

Local Hazard Mitigation Planning (L/K-318) Training

Purpose and Organization

Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Training is the foundational course for FEMA's Mitigation Planning Program. It is designed to teach local officials, emergency managers, planners and other partners how to develop hazard mitigation plans that not only meet FEMA's requirements, but also are effective tools for community risk reduction.

This training is a comprehensive update of the 2013 G-318: Mitigation Planning for Local Governments course usually delivered by states. This new edition is a standardized, national course to be taught by FEMA, in collaboration with states. Attendees may earn Emergency Management Institute (EMI) continuing education units, and the training is available for both field delivery (L-318) and virtual delivery (K-318).

L-318 is designed to be presented in person over two days. K-318 provides the same material, delivered virtually in four half-day increments. Exact times may vary, but the training provides approximately 10.25 hours of content, not including breaks and lunch. There are eight lessons and introductory and conclusion modules. Additional content tailored for regional delivery or additional remarks and presentations by states or other partners may be included.

Learning Objectives

This course offers a broad overview of the requirements for local mitigation plans to be approved by FEMA and act as effective tools for community planning and risk reduction. By the end of this course, participants will be able to describe:

- The roles and responsibilities of the various partners involved in hazard mitigation planning.
- Organization of the hazard mitigation planning process and engagement of community members.
- Identification of at-risk community assets and hazards as they relate to risk assessment.
- The steps involved in identifying vulnerabilities, the impacts of those vulnerabilities, and the process for assessing risk.
- The process of developing mitigation strategies and actions that reflect the results of the community's risk assessment and capabilities.
- Updates and revisions to a hazard mitigation plan.
- Implementation of a hazard mitigation plan.
- Availability of mitigation funding and assistance.



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Who should take this course?

This course is for local officials, emergency managers, planners, and other partners who are involved in hazard mitigation planning. Consultants who assist in developing hazard mitigation plans may also participate.

Why is this training important?

The number and magnitude of hazard events continue to grow each year. Planning for these events reduces the risk to people and property. Hazard mitigation planning is an essential process for reducing that risk because it helps communities identify specific vulnerabilities and the actions and projects needed to reduce the impacts of events. In the long term, this effectively reduces the cost of recovering from disasters.

L/K-318 explains the required elements of the planning policy. It also expands on a number of key topics that support the [National Mitigation Investment Strategy](#):

1. An increased focus on plan effectiveness. The training not only covers how to write a mitigation plan, but also discusses how to make the plan a living document that can be used for the long term.
2. An expanded discussion of plan integration, or the process of coordinating the hazard mitigation plan with other planning efforts. This explains, in more depth, the importance of integrating mitigation planning into other community capabilities.
3. Updated guidance on grant funding and project implementation, including information on the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) and the Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dams (HHPD) grant programs.
4. More attention to planning for future conditions such as climate change and changes in population and land use. Thinking about these conditions from the planning stage allows communities to anticipate and manage changes.

If you are interested in organizing or requesting the Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Training, please contact your state or FEMA Regional Mitigation Planner or FEMA Regional Training Manager.

Resources and Additional Information

- [Hazard mitigation planning regulations and guidance](#) direct the development of state, local, tribal and territorial hazard mitigation plans.
- The [Local Mitigation Plan Review Guide](#) (October 2011) / [Guía de Revisión del Plan Local de Mitigación](#) (Octubre 2011) is the official guide local governments can use to develop, update and implement their plans. It includes tools and examples. Another useful reference is the [Local Mitigation Planning Handbook](#).
- Visit the [Create a Hazard Mitigation Plan](#) page for mitigation planning resources and information on virtual and in-person mitigation planning training.
- The regulatory section that establishes requirements for local mitigation plans is located at [44 Code of Federal Regulations §201.6 Local Mitigation Plans](#).