



## INTRODUCTION

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## Local Mitigation Plans

§201.6 Local Mitigation Plans. The local mitigation plan is the representation of the jurisdiction's commitment to reduce risks from natural hazards, serving as a guide for decision makers as they commit resources to reducing the effects of natural hazards. Local plans will also serve as the basis for the State to provide technical assistance and to prioritize project funding.

(a) Plan requirement. (1) For disasters declared after November 1, 2003, a local government must have a mitigation plan approved pursuant to this section in order to receive HMGP project grants. Until November 1, 2003, local mitigation plans may be developed concurrent with the implementation of the project grant.

(2) Regional Directors may grant an exception to the plan requirement in extraordinary circumstances, such as in a small and impoverished community, when justification is provided. In these cases, a plan will be completed within 12 months of the award of the project grant. If a plan is not provided within this timeframe, the project grant will be terminated, and any costs incurred after notice of grant's termination will not be reimbursed by FEMA.

The purpose of the Region 2000 Regional Commission's Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan is to identify areas of concern from natural hazards in the region and describe how these concerns will be addressed through the implementation of mitigation actions. This plan satisfies section 322 requirements for local hazard mitigation planning. Appendix II-1 contains the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA2K) requirements.

Hazard mitigation is any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long term risk to life, property and the economy from a hazard event. In the past, federal legislation has provided primarily post-disaster funding for disaster relief, recovery, and some hazard mitigation planning. DMA2K is the latest legislation to address this planning process. DMA2K was enacted on October 10, 2000, when President Clinton signed the Act (Public Law 106-390). The new legislation reinforces the importance of mitigation planning and emphasizes planning for disasters before they occur. As such, this Act establishes a pre-disaster hazard mitigation program and new requirements for the national Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). States and local governments are required to adopt hazard mitigation plans to maintain eligibility for pre-disaster and post-disaster federal hazard mitigation funding.



In accordance with the requirements of the DMA2K, a multi-hazard mitigation plan was prepared for the Region 2000 Regional Commission. By having the mitigation plan in place, the regional commission will be able to better understand local hazards and the risks posed by them. During plan development, the regional commission developed mitigation activities to lessen the impacts, and to acquire disaster-related grants in the aftermath of a disaster.

The Region 2000 Regional Commission, on behalf of its member jurisdictions, has developed this plan to serve as a guide to its jurisdictions when assessing potential vulnerabilities to natural hazards. When developing this plan, every effort was made to gather input from all aspects of the project area communities to assure that the results of this analysis will be as complete as possible. The planning area for this study includes the four counties, two cities, and five towns that make up the Region 2000 Regional Commission. The hazard mitigation plan only addresses natural hazards at this time, with a brief description of terrorism concerns in the region. Future updates of this plan will address these concerns.

Region 2000 Regional Commission was awarded a planning grant from Hurricane Isabel FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Virginia funds to develop this Plan. The grant application process was led by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM), which provided valuable assistance to the Regional Commission throughout the planning process.

A committee was established to provide input to the planning process. The committee was made up of public representatives, private citizens, businesses, and organizations. Efforts to involve local and county departments, as well as other regional and community organizations that might have a role in the implementation of the mitigation actions or policies, included invitations to attend meetings and serve on the committee, e-mails of minutes and updates, and opportunities for input and comment on all draft deliverables.

The development of this plan is the collaboration of the efforts of state and local governments, emergency responders and public input. The members of the steering committee were able to provide feedback on the development of the mitigation plan. This effort pulls together many community initiated actions and serves as a sounding board for all the jurisdictions within the Region 2000 Regional Commission.



## ***Plan Organization***

The Region 2000 Regional Commission's Hazard Mitigation Plan is organized into six main sections. These sections being:

1. Community Descriptions  
The *Community Descriptions* provides information on the geography and demographics of the region.
2. Planning Process  
The *Planning Process* provides information on the makeup of the steering committee members, meetings for the committee members and public, and the steps taken to complete and adopt the mitigation plan.
3. Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA)  
The *HIRA* provides detailed descriptions and maps on how the region is impacted by various natural and man-made hazards.
4. Capability and Mitigation  
The *Capability and Mitigation* section provides information on each community's rankings of mitigation actions and the capability to implement individual mitigation actions.
5. Plan Maintenance  
The *Plan Maintenance* provides information on the region's ability to maintain and update the plan.
6. References  
The *References* provides a listing of the different resources used in the development of this plan.
7. Appendices  
The *Appendices* provides the figures, tables and reports that are referenced in the body of the plan.