

POLK COUNTY LOCAL MITIGATION STRATEGY



HAZARD MITIGATION

HAZARD MITIGATION IS...

- The effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters;
- Emergency management specifically dedicated to breaking the cycle of damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage.
- *A study by the Multi-hazard Mitigation Council shows that each dollar spent on mitigation saves society an average of four dollars.

Between 2004 and 2014 FDEM administered approximately \$811 million for mitigation activities in Florida.

COST-BENEFIT REVIEW – STAPLEE

Since it is often impossible for entities to implement all mitigation actions identified in the LMS due to monetary and other limitations, the LMS Working Group is responsible for prioritizing the proposed mitigation actions. Mitigation plans must prioritize projects with special emphasis on maximization of benefits over costs. A cost-benefit review considers the benefits that would result from a mitigation action versus the cost.

The Polk County LMS utilizes the Social, Technical, Administrative, Political, Legal, Economic, and Environmental (STAPLEE) cost benefit review method. FEMA developed the STAPLEE method and criterion and the LMS Working Group amended the criterion and weighting to address issues specific to the County. These amended criteria require the LMS Working Group to assess each mitigation activity based on the STAPLEE constraints and opportunities of implementing the particular mitigation item in the community. As part of the LMS Update process, the LMS Working Group reviewed the STAPLEE system and recommended the addition of criterion.

CATEGORIES OF MITIGATION

- Prevention
- Property protection
- Critical facilities protection
- Public education and awareness
- Natural resource protection
- Structural projects

MITIGATION ACTIONS

The primary types of mitigation action to reduce long-term vulnerability are:

- Local plans and regulations;
- Structural projects;
- Natural systems protection;
- Education programs; and
- Preparedness and response actions

Eligible types of projects shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- New construction activities that will result in protection from hazards;
- Retrofitting of existing facilities that will result in increased protection from hazards;
- Elevation of flood prone structures;
- Vegetative management/soil stabilization;
- Infrastructure protection measures;
- Stormwater management/flood control projects;
- Property acquisition or relocation; and
- Plans that identify and analyze mitigation problems and include funded, scheduled programs for implementing solutions.

