuda Insurers and Reinsurers
- Association of State Flood Plain Managers
- Central United States Earthquake Consortium
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Institute for Building Technology and Safety
- Institute for Business and Home Safety
- International Association of Emergency Managers
- International City/County Management Association
- International Code Council
- National Association of Counties
- National Emergency Management Association
- Reinsurance Association of America
- Western States Seismic Policy Council
- US Chamber of Commerce

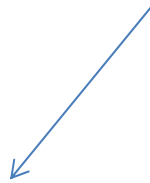
January 2009- Through a cooperative agreement between NEMA and FEMA, FEMA hosted a meeting attended by various stakeholder groups to discuss the most pressing mitigation issues and to develop a comprehensive and inclusive paper defining mitigation's place in the preparedness and recovery community.

January through June 2009- Paper drafted by Glenn Woodbury of the Naval Post Graduate School. Stakeholder groups had a chance to comment on the paper in draft form. Suggestions from associations were incorporated into the paper and drafts were continuously updated and changed.

July 9, 2009- The white paper was released in final form and was accompanied by a NEMA press release. 16 organizations endorsed the paper (many organizations also put out press releases).

In the paper, mitigation is defined as:

“any sustainable action that prevents or minimizes injury or harm to people, prevents, or minimizes damage to property, and ensures the continuity of critical social functions.”



The Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM) administered by FEMA is authorized by section 203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Management Act which was authorized by the Disaster Management Act of 2000. The PDM program has provided financial and technical assistance to State and local government to pre-empt damages and distress that result from a natural disaster such as flood, hurricane, tornado, or blizzard.



Additionally, states are able to utilize the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) to implement lessons learned after a disaster occurs. HMGP provides states up to 15 percent of disaster costs for mitigation activities, and up to 20 percent in cases where the state has pursued a more robust Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan approved by FEMA

There are many types of eligible programs that qualify for
Pre- and post-disaster mitigation funding:

Acquisition of at-risk property, elevation of property in high-risk floodplains, hurricane roof straps, contingency generator testing, historic property multi-hazard retrofitting, etc.



Next Steps

The formation of a National Mitigation Collaborative Alliance

- This entity would be a strong foundation upon which many different aspects of mitigation can be expanded and discussed in an open forum for future direction and strategy.
- The alliance would bring together Federal, State, local, and tribal governments as well as private sector organizations to allow for a very broad membership.
- Input must be diverse for the alliance to be effective.

Invigorate Grass Roots Participation

- Effective mitigation is best achieved when communities and individuals **understand** the hazards they face and support actions to secure their families, communities, and businesses.
- Mitigation is not an unreasonable cost homeowners must bear; promoting and facilitating resilient communities is not an unreasonable cost for state and federal government.
- Involving stakeholders throughout the process it should be possible to approach the proper balance for all stakeholders.

Connect Mitigation to Other Programs

- The mitigation community should work along with all other programs and initiatives that affect public safety and have similar missions.
 - Mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery, as well as prevention, resilience, continuity, and protection are all **interconnected activities**; these are the most effective and efficient when the linkages are acknowledged in order to *avoid stove-piping and encourage broad partnerships*.



Resources

Please visit www.nemaweb.org to find “Recommendations for an Effective National Mitigation Effort” as well as NEMA’s paper titled “Benefits of Disaster Mitigation Projects.”

Thank you!