



# CITY OF PORTLAND NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

September 2009

*This newsletter discusses the Portland Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update activity. It has been prepared to inform interested agencies, stakeholders, and the public about the project and to solicit comments. This newsletter can also be viewed on the City of Portland Office of Emergency Management Website at: [www.portlandonline.com/oem](http://www.portlandonline.com/oem)*

The City of Portland Office of Emergency Management (POEM) is updating the City's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) and solicits public participation.

The Portland Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan will identify and update their natural hazards risks, such as flood, earthquake, weather related hazards, wildland fire, and landslides. The plan will also identify the people and facilities potentially at risk and ways to mitigate damage from hazards. The public participation and planning process will be documented as part of the project.

## What is Hazard Mitigation?

Across the United States, natural and human-caused disasters have increasingly caused injury, death, property damage, and business and government services interruption. The toll on individuals, families, and businesses can be very high. The time, money, and resources required to respond to and recover from disasters take public funding and attention away from other important programs.

The people and property in the City of Portland are at risk from a variety of natural hazards that can potentially cause human injury, property damage, economic hardship or environmental harm.

Hazard mitigation projects eliminate the risk or reduce the severity of hazards on people and property. Projects may include short- or long-term activities to reduce exposure to or the effects of known hazards. Hazard mitigation activities include relocating or elevating buildings, developing, implementing or enforcing building codes, using technological tools to minimize the impact of the hazard, and public education.

Above all Hazard Mitigation is the title for actions taken by the public, both individual and organizational, business and industry and governmental agencies that protect our investment in the community, the businesses, the homes and the people that make Portland, Portland.

## Why Do We Need A Hazard Mitigation Plan?

Communities must have a State, FEMA approved, and community adopted mitigation plan to receive a project grant from either the Hazard Mitigation Assistance or disaster mitigation assistance programs. The City of Portland needs to update their existing EEMA approved NHMP to continue

eligibility and access to not only mitigation funds but all FEMA funding.

The rules have changed. The Local government and Flood Hazard Mitigation Plans' requirements were consolidated into one planning mechanism. Additionally the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA), Repetitive Flood Loss (RL) and Severe Repetitive Flood Loss (SRL) programs were also consolidated with the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program under the newly developed Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) program. Each of these programs must use the same application process and eligibility requirements for nationally competitive funding.

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) is a disaster related assistance program. Applicants typically compete on a statewide basis.

## The Planning Process

There are very specific federal requirements that must be met when preparing and updating a Hazard Mitigation Plan. These requirements are commonly referred to as the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, or DMA2000 criteria. Information about the requirements may be found on the Internet at: <http://www.fema.gov/plan/mitplanning/guidance.shtm> under Laws, Regulations, and Guidance.

The DMA2000 requires the plan to document the following topics:

- Planning process
- Hazard identification
- Risk assessment
- Mitigation Strategy: Goals, actions, and projects
- A plan adoption resolution from the community
- State and FEMA approval

FEMA has prepared Planning Guidance which is available at: <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=3336>; and "How to" Guides that explain in detail how each of the DMA2000 requirements is met. These guides are available at <http://www.fema.gov/plan/mitplanning/resources.shtm>. The Portland Hazard Mitigation Plan will follow those guidelines.

We are currently in the very beginning stages of updating the HMP. This newsletter is posted to introduce the project, planning team, and to gather comments from our community residents. Specifically we will complete the hazard identification task, and collect hazard event data to conduct the risk assessment and vulnerability analysis.

