



# Multi-jurisdictional Local Mitigation Strategy

## Polk County, Florida

August 18, 2015

Prepared by the Polk County Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group





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Approved (pending adoption) by  
Florida Department of Emergency Management on  
*August 7, 2015*



Document Prepared with Technical Assistance from the  
Central Florida Regional Planning Council

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Polk County and its jurisdictions and partners face a variety of natural and man-made hazards that could affect the lives and property of the community and its visitors. The development and implementation of the Multi-jurisdictional Local Mitigation Strategy provides a mechanism for the County, its jurisdictions, and partners to address issues that will reduce or eliminate exposure to the impacts of hazards. The 2015 update to the Multi-jurisdictional Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) is a result of a coordinated, cooperative effort of several local governments and partners within Polk County.

The LMS Working Group identified and prioritized project-planning goals following the completion of the updated hazard identification and risk assessment. With the updated analysis, the LMS Working Group worked to identify, justify, and prioritize specific proposals for projects and programs that will avoid or minimize these vulnerabilities in the future, resulting in a Mitigation Action Plan for the County.

The Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group submitted the 2015 Update to the Polk County Multi-jurisdictional Local Mitigation Strategy to the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) for review and approval. The FDEM has the authority to review the Local Mitigation Strategy on behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). FDEM utilizes the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Review Tool, which includes the 2014 Florida Local Mitigation Strategy Crosswalk to review the Local Mitigation Strategy. Appendix D includes Polk County's 2014 LMS Crosswalk.

Once FDEM issues a decision that the updated plan adequately addresses these requirements, the LMS Working Group will vote to adopt the LMS and submit the LMS plan to the participating jurisdictions' governing bodies for formal adoption and approval. Section VII of the LMS Plan includes the adoption resolutions from each jurisdiction. The governing bodies of the participating jurisdictions will consider the final draft Multi-jurisdictional Local Mitigation Strategy for final approval and adoption. Consistent with the normal practices of the participating jurisdictions, which conduct meetings in accordance with Florida's open meetings statutes, the public will have an opportunity to comment upon each jurisdiction's adoption of the plan during public meetings. In accordance with Federal practice, the participating local jurisdictions have one year from the date of State approval of the plan to complete the formal adoption. The following jurisdictions will adopt the final draft of the Polk County Multi-jurisdictional Local Mitigation Strategy:

- Polk County
- Polk County School Board
- City of Auburndale
- City of Bartow
- City of Davenport
- Town of Dundee
- City of Eagle Lake
- City of Fort Meade
- City of Frostproof
- City of Haines City
- Village of Highland Park
- Town of Hillcrest Heights
- Town of Lake Alfred
- Town of Lake Hamilton
- City of Lake Wales
- City of Lakeland
- City of Mulberry
- City of Polk City
- City of Winter Haven

The 2015 update to the 2010 adopted Local Mitigation Strategy is in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requirements. The Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group completed the update with the assistance of local staff and the staff of the Central Florida Regional Planning Council. The 2015 LMS update includes the best available information available at this time. As new information becomes available, it is the intent of the Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group to provide ongoing updates to ensure that this document remains current.

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