

5 Tips for “No Revisions Needed” Hazard Mitigation Plan Updates

Presentation Outline

- Background
- New Criteria for this Round of Updates
- 5 Tips

Background

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires Hazard Mitigation Plans to ensure communities remain eligible for certain FEMA funding

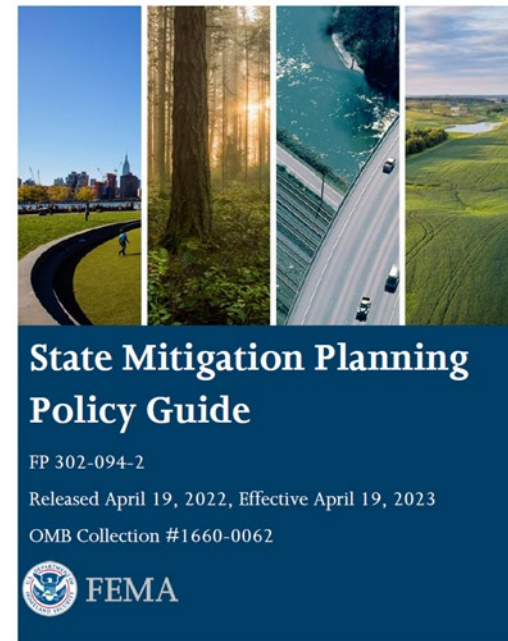
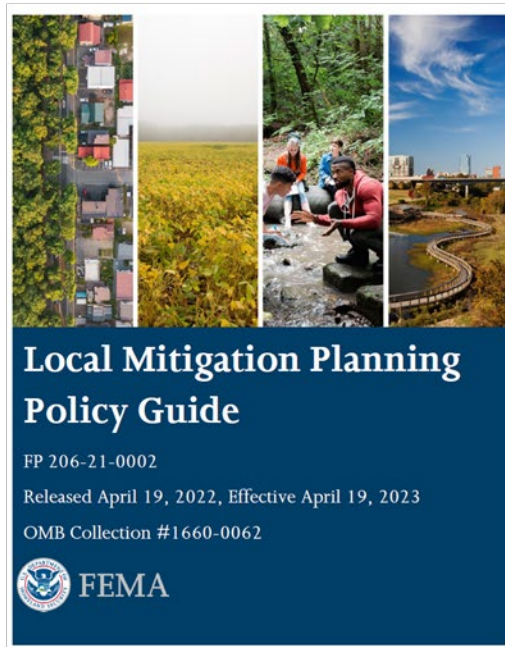
- Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA)
 - Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
 - Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)
 - Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) – Swift Current Program

Hazard mitigation planning **reduces loss of life and property by minimizing the impact of disasters**. It begins with state, tribal and local governments identifying natural disaster risks and vulnerabilities that are common in their area. After identifying these risks, they develop long-term strategies for protecting people and property from similar events. **Mitigation plans are key to breaking the cycle of disaster damage and reconstruction.**

Source: FEMA

“New” Criteria for this Round of Updates

2023 POLICY UPDATES FROM FEMA



“New” Criteria for this Round of Updates

The policies represent the latest official interpretation of the mitigation planning requirements in the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act) Codified in Title 44 CFR Part 201 – Mitigation Planning

“New” Criteria for this Round of Updates

The main purpose of the policies is to **support consistent evaluation and approval of state and local hazard mitigation plans**. They also promote mitigation planning and risk-informed decision-making.

FEMA routinely updates policies to improve and better support stakeholders in meeting federal requirements. Updates also allow FEMA to ensure policy remains current with related legislative, programmatic, and regulatory changes.

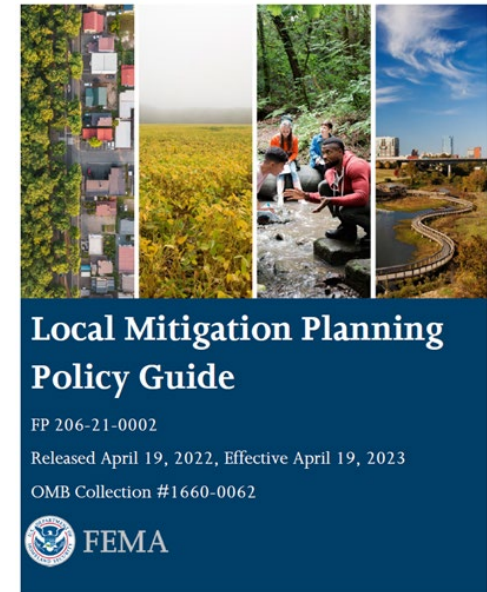
SUMMARY OF CHANGES

The local policy applies to local governments that develop, update, maintain and implement their own mitigation plans. The primary users of the guide are local staff that oversee mitigation plans and the federal and state officials who review and approve those plans. The local policy includes the following changes:

- Defines who local governments must include in the planning process. This includes representatives from a broad range of sectors, **community lifelines**, the public and community-based organizations that support **underserved communities**.
- Requires local governments to include the effects of **climate change** and other future conditions in the risk assessment.
- Recognizes the important role of adopting and enforcing building codes and land use and development ordinances in the local government's ability to improve mitigation capabilities.

FEMA Community Lifelines:

- Safety and Security
- Food, Water, Shelter
- Health and Medical
- Energy
- Communications
- Transportation
- Hazardous Materials



SUMMARY OF CHANGES (CONT)

- Facilitates stronger alignment with other FEMA mitigation programs such as the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), Community Rating System and flood risk mapping program.
- Explains the need to right-size the scope of a plan update, consider both current and future risks, and complete the planning process with plan adoption.
- Includes existing mitigation plan requirements for the High Hazard Potential Dams (HHPD) grant program to include all dam risks. Removes the optional Repetitive Loss Strategy.
- Reorganized requirements for ease of use

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

MUST document how EACH were presented an opportunity to be involved

- Local and regional agencies involved with hazard mitigation activities
- Agencies that have the authority to regulate development
- Neighboring communities
- Representatives from businesses, academia and other private organizations
- Representatives of nonprofit organizations, including community-based organizations that work directly with and/or provide support to **underserved communities and socially vulnerable populations**

See page 19



City of Charleston 2023
Hazard Mitigation Plan

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Responses Since
Feb 1, 2023

CLIMATE CHANGE

Risk Assessment Element B1-e states:

“Probability must include the effects of future conditions, **including climate change** (e.g., long-term weather patterns, average temperature and sea levels), on the type, location and range of anticipated intensities of identified hazards.”

Risk Assessment Element B2-b states:

“The plan must describe the potential impacts on each participating jurisdiction and its identified assets.

Impacts must include the effects of **climate change**, changes in population patterns (migration, density, or the makeup of socially vulnerable populations), and changes in land use and development.”

See pages 23 and 24

HIGH HAZARD POTENTIAL DAMS

Specific requirements for communities that wish to be considered for funding through the HHPD program

See pages 32-35

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/risk-management/hazard-mitigation-planning>

Tip 1: Go on and get started

Allow six months to get through SCEMD and FEMA review

Continuously monitor and update Mitigation Actions

Tip 2: If it ain't broke....

Your existing plan is probably already pretty good (it passed FEMA review last time around) – use it as a solid starting point

Tip 3: Include/Consider Climate Change Impacts on Hazards

Include a narrative about climate change impacts for EACH identified hazard

- Hint: There are some good examples out there

Primary Climate Change Interaction	Natural Hazard	Other Climate Change Interactions	Representative Climate Change Impacts
 Changes in Precipitation	Inland Flooding	Extreme Weather	Flash flooding, urban flooding, drainage system impacts (natural and human-made), lack of groundwater recharge, impacts to drinking water supply, public health impacts from mold and worsened indoor air quality, vector-borne diseases from stagnant water, episodic drought, changes in snow-rain ratios, changes in extent and duration of snow cover, degradation of stream channels and wetland
	Drought	Rising Temperatures, Extreme Weather	
	Landslide	Rising Temperatures, Extreme Weather	
 Sea Level Rise	Coastal Flooding	Extreme Weather	Increase in tidal and coastal floods, storm surge, coastal erosion, marsh migration, inundation of coastal and marine ecosystems, loss and subsidence of wetlands
	Coastal Erosion	Changes in Precipitation, Extreme Precipitation	
	Tsunami	Rising Temperatures	
 Rising Temperatures	Average/Extreme Temperatures	N/A	Shifting in seasons (longer summer, early spring, including earlier timing of spring peak flow), increase in length of growing season, increase of invasive species, ecosystem stress, energy brownouts from higher energy demands, more intense heat waves, public health impacts from high heat exposure and poor outdoor air quality, drying of streams and wetlands, eutrophication of lakes and ponds
	Wildfires	Changes in Precipitation	
	Invasive Species	Changes in Precipitation, Extreme Weather	
 Extreme Weather	Hurricanes/Tropical Storms	Rising Temperatures, Changes in Precipitation	Increase in frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, resulting in greater damage to natural resources, property, and infrastructure, as well as increased potential for loss of life
	Severe Winter Storm / Nor'easter	Rising Temperatures, Changes in Precipitation	
	Tornadoes	Rising Temperatures, Changes in Precipitation	
	Other Severe Weather (Including Strong Wind and Extreme Precipitation)	Rising Temperatures, Changes in Precipitation	
Non-Climate-Influenced Hazards	Earthquake	Not Applicable	There is no established correlation between climate change and this hazard

Source: Massachusetts Statewide Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan

Tip 4: Address Equitable Outcomes

Invite representatives of nonprofit organizations that work directly with and/or provide support to underserved communities and socially vulnerable populations, among others. These may include:

- community-based organizations,
- housing authorities,
- healthcare organizations or
- social service agencies.



In order to ensure that organizations representing underserved communities and socially vulnerable populations were provided an opportunity to participate in the planning process, the Town invited representatives from the Town's Neighborhood Livability Department, the Town's Community and Government Affairs Chief and the East Cooper Medical Center.

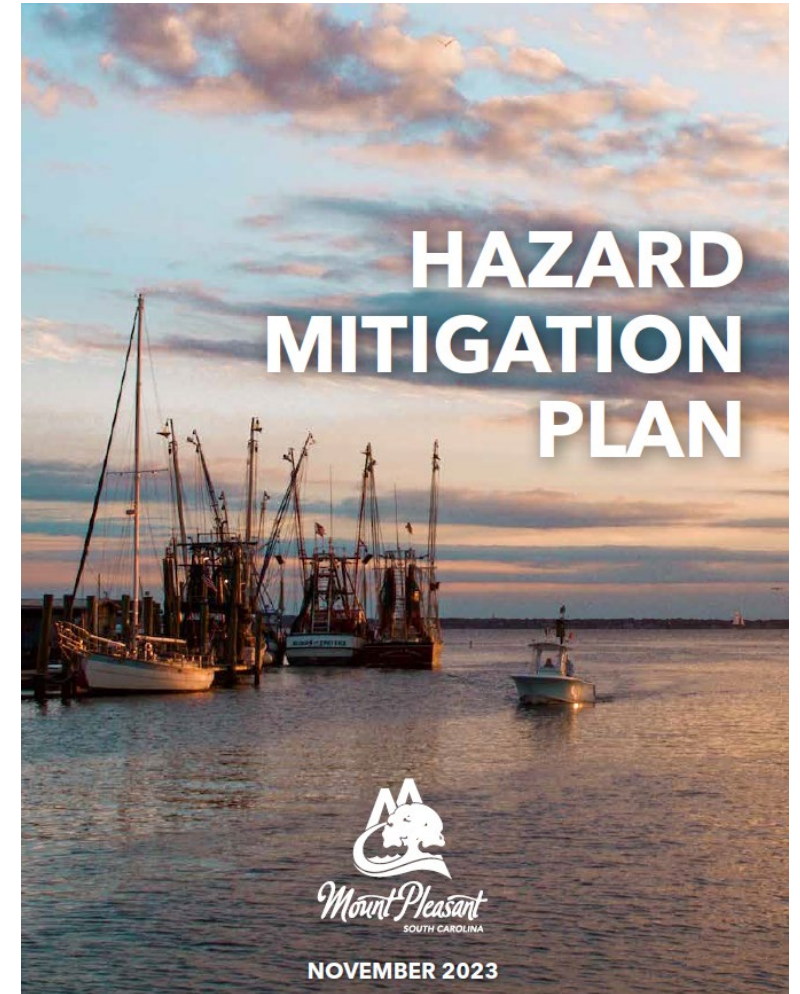
Each of these stakeholders actively participated in the planning process and each work directly with and/or provide support to the underserved and socially vulnerable populations in Town.

Tip 5: Explain Substantial Damage Procedures

Substantial Damage Inspections Procedures: Immediately after a flood event, employees across multiple departments that consist of Town planners, stormwater and transportation engineers, inspectors, building officials, and certified floodplain managers deploy to the effected areas. The town is broken into three areas and each area has a dedicated number of teams to conduct windshield surveys and assess damage.

This is tracked on digitally and on paper forms and then logged into Town databases. Once homeowners, come in for permits for repair work, this data is referenced and if a substantial damage is triggered then the building must come into compliance with all Town ordinances, including the floodplain ordinance.

If a homeowner or applicant comes in to improve the property voluntarily without damage, then substantial improvement protocols are activated. This entails a lengthy review during plan review of the project scope, evaluating the building's depreciated value either by tax assessor value or through an appraisal, and the work is adjusted accordingly depending on the determination. All work is also field verified by inspectors to make sure construction is up to code and in compliance with Town ordinances.





QUESTIONS?

Nathan Slaughter, AICP, CFM -
nslaughter@esspassociates.com