

What is Hazard Mitigation?

Hazard mitigation is “**any action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from natural hazards**”. We understand that hazard events will continue to occur, and at their worst can result in death and destruction of property and infrastructure. The work done to minimize the impact of hazard events to life and property is called Hazard Mitigation. Often, these damaging events occur in the same locations over time (i.e. flooding along rivers), and cause repeated damage. Because of this, Hazard Mitigation is often focused on reducing repetitive loss, thereby breaking the disaster cycle.

The essential steps of Hazard Mitigation are:

1. Hazard identification
2. Vulnerability analysis
3. Defining a hazard mitigation strategy
4. Implementation of hazard mitigation activities and projects

How Does Region Five Assist with Hazard Mitigation?

The Region Five Development Commission has successfully completed five hazard mitigation plans since 2003, and is currently in the process of updating these plans every five years in accordance with FEMA regulations. Region five assists local units of governments in all areas of hazard mitigation planning, including drafting and submitting a competitive application, establishing a local planning team, facilitating planning meetings, drafting the final document and facilitating the submission and approval/adoption process. Throughout the entire process Region Five acts as both a consultant and a liaison between the local unit of government and the department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

For more information regarding Hazard Mitigation please contact Tad Erickson, terickson@regionfive.org or 218.894.3233 ext. 5