

Section IX

Monitoring, Evaluating and Updating the Hazard Mitigation Plan within a Five-Year Cycle and Measures Providing for Citizen Input and Review

According to the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 regional planning for hazard mitigation must incorporate a method and schedule of monitoring, evaluating, and updating hazard mitigation processes and results within a five-year cycle. In short, the plan shall be working document and not sit on a shelf unused. In the Central Midlands Region, the CPT will be the leader in coordinating with county risk assessment and hazard mitigation committees to monitor the efforts that local participating governments are achieving to make communities disaster resistant by the year 2020.

Monitoring

Using the Action Plans adopted by each participating local government, each county risk assessment and hazard mitigation committee shall meet each six months to track progress on implementing the action plan of each unit of government. A checklist shall be mailed by committee staff to each government requesting an update on achievements (such as modifying comprehensive to include a section on hazard mitigation) of the past six months. Each unit of government shall also be asked to report on the type, nature and damage of hazard events occurring in the most recent reporting period, e.g., a thunderstorm, winter ice storm, or flood. Some hazards can have localized impact so a twice-yearly report can help determine what has happened and what effect it had on a community. Such events can also indicate modifications that may need to be instituted with Action Plans to ensure that future hazardous events will be less damaging to a community. The first reporting period will extend from January 1 through June 30 of each year and the second reporting period will extend from July 1 through December 31.

Evaluation

At the end of the December 31 reporting period, the CPT (also identified as the Central Midlands Regional Risk Assessment and Hazard Mitigation Committee) shall use the county reports to prepare an annual report for dissemination to the board of the Central Midlands Council of Governments (contracted to prepare the original regional plan) and to the participating units of government in the region.

The report will detail mitigation activities undertaken over the course of the year as well as any mitigation projects that have been completed. Any mitigation success stories will be highlighted. The report will also address the following points:

- Evaluate the goals and objectives to ensure that address current and expected conditions
- Determine if the nature or magnitude of risk has changed

- Evaluate whether the current resources are adequate for implementing Action Plans
- Document any implementation problems such as technical, political, legal or coordination issues with other agencies
- Document agency and other partner participation in reacting to hazard events, and
- Document progress toward involving new local governments in the regional plan as participating jurisdictions.

Copies of the annual report on activities in the Central Midlands Region of South Carolina will be made available to each of the implementing agencies, the S. C. Emergency Preparedness Division of the S. C. Adjutant General, and to FEMA. Moreover, a notice of the availability of the regional plan will be published as a legal notice in a newspaper of general circulation in each county in the region.

The Comprehensive Update

The regional plan will be updated every five years. For the Central Midlands Region, this means that the next comprehensive revision will be started by the CPT in early 2009 and completed by the end of that year. There will be no annual reporting activities in that year. Rather, efforts of participating jurisdictions will be directed toward updating the five-year comprehensive risk assessment and hazard mitigation plan. In the event of a significant disaster or any substantial changes in land use planning or regulations that would impact local government Action Plans, a comprehensive update may have to be undertaken earlier than 2009. The CPT in partnership with county risk assessment and hazard mitigation committees will be responsible for overseeing and conducting the update of the regional hazard mitigation plan. The update process would be similar to that used to develop the original plan and would incorporate opportunities for public involvement.

Citizen Participation

To ensure that the public within the region and the local jurisdictions have an opportunity to make meaningful input into the planning process, the following procedure is recommended for all participating jurisdictions. First, after preparation of a draft annual revision, a notice of review shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation either as a legal or a display ad. Each jurisdiction is encouraged also to run an article of general interest explaining the importance of the plan and its purpose of moving the community towards a more hazard resistant community. The general public will be offered an opportunity to review the annual update for a period of not less than 10 working days prior to its adoption by resolution of a participating local jurisdiction. The time and date and place of the governing body and the proposed action on the adoption shall be advertised either in the measures specified in this paragraph or in an optional additional article or legal notice.

During the preparation of the comprehensive five-year revision of the plan, the public shall be offered an opportunity to attend the meetings of the county committee to give input and also to comment on the action plan of each local jurisdiction prior to its inclusion in the regional plan. A copy of the regional plan shall be made available at the offices of the agency responsible for preparing the five-year comprehensive revision. Notices of the time and date and place of the meeting of the local jurisdiction adopting the plan by resolution be published as an article of general interest news or as a legal notice in a newspaper of general circulation not less than 10 working days prior to passage of the adopting resolution.

Local jurisdictions may take and are encouraged to take additional measures to involve the public in the planning and evaluation process but should take the above listed measures at a minimum to afford the public an opportunity to be involved in the document preparation process.

A sample form used by the CPT and county risk assessment and hazard mitigation committees to undertake the annual evaluation process and annual report preparation should be similar to that included below.

Form for Use in Updating the _____ Action Plan
(Insert Name of Local Government)

Type of Hazard Event*	Date of Hazard Event	Estimate of Hazard Damages**	Activities to Implement Plan	Date Activities Effected	Collaborative Activities to Implement Plan	New Obstacles to Implement Plan	Activities Undertaken to Resolve Obstacles to Plan Implementation

Name and title of person completing form _____

Date form completed _____

Signature of persons completing form _____

*Governmental responses to hazards may be used in defining a hazard event, for example, a city fire department answers a call to put out a wild fire. Units of Governments may use insurance claims to report hazard damages where appropriate.