

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Mitigation Planning Initiative will guide the County and Cities officials in their efforts to develop a disaster resistant environment. This environment will be realized by developing partnerships, both public and private. The guidance for this initiative came from the overriding goal to create safer communities through hazard mitigation. The impetus behind creating a Hazard Mitigation Plan is found in the Robert T. Stafford Act, PL 106-390. For disasters declared after November 1, 2004, a local government must have a hazard mitigation plan approved pursuant to Section 322 in order to receive Hazard Mitigation Grant (HMP) funds.

Hazard Mitigation is any action taken to eliminate or reduce the loss of life or property as the result of a disaster event.

The initial action taken was creating a partnership with the Federal, State and Local agencies. The State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), partnering with the Missouri Association of Councils of Government (MACOG) and funding provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), will assist the local agencies in developing a Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The categories of mitigation are prevention, property protection, natural resource protection, emergency services, structural projects and public information and education.

Prevention

Prevention includes but is not limited to planning and zoning, open space preservation, storm water management and land development regulations.

Property Protection

Property protection includes but is not limited to acquisition (buyouts), relocation, rebuilding, flood-proofing and retrofitting existing structures.

Natural Resource Protection

Natural resource protection includes but is not limited to erosion control, sediment control and wetlands protection.

Emergency Services

Emergency Services includes but are not limited to warning, continuity of

response, critical facilities protection and health and safety maintenance.

Structural Projects

Structural projects include but are not limited to reservoirs, levees, floodwalls, diversions, channel modifications, storm sewers, safe rooms and shelters.

Public Information and Education

Public information and education includes but is not limited to hazard maps and brochures, technical assistance, adult education programs, outreach programs, library information, school programs and business vulnerability reduction programs.

Mitigation Responsibilities

The Federal Government mitigation responsibilities are to administer programs that are intended to support and encourage local efforts to mitigate hazard losses.

The State Government mitigation responsibilities are to prioritize and administer programs that are intended to support and encourage local efforts to mitigate hazard losses.

The Local Government mitigation responsibilities are to develop and implement local mitigation plans and measures to reduce or eliminate damages from known hazards.

The Private Sector mitigation responsibilities are to comply with applicable codes, laws, zoning and land use regulations and participate in local mitigation efforts when possible.