

## **Purpose**

The primary purpose of this multi-hazard mitigation plan is to guide hazard mitigation planning to better protect the people and property of the Town/Village of Harrison from the effects of hazard events. It demonstrates the Town/Village's commitment to reducing risks from hazards and serves as a tool to help decision makers direct mitigation activities and resources. A secondary purpose is to make the Town/Village of Harrison eligible for federal disaster assistance, specifically, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program as well as any other State or local government programs which may require as a pre-requisite the, the existence of such a plan.

## **Background and Scope**

Each year in the United States, natural disasters take the lives of hundreds of people and injure thousands more. Nationwide, taxpayers pay billions of dollars annually to help communities, organizations, businesses, and individuals recover from disasters. These monies only partially reflect the true cost of disasters, because additional expenses to insurance companies and nongovernmental organizations are not reimbursed by tax dollars. Many natural disasters are predictable, and much of the damage caused by these events can be alleviated or even eliminated.

Hazard mitigation is defined by FEMA as "any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to human life and property from a hazard event." The results of a three-year, congressionally mandated independent study to assess future savings from mitigation activities provides evidence that mitigation activities are highly cost-effective. On average, each dollar spent on mitigation saves society an average of \$4 in avoided future losses in addition to saving lives and preventing injuries (National Institute of Building Science Multi-Hazard Mitigation Council 2005).

Hazard mitigation planning is the process through which natural hazards that threaten communities are identified, likely impacts of those hazards are determined, mitigation goals are set, and appropriate strategies to lessen impacts are determined, prioritized, and implemented. This plan documents the Town/Village of Harrison's natural hazards mitigation planning process, identifies relevant natural hazards and risks, and identifies the strategy to be used to decrease its vulnerability and increase its resiliency and sustainability.

The Town/Village of Harrison Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan is a multi-jurisdiction plan that covers the incorporated co-terminus community of the Town / Village of Harrison. It documents the Town/Village's natural hazards mitigation planning process, identifies natural hazards and associated risks to the city, and develops a hazards mitigation strategy to lessen vulnerability and improve resiliency to natural disasters, thereby enhancing the Town/Village's long-term sustainability. The Town/Village prepared this multi-hazard mitigation plan pursuant to the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390) and the implementing regulations set forth by the Interim

Final Rule published in the Federal Register on February 26, 2002 (44 CFR §201.6). (Hereafter, these requirements and regulations will be referred to collectively as the DMA.)

While the act emphasized the need for mitigation plans and more coordinated mitigation planning and implementation efforts, the regulations established the requirements that local hazard mitigation plans must meet in order for a local jurisdiction to be eligible for certain federal disaster assistance and hazard mitigation funding under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Act (Public Law 93-288). Because the Town/Village of Harrison is subject to many kinds of natural hazards, access to these programs is vital.

This plan addresses natural hazards only. Although the Harrison Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee HHMPC recognizes that FEMA encourages communities to address manmade and technological as well as natural hazards, the scope of this effort was limited to natural hazards for two reasons: 1) many of the planning activities for manmade and technological hazards are either underway or complete and were developed by a different set of organizations and 2) the DMA requires extensive public information and input, which is in direct conflict with the confidentiality necessary in planning for the fight against chemical, biological, and radiological terrorism. The HHMPC determined it was not in the community's best interest to publicly share specific information about the area's vulnerability to manmade hazards. That being said, the plan references certain potential transportation related hazards which exist in the community and look to first responder organizations to further investigate the potential for such disasters in the community as well as develop response protocols under the Unified Command System.

Information in this plan will be used to help guide and coordinate mitigation activities and decisions for local land use policy in the future. Proactive mitigation planning will help reduce the cost of disaster response and recovery to the Town/Village and its property owners by protecting critical community facilities, reducing liability exposure, and minimizing overall community impacts and disruption. Harrison has been affected by natural hazards in the past and is thus committed to reducing future disaster impacts and maintaining eligibility for federal funding.

## **Plan Organization**

The Town/Village of Harrison's Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan is organized as follows, with detailed descriptions provided in Chapter 3.

- Chapter 1: Introduction
- Chapter 2: Plan Adoption
- Chapter 3: Planning Process
- Chapter 4: Town/Village Profile
- Chapter 5: Risk Assessment
- Chapter 6: Mitigation Strategies
- Chapter 7: Plan Implementation Maintenance Procedures

Table 1-1 below shows the key Local Mitigation Plan elements as well as the Section in the Federal Register where detailed information may be found. The Table also shows the respective Chapter in the Town / Villages All Hazard Mitigation Plan where the information may be found.

Table 1.1 FEMA Local Mitigation Plan Review Crosswalk

<b>Plan Criteria</b>	<b>Principal Location In Plan</b>
<b>Prerequisites</b>	
Adoption by the Local Governing Body: 201.6 c (5)	Chapter 2
<b>Planning Process</b>	
Documentation of the Planning Process: 201.6 b and 201.6 c (1)	Chapter 3
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	
Identifying Hazards: 201.6 c (2) (i)	Chapter 5
Profiling Hazards: 201.6 c (2) (i)	Chapter 5
Assessing Vulnerability: Overview 201.6 c (2) (ii)	Chapter 5
Assessing Vulnerability: Addressing Repetitive Loss Properties: 201.6 c (2) (ii)	Chapter 5
Assessing Vulnerability: Identifying Structures 201.6 c (2) (ii) (A)	Chapter 5
Assessing Vulnerability: Estimating Potential Losses 201.6 c (2) (ii) (B)	Chapter 5
Assessing Vulnerability: Analyzing Development Trends 201.6 c (2) (ii) (C)	Chapter 5
<b>Mitigation Strategy</b>	
Local Hazard Mitigation Goals: 201.6 c (3) (i)	Chapter 6
Identification and Analysis of Mitigations Actions: 201.6 c (3) (ii)	Chapter 6
Identification and Analysis of Mitigations Actions (NFIP Compliance) 201.6 c (3) (ii)	Chapter 6
Implementation of Mitigations Actions: 201.6 c (3) (iii)	Chapter 6
<b>Planning Maintenance Process</b>	
Monitoring, Evaluation, and Updating the Plan: 201.6 c (4) (i)	Chapter 7
Incorporation into Existing Planning Mechanisms: 201.6 c (4) (ii)	Chapter 7
Continued Public Involvement: 201.6 c (4) (iii)	Chapter 7

Source: FEMA Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning Guidance under DMA 2000, Part 3. Local Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning Guidance July 1, 2008

## Benefits of Mitigation Planning

This planning process and the subsequent results will provide guidance for the Town/Village of Harrison, involved agencies both public and private and citizens and visitors to better prepare and respond when disasters occur. Mitigation planning along with subsequent reviews and updates allows the Town/Village to remain eligible for Federal, State and Local Mitigation Grant funding for projects designed to reduce the impact of future disaster events. Strategic benefits to preparing and updating the plan include; a better understanding of hazards and potential hazards to which the Town/Village is exposed, utilizing funding where the most positive impact on the community is likely to occur, potential savings by partnering with entities having a vested interest in the community, reduced strategic impacts and damages to persons and property, as well as creating a more disaster resistant community.