

National Risk Index and Mitigation Planning

The [National Risk Index](#) is an online application from FEMA that identifies communities most at risk to natural hazards.

About the National Risk Index

The National Risk Index is an online mapping application that visualizes natural hazard risk metrics based on 18 natural hazards, expected annual losses, social vulnerability, and community resilience. With this tool, you can discover a holistic view of community risk to natural hazards via online maps and data.

Using the National Risk Index to Support Mitigation Planning

Hazard mitigation plans help communities reduce future disasters' effects on lives, property, and the economy. The Risk Index helps communities begin the planning process by illustrating which hazards pose a risk, and what communities have done to resist the impacts. It can also inform community outreach during the planning process. In fact, the Risk Index has already been incorporated into several hazard mitigation plans. The Risk Index website hosts a Best Practices page, where there are examples of how the Risk Index has been used to support decision making, including in hazard mitigation plans.

Mitigation planning regulations require a risk assessment that describes each hazard identified by the community in terms of location, potential magnitude, past events, and future probability. The plan must also describe each hazard's impacts on the community.

When writing a hazard mitigation plan, the natural hazard risk data helps communities meet certain requirements by providing an efficient, standardized risk assessment methodology and free interactive web maps and geographic information system (GIS) feature services. The Risk Index incorporates data from multiple aspects to identify communities more at risk to the adverse impacts of natural hazards. The information in the Risk Index also allows communities to look at the risks from multiple hazards. This tool does not generate the risk assessment portion of the plan, but it supports its development with high quality,



Figure 1: Mitigation Planner Discussion



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comprehensive data that can specifically be applied to mitigation plan requirements for Elements B1 and B3.

Because the National Risk Index is online, it helps and makes it easier for communities to prioritize efforts to increase their resilience. This is especially true in communities that have limited mapping capabilities. The Risk Index can show risk down to the U.S. Census tract level, so showing the location of potential areas that could be affected by hazards is now more accessible than ever.

Get Started

- Visit the National Risk Index's website at fema.gov/NRI.
- Explore the Map: Search different areas and learn more about your local natural hazard risk.
- Learn More: Use the interactive platform and documentation to help better understand what factors make your community at risk to natural hazards.
- Expand Your Analyses: Access and use the Risk Index's data to create your own maps and apps.

For more information, send an email to FEMA-NRI@fema.dhs.gov.

For more information on mitigation planning, visit fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-planning.