

Overview of the Natural Hazard Mitigation Association and the Disaster Risk Reduction Ambassador Curriculum

NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION ASSOCIATION (NHMA)

NHMA is a national organization of practitioners committed to natural hazard disaster risk reduction (DRR) in the context of climate adaptation and mitigation.

NHMA members are joined in dedication to help our nation achieve the goal of reducing the devastating costs and impacts of natural hazards thus improving public safety and health, and community well-being, while reducing government expenditures and environmental harm.

NHMA emphasizes the “Whole Community” approach to addressing natural hazard mitigation, and places a special emphasis on protecting underrepresented populations from disaster damage.

Resilient Neighbors Network (RNN) is an NHMA initiative by which limited resources can be leveraged by building a peer-to-peer networking designed to encourage and promote local efforts to build a safer, more resilient future for the nation.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (DRR) AMBASSADOR CURRICULUM

DRR Ambassador is the creation of RNN peers and others in the NHMA leadership who recognize the need for information, knowledge of best practices, and analytic tools to enable better-informed decisions about the many facets of DRR.

FEMA Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP) Grants support the major efforts of NHMA members who volunteer their expertise to this initiative by providing funds for developing the DRR Ambassador Curriculum within a DHS-approved instructional systems design process.

Extensive research and analysis validated the need for and interest in a DRR Ambassador Curriculum that can provide effective and meaningful information, resources, and training to community staff and volunteer and stakeholder groups, essential to the vision of “Whole Community” engagement in DRR and community resilience. (See [Final Report Task 3 NHMA DRR Ambassador Curriculum](#), NHMA/FEMA CTP 2014-2015)

Curriculum development is underway with continued NHMA member expertise and contractor support made possible by the FEMA CTP Grant.

The goal of the DRR Ambassador Curriculum is to facilitate DRR efforts for the “Whole Community” by:

1. Engaging in discussion of how disasters can be reduced through local action
2. Sharing insights among local leaders and technical experts to enable the development of cross-functional solutions
3. Acquiring the best-available information, knowledge of best practices, and analytic tools to enable better-informed decisions before, during, and after disasters

The target audience includes those involved in community development decision-making, such as local community staff, volunteer and stakeholder groups, and federal and state officials.

Varied delivery methods will provide multiple options for access by the target audience. DRR Ambassador modules will be available via webinars presented by NHMA or partner organizations, presented in conferences and/or classrooms by qualified instructor(s), or downloadable for individual study from the NHMA website.

A DRR Ambassador Credential is NHMA’s long term goal for the curriculum. In the immediate future, certificates of completion will be awarded to participants completing NHMA-sponsored offerings of the DRR Ambassador modules. Currently, several partner organizations offer continuing education (CE)

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credit pre-approval for NHMA presentations. NHMA will submit the DRR Ambassador modules for similar pre-approval from organizations such, as the Association of State Floodplain Managers, International Association of Emergency Managers, American Planning Association, and American Bar Association.

DRR AMBASSADOR CURRICULUM AT-A-GLANCE

I. Disaster Risk Reduction for a Safe and Prosperous Future	
1	Introduction to the Natural Hazard Mitigation Association and Disaster Risk Reduction Ambassador Curriculum
2	Introduction to Disaster Risk Reduction as a Foundation of Community Resilience
3	Leadership for Disaster Risk Reduction
4	Community Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation
5	Approaching the Challenge of Disaster Risk Reduction: NIST Community Resilience Guide
II. Forming a Community's Vision for Disaster Risk Reduction	
6	Risk Assessment through Storytelling: An Asset-Based Approach
7	Achieving Community Buy-in for Disaster Risk Reduction: Win-Win Approaches
8	Leveraging Resources to Improve Disaster Risk Reduction
III. Realizable, Practical, and Affordable Approaches for Moving from a Vision for Disaster Risk Reduction to a Strategy	
9	Selecting and Implementing a Strategy for Addressing Community Disaster Risk Problems
10	Integrating Hazard Mitigation into Local Planning
11	Beyond Codes and Low-Impact Development
12	Creating the Plan: A Sustainable Floodplain Management Process Model
IV. Resources and Tools for Implementing a Community's Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy	
13	Climate and Weather Tools and Trends
14	Risk Assessment Basics
15	Legal and Policy Opportunities for Disaster Risk Reduction
16	Linking Catastrophe Insurance to Disaster Risk Reduction
V. Resources for Hazard-Specific Disaster Risk Reduction	
17	Living with Water: Inland and Coastal Flooding
18	Design for Flood Resilience: Part I: Floodplain Management and Flood Resistant Design
19	Design for Flood Resilience: Part II: Green Infrastructure / Low Impact Development
20	Overcoming Impediments to Flood Resilience: Paths Forward
21	Wildfire Mitigation
22	The Wildfire-Flood Connection
23	Severe Thunderstorm/Tornado Safe Rooms
24	From Policy to Engineering: Earthquake Risks