

# Natural Hazards Mitigation Planning Process

Local governments have the responsibility to protect the health, safety, and welfare of their citizens through mitigation. Mitigation is most effective when it is based on a comprehensive, long-term plan that is developed before a disaster occurs. The purpose of mitigation planning is to identify local policies and actions that can be implemented over the long term to reduce risk and future losses from hazards.

It's important to recognize that the process is as important as the plan itself. In mitigation planning, as with most other planning efforts, the plan is only as strong as the process and variety of stakeholders involved in its development. The plan should also serve as the written record, or documentation, of the planning process.

