

3. Shifts in development trends	✓
<p>Comments: The continued unwillingness of the Council to adopt hazard-based zoning will continue to be an issue. The reauthorization and funding of the economic development program encourages development in hazard areas. Recent development along the coast has not taken into account coastal storm hazards.</p>	
4. Areas affected by recent disasters.	✓
<p>Comments: Coastal windstorms have continued to erode the hillside surrounding the lighthouse.</p>	
5. The recent magnitude, location, and type of the most recent hazard or disaster	✓
<p>Comments: The spring coastal storm of 2002 was estimated by NOAA to have a 25-year recurrence interval and accelerated beach erosion in several areas.</p>	
6. New studies or technologies	✓
<p>Comments: THORR is currently conducting a study to determine best mitigation methods for retrofitting historic structures in the downtown district.</p>	
7. Changes in local, state, or federal laws, policies, plans, priorities, or funding	✓
<p>Comments: See #3.</p>	

Use the following criteria to evaluate the plan:

Criteria	YES	NO	Solution
Are the goals still applicable?	✓		
Have any changes in the state or community made the goals obsolete or irrelevant?		✓	
Do existing actions need to be reprioritized for implementation?	✓		Staffing at the Department of Public Works is a high priority.
Do the plan's priorities correspond with state priorities?	✓		
Can actions be implemented with available resources?		✓	Need to identify funding for additional staff at the Department of Public Works.

Comments:

None

Summary

In order for the plan to remain a viable tool for your state, tribe, or community, you must regularly review your planning process and mitigation strategy. Communities are rarely static and new challenges will arise during every revision of the plan. Disasters also present a window of opportunity to evaluate the relative success of the mitigation plan. States, tribes, and communities should take advantage of funding that becomes available as a result of these events.

Revising the plan ensures it remains up-to-date and relevant, providing a good return on the time and resources invested in developing it.

The Hazardville Post

Vol. CXVII No. 13 Thursday, January 18, 2007

The Hazard Mitigation Planning Cycle Set to Begin Again

(Part 4 of a 4-Part Series on the Hazard Mitigation Implementation Process)

[Hazardville, EM] A strategic planning meeting to update the Hazardville Hazard Mitigation Plan was held Wednesday at the Town Hall. The Town of Hazardville Organization for Risk Reduction (THORR), continuing in its planning capacity, led the strategy session by explaining to the community the changes the town has undergone since the initial adoption of the plan in 2003.

The first meeting was to review the results of the community per-

ception survey and to discuss the status of the mitigation actions that were prioritized in the town's mitigation plan. Overall, our residents now seem to be more aware of the hazards to which the town is vulnerable, and a large majority of the survey respondents knew what they could do to reduce their own vulnerability," said Joe Norris, lead planner for THORR. "With the exception of the Town Hall seismic retrofit project, we are proud to in-

form the community that our projects are all progressing as scheduled and under budget."

"We promised to make this community a safer place to live and work, and we will continue to strive to achieve this for our community," Mayor McDonald said at a press briefing yesterday. "That promise means we must diligently prepare for and mitigate against the many hazards our community is vulnerable to. Accountability and diligence are key to making this a reality."

afterword

You have a mitigation plan. Now what?

The first plan your state, tribe, or community adopts establishes a baseline from which to measure progress. As you implement and evaluate actions, your knowledge of hazards and how to best reduce your vulnerabilities increases tremendously. In order to effectively monitor your progress, it is important to take advantage of the worksheets provided in the how-to series. Over time, new partners will become involved in the planning process, providing additional reservoirs of experience and support. Since the political and social arenas, as well as the natural environment, are continually changing, you must periodically revisit and update your plan. As your plan evolves over time, you should see a corresponding improvement in your state, tribe, or community's resilience to the damaging effects of disasters.

