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Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation

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What is hazard mitigation?


- From FEMA: “Mitigation is the effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters”
- From a State EMA: “Any cost-effective action taken to eliminate or reduce the long-term risk to life and property from natural and technological hazards.”



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Some examples


- Land Use and Zoning
- Building Codes
- Home Elevation
- Education and Outreach
- Hardening of Structures
- Open Space Preservation
- Coastal Protection
- Planning
- Safe Rooms



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Why does mitigation matter?


- There is no possibility of a resilient and sustainable community without:
 - safe locations for business and industry to occupy
 - safe housing for residents
 - safe schools and childcare



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What does NHMA do?


- Resource and information sharing
- Peer-to-peer learning
- Foster collaboration among a diverse group
- Presentations and workshops on hazard mitigation
- Participation in national policy discussions



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General Considerations


- Think broadly
 - Collaborative models around shared goals and values
 - Beyond FEMA funded programs
- Stop making things worse
 - Current building and development practices
- Plan for the future
 - Demographics
 - Future conditions (sea level rise, climate change)



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Higher Standards:

- Examples: Code Plus, No Adverse Impact, etc.
- Can protect lives, communities and property
- Are consistent with the concept of sustainable development
- Current minimum standards are often based on previous estimates of current conditions
- May be rewarded by FEMA's Community Rating System
- Can reduce the potential for litigation against a community



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Community Partnerships


- Public-Private
- Identify Common Goals – such as economic benefits
- Broad Stakeholder Involvement
- Coalitions of uncommon partners – across community
- State, Federal and International partners
- Blur the lines – accomplish risk reduction



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Planning Mechanisms

- Talking to each other!
- Plan based on community needs – not just regulations
- Mitigation Planning
- Comprehensive Planning
- Transportation Planning
- Adaptation Planning
- Recovery Planning (Pre and Post event)
- Etc.



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Links to adaptation

- Sometimes we're talking about the same thing
 - terminology
- Some of the same tools in the "toolkit"
 - Land use and education, for example
- We rarely directly address climate change, but:
 - Thomas/Turner article on climate change and emergency management "plan for the worst".
 - Component of future focused planning
 - Link between Adaptation Planning and Hazard Mitigation Planning
- BUT, we need to work together more closely.



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Questions and Answers

