

National Risk Index and Mitigation Planning

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

About the National Risk Index

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

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 National Risk Index helps communities beginning the planning process by illustrating which hazards pose a risk, and the community's current level of resilience. It can also inform community outreach during the planning process.



Figure 1. A group of people discussing work around a table with papers.



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) services. The Index incorporates physical and social vulnerability data 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 risk from multiple hazards. This tool does not generate the risk assessment portion of the plan, but it supports its development with high quality, 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 Index can show natural hazard risk for the United States at the county and Census tract levels, so showing the location of potential areas that could be affected by hazards is now more accessible than ever.

Get Started

- **Access the Application:** Visit the National Risk Index's website at <https://www.fema.gov/nri>.
- **Explore the Map:** Search different areas and learn more about your local natural hazard risk.
- **Create a Report:** Download/print a summary or compare risks between different Census tracts or counties.
- **Learn More:** Use the interactive platform, data, and documentation to help better understand what factors make your community at risk to natural hazards.

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

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