

## Frequently Asked Questions Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning

### **Question: What is the Disaster mitigation Act of 2000?**

**Answer:** *The federal Disaster Mitigation Act (DMA) of 2000 (Public Law 106-390), commonly known as the 2000 Stafford Act amendments, was approved by Congress on October 10, 2000. This act required state and local governments to develop hazard mitigation plans as a condition for federal grant assistance. Among other things, this legislation reinforces the importance of pre-disaster infrastructure mitigation planning to reduce disaster losses nationwide. DMA 2000 is aimed primarily at the control and streamlining of the administration of federal disaster relief and programs to promote mitigation activities. Prior to 2000, federal legislation provided funding for disaster relief, recovery, and some hazard mitigation planning. The DMA improves upon the planning process by emphasizing the importance of communities planning for disasters before they occur.*

### **Question: What is a Hazard Mitigation Plan?**

**Answer:** *A Hazard Mitigation Plan is prepared by local governments in response to the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390). These plans act as a keyway to federal funding afforded under the Robert T. Stafford Act. These plans meet statutory requirements that include:*

- *Organizing resources*
- *Assessing Risk*
- *Engaging the public*
- *Identifying Goals and Objectives*
- *Identifying actions*
- *Developing plan maintenance and implementation strategies*

### **Question: What is meant by "mitigation"?**

**Answer:** *Hazard mitigation is any sustained action taken to permanently eliminate or reduce long-term risks to human life and property from natural hazards. Sustained action means an action that is long term in its impact. This is an essential component of emergency management, along with preparedness, response and recovery. Disasters can have significant impacts on communities. They can destroy or damage life, property and infrastructure, local economies, and the environment.*

### **Question: Who is involved?**

**Answer:** *The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 has defined a "local government" as:*

*Any Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, or Alaska Native village or organization; any county, municipality, city, town, public authority, school district, special district, intrastate district, council of governments (regardless of whether the council of governments is incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under State law), regional or interstate government entity, or agency or instrumentality of a local government; and any rural community, unincorporated town or village, or other public entity*

*Any local government wishing to pursue funding afforded under FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs must have an approved hazard mitigation plan in order to be eligible to apply for these funds.*

**Question: What is the Planning Team?**

*Answer: A Planning Team is made up of selected stakeholder representatives from within the planning area that will oversee this plan update process. This Planning Team makeup can include the following representation:*

- *Tribal Members*
- *Academia*
- *Tribal Government*
- *State Emergency Management*
- *County Emergency Management*
- *Municipal planning partners*
- *Special District planning partners*
- *Business interests*

The Planning Team will meet regularly throughout this process and provide direction and guidance to the planning team on implementation of the scope of work for this process. The team will determine the goals and objectives for the plan, the public involvement strategy, review the risk assessment and provide input on the assembly of the plan. All planning team meetings may be open to the public if the Tribe so elects.

**Question: What hazards does it address?**

*Answer: At a minimum, the 2014 Updated Tribal Hazard Mitigation plan will review and address the same natural hazards of concern that were addressed in the 2013 plan, all of which could impact the planning area. These hazards were identified as:*

- *Coastal Erosion*
- *Earthquake*
- *Flood*
- *Landslide (Mass movements)*
- *Severe Weather*
- *Tsunami*
- *Wildfire*

*This plan will not address non-natural or human caused hazards. Those hazards will be addressed within the Tribe's Threat Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment. It should also be noted that there are many secondary hazards that are directly attributable to the primary hazards listed above that will be addressed by the plan as part of the analysis of the primary hazard of concern.*

**Question: Will Global Warming/Climate Change be addressed in the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan?**

**Answer:** Yes. Climate change will not be viewed as a stand alone hazard in this plan. But there will be detailed discussion of the potential impact of climate change on all 6 hazards of concern.

**Question: Where are the hazards in my area?**

*Answer: By law, this planning effort must map the extent and location of all hazards of concern utilizing the best available data and science. This planning effort previously identified the natural*

hazards that have the potential to impact the planning area. Updated maps are currently being produced and/or reviewed as part of this planning process. As these maps become available they will be presented to the public via various mediums.

**Question: Does the State of Washington have a State Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan?**

**Answer:** Yes. The State of Washington is also required to respond to the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. In fact, if the state does not have a plan, no local governments within the state are eligible for any of the grants to which these programs are associated. By law, the local plans are to be consistent with the recommendations of the state plan. However, as a tribal entity, the Tribe has the ability to pursue certain grants directly through FEMA, rather than through the State. Completion of this plan by the Tribe is, however, a requirement for program assistance, just as it is a requirement for the State.

**Question: How does it affect me?**

**Answer:** As a Tribal Member or citizen within a participating jurisdiction, you will be able to reap the benefits of the risk reduction actions identified by the Tribe. Sometimes these can be a direct impact to your property in the form of reduced insurance premiums and reduced risk if you live in a high hazard area. Most of the time, these benefits are secondary. By reducing risk exposure, your tribal government does not have to expend as many resources on preparedness, response or recovery from the impacts of natural hazards.

**Question: How will it affect my community?**

**Answer:** By participating in this planning effort and adopting the updated plan, the Tribe will be eligible to pursue funding under many of the FEMA hazard mitigation grant programs. These programs provide millions of dollars worth of grant funding annually for risk reduction measures identified in these plans.

**Question: Why should I get involved?**

**Answer:** The law specifies that this be an “open public process” where the public is given the opportunity to provide comment on all phases of the plan’s development. For purposes of a Tribal plan, the Tribe has the option of defining what it constitutes as ‘public’. As a Tribal Member or citizen of the Tribe, you have the potential to be most severely impacted as a result of natural hazards. When these events occur, homes are damaged, functionality of critical facilities is interrupted, services are interrupted, and the economy is impacted; all having a direct impact on the Reservation. The principal goal of this plan is to reduce risk. The large majority of the risk exposure on the Reservation is privately held property. It is not possible to identify and implement risk reduction strategies without the support of the property and business owners targeted by these strategies. Therefore, there must be public support for these initiatives in order for there to be any successful implementation of the recommendations of this plan.

**Question: What can I do to support this process?**

**Answer:** Participate! When you see a notice for a public meeting, make an attempt to attend. When you see an article in the newsletter about this plan, read it. If you get mailed a questionnaire or have access to a computer to take the survey on-line, please complete it. Review the Tribe’s website periodically to obtain an update on the process. And most importantly, spread the word! Tell your friends, family, and neighbors about this process. This

*plan is very important to the health and welfare of the citizens of Shoalwater Bay Reservation. If you don't understand something, or want to provide input, contact Lee Shipman, Emergency Manager or Beverly O'Dea, Consultant for more information.*

**Question: When will the plan be finished? And... will it be available to the public?**

*Answer: It is anticipated that this plan update process will take approximately 12 months to complete up to submittal to FEMA for their review and approval. The target timeframe for this submittal is May 2014, or sooner! This schedule is contingent upon many factors that can impact schedule and timeline. The timeline for submittal will be continuously updated throughout the process as planning milestones are completed*

**Question: How can I get a copy of the Multi-Hazard Mitigation plan once it is finished?**

*Answer: Once the draft plan is assembled and is considered to be ready for public review and comment, it will be posted to the Hazard Mitigation Plan website. There will be announcements on the Tribe's website and in the Newsletter, as well as announced at various public forums. The plan will be available for review and comment for 30 days. We welcome your input!*

**Question: Who can I contact for questions?**

*Answer: Lee Shipman  
Shoalwater Bay Emergency Manager  
(360)267-8120*

*Or:*

*Bev O'Dea  
Bridgeview Consulting, LLC  
(253)301-1330*