



afterword

The basics of mitigating hazards before they become disasters are similar for both natural and human-caused hazards. Whether you are confronting wind, water, seismicity, terrorism, hazardous materials, or sabotage, you can use the same four-phase mitigation planning process to reduce the consequences should these hazards impact the built environment. While communities of all sizes are increasingly aware of their vulnerability to human-caused hazards, this awareness is of no value unless it is translated into action.

You may not be able to prevent every accident or deliberate attack, but a well planned and effectively implemented mitigation program will help to reduce the consequences of such incidents. Of course, the reality is that natural hazards may indeed present a much greater risk than terrorism and technological disasters due to their higher frequency of occurrence. By using this guide and the other how-to guides in the series, you will be able to identify, prioritize, and implement mitigation measures across the full spectrum of hazards and maximize the efficient allocation of public resources.

