

OKLAHOMA COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL NATURAL HAZARDS MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE - 2012



- [Hazard Mitigation Plan 2012 Update - Introduction](#)
- [What is Hazard Mitigation?](#)
- [How does this Plan benefit Oklahoma County?](#)
- [How can I get involved?](#)
- [Mitigation Planning Committee](#)
- [Public Outreach Events and Activities](#)
- [2006 Hazard Mitigation Plan](#)
- [2012 Plan Update – Draft Plan Documents](#)
- [Resources and Links](#)

Hazard Mitigation Plan 2012 Update - Introduction

The residents of Oklahoma County are well aware of their vulnerability to natural hazards such as flooding, severe storms, and severe winter storms. Hazard mitigation planning is a step toward addressing these hazards and the effects on County businesses and population and reducing future damages due to hazard events. Residents and businesses benefit from comprehensive hazard mitigation planning by using a sustained pro-active approach to reduce or eliminate long term risk to people and property from hazards. By utilizing mitigation planning,

communities assess risks and identify actions to reduce their vulnerability and increase sustainability.

In addition to natural hazards, man-made and technological hazards (e.g. hazardous material releases, transportation accidents, dam failures) pose risk to life and property that must be managed through emergency management preparedness and response planning. Comprehensive risk reduction to all hazards is achieved when hazard mitigation planning complements emergency management planning.

A Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) is a living document that communities use to reduce their vulnerability to hazards. HMPs form the foundation for a community's long-term strategy to reduce disaster losses and break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage. They create a framework for risk-based decision making to reduce threats to lives, property, and the economy from future disasters.

Further, communities must have an approved HMP to apply for or receive pre-disaster mitigation grant funding. Grant funding is available for projects to mitigate risk to both public and private property. For example, projects such as structural elevations, property acquisitions and local stormwater and flood control are eligible for funding. Ultimately, these actions reduce vulnerability, and communities are able to recover more quickly from disasters.

Oklahoma County's original HMP was approved by FEMA in September 2007. By regulation, local HMPs must be formally updated every five years. The update process is an opportunity for Oklahoma County and its municipalities to not only re-examine its vulnerability to natural hazards, it also allows for the identification of man-made hazards which impact visitors and residents of the County every day.

This planning effort is being accomplished through a collaborative effort between the Oklahoma County Office of Emergency Management, Oklahoma County Planning and Engineering Services, representatives from all participating municipalities, and Tetra Tech, Inc. (Tulsa and Oklahoma City, OK). This planning initiative is expected to continue through Spring 2012.

[Go to Top](#)

What is Hazard Mitigation?

Hazard Mitigation is any action taken to reduce the loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters (natural, technological and man-made) (<http://www.fema.gov/government/mitigation.shtm>). It is often considered the first of the four phases of emergency management: mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

Mitigation measures fall into the following six general categories, and address both public and private property:

Prevention: Measures such as planning and zoning, open space preservation, and development regulations, building codes, storm water management, fire fuel reduction, soil erosion, and sediment control.

Property Protection: Measures such as acquisition, relocation, storm shutters, rebuilding, barriers, flood-proofing, insurance, and structural retrofits for high winds and earthquake hazards.

Public Education and Awareness: Measures such as outreach projects, real estate disclosure, hazard information centers, technical assistance, and school age and adult education programs.

Natural Resource Protection: Measures such as erosion and sediment control, stream corridor protection, vegetative management, and wetlands preservation.

Emergency Services: Measures such as hazard threat recognition, hazard warning systems, emergency response, protection of critical facilities, and health and safety maintenance.

Structural Projects: Measures such as dams, levees, seawalls, bulkheads, revetments, high flow diversions, spillways, buttresses, debris basins, retaining walls, channel modifications, storm sewers, and retrofitted buildings and elevated roadways (seismic protection).

[Go to Top](#)

How does this Plan benefit Oklahoma County?

This hazard mitigation plan assists Oklahoma County with the following:

- An increased understanding of natural and man-made hazards impacting the region
- Assess the risk and vulnerability of people, property, and the environment
- Reduced long-term impacts and damages to human health and structures and reduced repair costs
- Development of more sustainable and disaster-resistant communities
- Access to [federal mitigation grant funding](#) for eligible projects

Proactive mitigation leads to sustainable, more cost-effective projects. By contrast, reactive mitigation tends to lead to the “quick-fix” alternatives; it simply costs too much to address the effects of disasters only after they happen. A surprising amount of damage can be prevented if the region anticipates where and how disasters will occur, and take steps to mitigate those damages.

[Go to Top](#)

How can I get involved in the Plan Update?

Take the online [Citizens Hazard Preparedness Survey](#).

Once available, review the [2012 Plan Update Draft](#) and provide input.

Attend [public outreach activities](#) held during the Plan Update process.

Contact the county or local [Mitigation Planning Committee](#) representatives if you are interested in mitigating your residential or commercial property.

[Go to Top](#)

2012 Draft Plan

Sections of the 2012 Draft Plan Update will be posted here as they become available for review.

Public Outreach Activities

Announcements for public outreach activities held during the plan update process shall be made here once they are scheduled.

[Go to Top](#)

Mitigation Planning Committee

County Project Contacts:

Ms. Ruth Walters
Oklahoma County Planning Department
320 Robert S. Kerr, Suite 101
Oklahoma City, OK 73102
enrutwal@oklahomacounty.org
Phone: (405) 713-1357

Mr. David Barnes
Oklahoma County Emergency Management
320 Robert S. Kerr, Suite 101
Oklahoma City, OK 73102
DBarnes@oklahomacounty.org
Phone: (405) 713-1369

Municipal Project Contacts:

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Position</u>
Town of Arcadia	Marilyn Murrell	Mayor
City of Bethany	Scott Schroder	Fire Chief / EM
City of Choctaw	Robert Floyd	City Manager
	Loren Bumgarner	Fire Chief
City of Del City	Jim Hock	Fire Chief / EM
City of Edmond	Matt Stillwell	EM Director
	Mike Magee	EM Coordinator
Town of Forest Park	Chuck Blair	Fire Chief
City of Harrah	Murrel Coleman	Fire Chief
	Michele Cogdill	Finance
Town of Luther	Jason Miller	Fire Chief
	Kim Bourns	Emergency Manager

City of Midwest City	Mike Bower	EM Director
	Kevin Burns	Engineer
City of Nichols Hills	Terry Hamilton	Fire Chief
	Rick Rosecrans	Deputy Fire Chief
City of Nicoma Park	James King	Fire Chief
	Jim Shonts	Emergency Manager
City of Spencer	Nicole Mukes	City Manager
	Jayne Hodge	Fire Chief
City of The Village	Wes Tollison	Fire Chief
Town of Valley Brook	TBD	
City of Warr Acres	Kenny Koger	Fire Chief

Planning Committee meeting documents may be reviewed here:

Project Kick-Off Meeting (Aug. 2011): [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

[Go to Top](#)

Resources and Links

Agencies / Organizations

Oklahoma County Emergency Management:

<http://www.oklahomacounty.org/emergencymanagement/>

Oklahoma County Planning and Engineering:

<http://www.oklahomacounty.org/departments/countyyengineer/countyyengineer.asp>

Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management:

<http://www.ok.gov/OEM/>

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Home Page:

www.fema.gov

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Division:

www.fema.gov/about/divisions/mitigation/mitigation.shtm

FEMA – Region VI:

<http://www.fema.gov/about/regions/regionvi/>

Mitigation Planning

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Planning Page:

<http://www.fema.gov/plan/mitplanning/>

Mitigation Planning Guidance Documents:

<http://www.fema.gov/plan/mitplanning/guidance.shtm#3>

Flood Insurance and Grant Programs

National Flood Insurance Program:

www.fema.gov/business/nfip/index.shtm

FEMA Mitigation Grant Programs:

<http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/hma/index.shtm>

Regulatory

Hazard Mitigation Planning Laws, Regulations and Guidance:
<http://www.fema.gov/plan/mitplanning/guidance.shtm>

Hazard Information

FEMA Hazard Support:
www.fema.gov/hazard/index.shtm
National Weather Service – National:
<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>
National Weather Service Forecast Office – Norman, OK:
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/oun/>

Preparedness

FEMA Citizen Preparedness:
www.ready.gov
NOAA NWS StormReady:
<http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/>
NFPA FireWise:
<http://www.firewise.org/>

[Go to Top](#)