



Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development

Natural Hazards Planning in Oregon

<http://www.oregon.gov/LCD/HAZ/pages/index.aspx>

Natural hazards happen.

Disasters occur when they impact people, property, and the environment.

Oregon's Statewide Planning Goal 7, *Areas Subject to Natural Hazards*, directs local governments to adopt comprehensive plans to reduce risk to people and property from natural disasters.

DLCD implements Goal 7 in part by maintaining and updating *Oregon's Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (NHMP)* and assisting cities, counties, tribes, and special districts to draft, maintain, and update their own NHMPs.

A natural hazard mitigation plan describes the hazards a community is most likely to face, identifies their potential impacts on people and property, and establishes a strategy to reduce those impacts.

DLCD can assist with integrating NHMPs into other plans and programs, developing policies and regulations. Through collaboration with state and federal agencies, DLCD can provide access to data, information, and other resources.

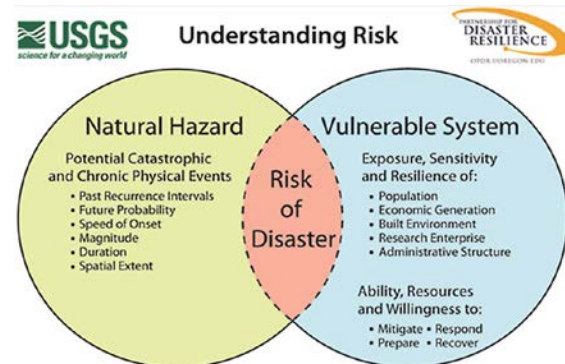
The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides grants for drafting and updating NHMPs. Among other criteria, communities whose NHMPs will expire soon receive priority for assistance from DLCD.

Contact Tricia Sears (tricia.sears@state.or.us) or Marian Lahav (marian.Lahav@state.or.us) for more information.

The *2015 Oregon Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan* identifies eleven natural hazards in Oregon:

- Coastal Hazards
- Droughts
- Dust Storms
- Earthquakes
- Wildfires
- Floods
- Landslides
- Tsunamis
- Volcanic Eruptions
- Windstorms
- Winter Storms

Your community may face some or all of these, or other natural hazards. Over time, climate change may influence the frequency and severity of some of these natural hazards. It may also cause your community to experience a natural hazard that has not occurred there before.



Disasters occur as an interaction between natural systems, the built environment, and social systems.

We can't predict when natural hazards will occur or the extent to which they will affect communities. However, with careful planning and collaboration it is possible to reduce the losses that can occur from natural hazards.

Risk is an expression of the potential magnitude of a disaster's impact. A natural hazards risk assessment involves characterizing natural hazards, assessing vulnerabilities, and describing risk, either quantitatively, qualitatively, or both.

A **hazard characterization** involves determining hazards' causes and characteristics; documenting historic impacts; and identifying the future probability and intensity of occurrence.

Assessing vulnerability involves inventorying the existing (or planned) property and populations exposed to a hazard, and then estimating how they will be affected by that hazard.

Combining the hazard characterization with the vulnerability assessment provides an understanding of the risk of each hazard to a community, region, or the state as a whole.

Why engage in natural hazards mitigation planning?

- To avoid **disasters** by reducing or eliminating the long-term **risk** to human life, property, and the environment from natural hazards
- To **maintain eligibility** for federal pre- and post-disaster mitigation funding for planning and projects

What are the basic NHMP requirements?

- **Review and revise** the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan to reflect:
 - ✓ Changes in hazards and assets
 - ✓ Progress in mitigation efforts
 - ✓ Changes in priorities
- Submit to OEM for review and FEMA for **approval every 5 years**.

What is in a Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan?

- **Community Profile:** Describe the community in terms of geography, land use, housing, economy, demography, transportation, and so forth.
- **Risk Assessment:** Characterize natural hazards. Identify assets. Assess vulnerabilities and potential losses. Analyze risk.
- **Mitigation Strategy:** Set hazard mitigation goals. Assess capabilities. Identify and prioritize actions to reduce risk.
- **Plan Maintenance Process:** Establish a system and schedule for monitoring, evaluating, and updating the Plan.



Natural Hazards Mitigation Plans (NHMPs)

FEMA-approved natural hazard mitigation plans, while voluntary, confer eligibility for hazard mitigation assistance through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program (PDM), and the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA).

The legal basis for natural hazard mitigation planning is found in the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1988 as amended by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. The Code of Federal Regulations (44 CFR Part 201.6) contains the requirements for developing local natural hazard mitigation plans and requires them to be updated every five years.

Comprehensive Plan and NHMP Integration

With hazard inventory information and risk analysis, goal setting, identification and prioritization of mitigation actions, NHMPs provide information for a city's or county's comprehensive plan. Integration of the NHMP with comprehensive plans, emergency operations plans, stormwater management manuals, and other governance documents helps ensure that hazard mitigation will be considered in decision-making processes and development projects, making communities safer and more resilient.

DLCD will be working next with these counties and their cities to update their NHMPs. The work will be funded by a FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant.

Jurisdiction	NHMP Expiration Date
Hood River County	12/16/17
Wasco County	1/15/18
Gilliam County	4/12/18
Harney County	6/7/18
Lake County	9/12/18
Sherman County	2/3/19
Malheur County	5/2/19
Wheeler County	5/23/19