

GLOSSARY TERMS

Applicant

State agency, local government, and any political subdivision of the State, including Indian tribes and Alaskan native villages, that apply for FEMA post-disaster assistance. Also, private non-profit organizations that include medical, emergency (fire and rescue), utility, educational, custodial care, zoos, community centers, libraries, homeless shelters, senior citizens centers, and sheltered workshops.

Community Planning Team

A local planning team composed of government and private sector individuals with a variety of skills and areas of expertise, usually appointed by the city or town manager, or chief elected official. The group uses these skills to find solutions to community mitigation needs and gain community acceptance of those plans.

Community Rating System (CRS)

An NFIP program that provides incentives for NFIP communities to complete activities that reduce flood hazard risk. The insurance premiums of these communities are reduced when the community completes specified activities.

Declaration

Presidential finding that a jurisdiction of the United States may receive Federal aid as a result of damages from a major disaster or emergency.

Disaster Preparedness Improvement Grant (DPIG) Program

Authorized under Section 201 of the Stafford Act. Annual matching awards not to exceed \$50,000 are provided to States to improve or update their disaster assistance plans and capabilities.

Disaster Recovery Manager (DRM)

FEMA official, normally the Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO), who has the delegated authority from the Regional Director to manage authorities under the Stafford Act, including incurring financial obligations.

Disaster Resistant Communities

A community-based initiative that seeks to reduce vulnerability to natural hazards for the entire designated area through mitigation actions. This approach requires cooperation between individuals and the business sectors of a community to implement effective mitigation strategies.

Emergency

Any hurricane, tornado, storm, flood, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm, drought, fire, explosion, or other catastrophe in any part of the United States which requires Federal emergency assistance to supplement State and local efforts to save lives and protect property, public health and safety, or to avert or lessen the threat of a disaster. Defined in Title V of Public Law 93-288, Section 102(1).

Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)

Sets forth actions to be taken by State or local governments for response to emergencies or major disasters.

Existing Construction

As used in reference to the National Flood Insurance Program, any structure already existing or on which construction or substantial improvement was started prior to the effective date of a community's floodplain management regulations.

Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO)

The person appointed by the President, FEMA Director, or FEMA Associate Director for Response and Recovery, who initiates action immediately to ensure Federal disaster assistance is provided in accordance with the declaration, applicable laws, regulations, and the FEMA-State agreement.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

An independent agency of the Federal government, reporting to the President. FEMA's mission is to reduce loss of life and property and protect our nation's critical infrastructure from all types of hazards through a comprehensive, risk-based, emergency management program of mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

Federal Mitigation Officer

The FEMA employee who represents the agency in carrying out the overall responsibilities for hazard mitigation after a declaration. This includes influencing mitigation planning of State counterparts and other Federal agencies, and coordinating post-disaster hazard mitigation actions with other agencies of government at all levels.

FEMA-State Agreement

A binding statement of the understandings, commitments, and conditions for assistance under which FEMA disaster assistance shall be provided. This agreement imposes binding obligations on FEMA, States, and their local governments in the form of conditions for assistance, which are legally enforceable.

Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMS)

The official map of a community prepared by FEMA, showing base flood elevations along with the special hazard areas and the risk premium zones.

Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA)

Provides pre-disaster grants to State and local governments for both planning and implementation of mitigation strategies. Each State is awarded a minimum level of funding which may be increased depending upon the number of NFIP policies in force and repetitive claims paid. Grant funds are made available from NFIP insurance premiums, and therefore are only available to communities participating in the NFIP.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

Authorized under Section 404 of the Stafford Act; provides funding for cost-effective hazard mitigation projects in conformance with in the post-disaster mitigation plan required under Section 409 of the Stafford Act.

Hazard Mitigation Plan

The plan resulting from a systematic evaluation of the nature and extent of vulnerability to the effects of natural hazards present in society that includes the actions needed to minimize future vulnerability to hazards.

Hazard Mitigation State Administrative Plan

The plan required to be developed by the State to describe the procedures for administration of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

Human Services

Supplementary Federal assistance provided under the Stafford Act to individuals and families adversely affected by a major disaster or emergency. Also known as Temporary Housing Assistance, Unemployment Assistance and Individual and Family grants.

Infrastructure Support

Federal financial assistance provided under the Stafford Act to State and local governments or to eligible private nonprofit organizations for disaster-related requirements. Also known as Public Assistance (PA).

Local Point of Contact for Mitigation

The representative of local government who is responsible for mitigation planning activities, and coordinates with State and Federal agencies for pre-and post-disaster mitigation strategy development and implementation.

Major Disaster

Any hurricane, tornado, storm, flood, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm, drought, fire, explosion, or other catastrophe in any part of the United States which in the determination of the President, causes damage of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant major disaster assistance under the Stafford Act, above and beyond emergency services by the Federal government, to supplement the efforts and available resources of States, local governments, and disaster relief organization in alleviating the damage, loss, hardship, or suffering caused thereby. Defined under Public Law 93-288.

Mitigation

Sustained actions taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from hazards and their effects.

National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP)

Created by Congress in 1977 to mitigate earthquake losses by providing technical and educational assistance to communities threatened by earthquakes.

National Earthquake Loss Reduction Program (NEP)

Implemented to supplement efforts made under the NEHRP. The program studies all aspects of the Federal, State, local and other earthquake hazard reduction programs, which are made available through FEMA regional offices.

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

Provides the availability of flood insurance in exchange for the adoption and enforcement of a minimum local floodplain management ordinance. The ordinance regulates new and substantially damaged or improved development in identified flood hazard areas.

National Mitigation Strategy

Introduced in 1995 by FEMA to focus national attention on mitigation. The strategy encourages all levels of government and the private sector to identify potential hazards, and take steps to reduce the risks.

Performance Partnership Agreement (PPA)

The mechanism by which FEMA provides funding to States to develop and maintain emergency management capabilities. The State and FEMA jointly identify priorities for long-term and annual activities, which can focus on mitigation planning and technical assistance.

Preparedness

Activities to ensure that people are ready for a disaster and respond to it effectively. Preparedness requires figuring out what will be done if essential services break down, developing a plan for contingencies, and practicing the plan.

Recovery

Activities necessary to rebuild after a disaster. Recovery activities include rebuilding homes, businesses and public facilities; clearing debris; repairing roads and bridges; and restoring water, sewer and other essential services.

Response

Activities to address the immediate and short-term effects of an emergency or disaster. Response activities include immediate actions to save lives, protect property, and meet basic human needs.

Section 404 of the Stafford Act

Authorizes the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, which provides funding for cost-effective hazard mitigation measures.

Section 409 Hazard Mitigation Plan

Requires the identification and evaluation of mitigation opportunities, and that all repairs be made to applicable codes and standards, as a condition for receiving Federal disaster assistance. Enacted to encourage identification and mitigation of hazards at all levels of government.

Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs)

Those areas designated on a flood insurance rate map that have a one-percent or lesser percent chance of being flooded in a given year.

Stafford Act

Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, PL 100-707, signed into law November 23, 1988; amended the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, PL 93-288. The statutory authority for most Federal disaster response activities especially as they pertain to FEMA and FEMA programs.

STAPLE

An acronym for the criteria that can be used by a community in selecting an appropriate mitigation strategy. (Social, Technical, Administrative, Political, Legal and Economic/Environmental)

State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO)

The representative of State government who is the primary point of contact with FEMA, other State and Federal agencies, and local units of government in the planning and implementation of pre- and post-disaster mitigation activities.

State Hazard Mitigation Team

Composed of key State agency representatives, local units of government, and other public or private sector bodies or agencies. The purpose of the State Hazard Mitigation Team is to evaluate hazards, identify strategies, coordinate resources, and implement measures that will reduce the vulnerability of people and property to damage from hazards.