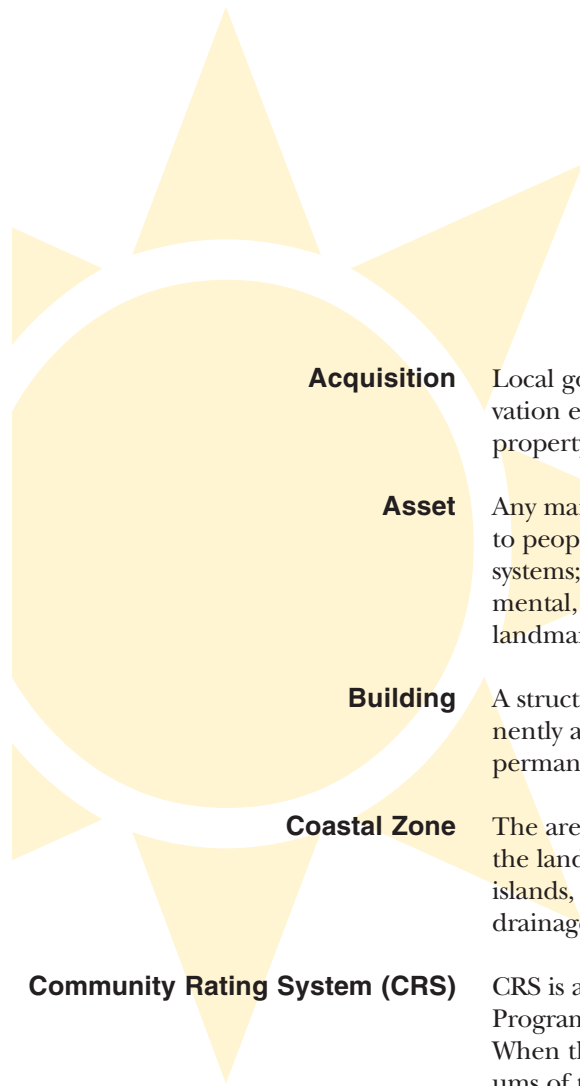


appendices

appendix a

glossary



- Acquisition** Local governments can acquire lands in high hazard areas through conservation easements, purchase of development rights, or outright purchase of property.
- Asset** Any manmade or natural feature that has value, including, but not limited to people; buildings; infrastructure like bridges, roads, and sewer and water systems; lifelines like electricity and communication resources; or environmental, cultural, or recreational features like parks, dunes, wetlands, or landmarks.
- Building** A structure that is walled and roofed, principally above ground and permanently affixed to a site. The term includes a manufactured home on a permanent foundation on which the wheels and axles carry no weight.
- Coastal Zone** The area along the shore where the ocean meets the land as the surface of the land rises above the ocean. This land/water interface includes barrier islands, estuaries, beaches, coastal wetlands, and land areas having direct drainage to the ocean.
- Community Rating System (CRS)** CRS is a program that provides incentives for National Flood Insurance Program communities to complete activities that reduce flood hazard risk. When the community completes specified activities, the insurance premiums of the policyholders in those communities are reduced.
- Contour** A line of equal ground elevation on a topographic (contour) map.
- Debris** The scattered remains of assets broken or destroyed in a hazard event. Debris caused by a wind or water hazard event can cause additional damage to other assets.
- Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000)** DMA 2000 (Public Law 106-390) is the latest legislation to improve the planning process. It was signed into law on October 10, 2000. This new legislation reinforces the importance of mitigation planning and emphasizes planning for disasters before they occur.
- Earthquake** A sudden motion or trembling that is caused by a release of strain accumulated within or along the edge of earth's tectonic plates.
- Erosion** Wearing away of the land surface by detachment and movement of soil and rock fragments, during a flood or storm or over a period of years, through the action of wind, water, or other geologic processes.
- Extent** The size of an area affected by a hazard or hazard event.
- Fault** A fracture in the continuity of a rock formation caused by a shifting or dislodging of the earth's crust, in which adjacent surfaces are differentially displaced parallel to the plane of fracture.



Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	Independent agency created in 1979 to provide a single point of accountability for all federal activities related to disaster mitigation and emergency preparedness, response, and recovery.
Flood Depth	Height of the flood water surface above the ground surface.
Flood Hazard Area	The area shown to be inundated by a flood of a given magnitude on a map.
Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM)	Map of a community, prepared by FEMA, shows both the special flood hazard areas and the risk premium zones applicable to the community under the National Flood Insurance Program.
Flood Zone	A geographical area shown on a FIRM that reflects the severity or type of flooding in the area.
Floodplain	Any land area, including watercourse, susceptible to partial or complete inundation by water from any source.
Hazard	A source of potential danger or adverse condition.
Hazard Event	A specific occurrence of a particular type of hazard.
Hazard Identification	The process of identifying hazards that threaten an area.
Hazard Mitigation	Sustained actions taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk from hazards and their effects.
HAZUS (Hazards U.S.)	A GIS-based, nationally standardized, loss estimation tool developed by FEMA.
Hurricane	An intense tropical cyclone, formed in the atmosphere over warm ocean areas, in which wind speeds reach 74 miles per hour or more and blow in a large spiral around a relatively calm center or "eye." Hurricanes develop over the north Atlantic Ocean, northeast Pacific Ocean, or the south Pacific Ocean east of 160°E longitude. Hurricane circulation is counter-clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere.
Infrastructure	Refers to the public services of a community that have a direct impact on the quality of life. Infrastructure includes communication technology such as phone lines or Internet access, vital services such as public water supplies and sewer treatment facilities, and includes an area's transportation system such as airports, heliports, highways, bridges, tunnels, roadbeds, overpasses, railways, bridges, rail yards, depots; and waterways, canals, locks, seaports, ferries, harbors, drydocks, piers, and regional dams.
Landslide	Downward movement of a slope and materials under the force of gravity.
Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)	LEPCs consist of community representatives and are appointed by the State Emergency Response Commissions (SERCs), as required by Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), Title III. They develop an emergency plan to prepare for and respond to chemical emergencies. They are also responsible for coordinating with local facilities to find out what they are doing to reduce hazards, prepare for accidents, and reduce hazardous inventories and releases. The LEPC serves as a focal point in the

community for information and discussions about hazardous substances, emergency planning, and health and environmental risks.

Magnitude	A measure of the strength of a hazard event. The magnitude (also referred to as severity) of a given hazard event is usually determined using technical measures specific to the hazard.
Mitigate	To cause something to become less harsh or hostile, to make less severe or painful.
Mitigation Plan	Systematically evaluating community policies, actions, and tools, and setting goals for implementation over the long term that will result in a reduction in risk and minimize future losses community-wide.
National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)	Federal program created by Congress in 1968 that makes flood insurance available in communities that enact minimum floodplain management regulations as indicated in 44 CFR §60.3.
National Weather Service (NWS)	Prepares and issues flood, severe weather, and coastal storm warnings and can provide technical assistance to federal and state entities in preparing weather and flood warning plans.
Planning	The act or process of making or carrying out plans; the establishment of goals, policies, and procedures for a social or economic unit.
Preparedness	Actions that strengthen the capability of government, citizens, and communities to respond to disasters.
Probability	A statistical measure of the likelihood that a hazard event will occur.
Recovery	The actions taken by an individual or community after a catastrophic event to restore order and lifelines in a community.
Regulatory Power	Local jurisdictions have the authority to regulate certain activities in their jurisdiction. With respect to mitigation planning, the focus is on such things as regulating land use development and construction through zoning, subdivision regulations, design standards, and floodplain regulations.
Response	The actions taken during an event to address immediate life and safety needs and to minimize further damage to properties.
Risk	The estimated impact that a hazard would have on people, services, facilities, and structures in a community; the likelihood of a hazard event resulting in an adverse condition that causes injury or damage. Risk is often expressed in relative terms such as a high, moderate, or low likelihood of sustaining damage above a particular threshold due to a specific type of hazard event. It also can be expressed in terms of potential monetary losses associated with the intensity of the hazard.
Scale	A proportion used in determining a dimensional relationship; the ratio of the distance between two points on a map and the actual distance between the two points on the earth's surface.
Stafford Act	The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, PL 100-107 was signed into law November 23, 1988 and amended the Disaster



Relief Act of 1974, PL 93-288. The Stafford Act is the statutory authority for most federal disaster response activities, especially as they pertain to FEMA and its programs.

Stakeholder	Individual or group that will be affected in any way by an action or policy. They include businesses, private organizations, and citizens.
State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO)	The representative of state government who is the primary point of contact with FEMA, other state and federal agencies, and local units of government in the planning and implementation of pre- and post-disaster mitigation activities.
Substantial Damage	Damage of any origin sustained by a structure in a Special Flood Hazard Area whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its before-damaged condition would equal or exceed 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the damage.
Tectonic Plate	Torsionally rigid, thin segments of the earth's lithosphere that may be assumed to move horizontally and adjoin other plates. It is the friction between plate boundaries that cause seismic activity.
Topographic	Characterizes maps that show manmade features and indicate the physical shape of the land using contour lines.
Tornado	A violently rotating column of air extending from a thunderstorm to the ground.
Tropical Cyclone	A generic term for a cyclonic, low-pressure system over tropical or sub-tropical waters.
Tropical Storm	A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds greater than 39 mph and less than 74 mph.
Tsunami	Great sea wave produced by submarine earth movement or volcanic eruption.
Vulnerability	Describes how exposed or susceptible to damage an asset is. Vulnerability depends on an asset's construction, contents, and the economic value of its functions. Like indirect damages, the vulnerability of one element of the community is often related to the vulnerability of another. For example, since many businesses depend on uninterrupted electrical power, if an electric substation is flooded it will affect not only the substation itself, but a number of businesses as well. Often, indirect effects can be much more widespread and damaging than direct ones.
Vulnerability Assessment	The extent of injury and damage that may result from a hazard event of a given intensity in a given area. The vulnerability assessment should address impacts of hazard events on the existing and future built environment.
Wildfire	An uncontrolled fire spreading through vegetative fuels, exposing and possibly consuming structures.

