

PLAN SUMMARY

The goal of the Lower Platte South Natural Resource District hazard mitigation planning project is to make residents, businesses, property owners, operators of critical infrastructure, and jurisdictions less susceptible to the affects of future disasters by increasing the disaster resistance of the district and the jurisdictions located within its boundary. After suffering the effects of floods, severe winter weather, and summer storms, the District's Board of Directors initiated a multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation planning effort. This process identified the hazards that affect the district and prioritizes mitigation strategies to reduce potential loss of life and property damage from those hazards.

This Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan serves as a framework for saving lives, protecting assets, and preserving the economic viability within the district. This planning initiative resulted in a comprehensive Plan that meets all Federal Emergency Management Agency and Nebraska Emergency Management Agency requirements established in the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. The Plan will help the district and jurisdictions maintain their eligibility for certain future federal funding, especially the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, and an approved Plan is also required to participate in the Emergency Management Performance Grant program and in projects funded under the Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant program.

Jurisdictions within the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District have experienced hazards at varying degrees in the past, and are certainly susceptible to emergency situations caused by hazards in the future. The value of a hazard mitigation plan lies in reducing future emergencies to events. Through implementing mitigation strategies set forth in this Plan, the expectation is for hazard occurrences to result in fewer deaths and injuries to people, and lessened damage or destruction to structures and the environment. Response and recovery costs should also be reduced.

Mitigation is the cornerstone of emergency management. Mitigation focuses on breaking the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage. Mitigation lessens the impact disasters have on people's lives and property through damage prevention, appropriate development standards, and affordable flood insurance. Through measures such as avoiding building in damage-prone areas, stringent building codes, and floodplain management regulations, the impact on lives and communities is lessened.

- FEMA Mitigation Directorate

ORGANIZATION OF THE PLAN

Section 1 – Introduction: This section summarizes the Plan, including the purpose and funding of the Plan and the benefits of using the multi-jurisdictional approach.

Section 2 – Planning Process: This section includes a description of the methodology for the planning process, risk assessment (including the structural inventory), establishment of a mitigation strategy, and Plan implementation. Also included is a list of general plans, documents and other information utilized in the preparation of this Plan.

Section 3 – Risk Assessment: This section contains discussion of the risk assessment for the Planning Area. Discussion on the hazard identification is followed by hazard profiles, historical occurrences, vulnerability assessment and potential losses for the Planning Area and participants.

Section 4 – Mitigation Strategy: This section discusses the establishment of goals and objectives for each participant. Goals and objectives provide a framework in establishing action items, the on-the-ground activities which ultimately reduce the impact of natural hazards. Each action item was evaluated by the participants using the FEMA recommended “STAPLEE” process.

Section 5 – Plan Implementation and Maintenance: This section of the Plan includes a discussion and recommendation of the implementation program and Plan maintenance process. Discussion includes the procedures for monitoring hazards, establishing an advisory panel, conducting annual reviews of the Plan, and the process of updating the Plan in the future.

Section 6 – Participant Sections: Each participant section includes specific information concerning each individual Plan participant. Information found in each participant section provides background information for that participant, including history and development, location, geography, climate, demographics, future development trends, specific documents and information sources used. The risk assessment includes a participant specific hazard identification summary of public input, description of structural inventory, maps and specific risk assessment information related to the jurisdiction.