

POLK COUNTY LOCAL MITIGATION STRATEGY



LMS UPDATE

WHAT IS A "LOCAL MITIGATION STRATEGY"?

The Polk County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) is a multijurisdictional plan that identifies the hazards threatening Polk County and provides an assessment of the relative level of risk the hazards pose. The LMS:

- Provides residents and businesses with information about the risks they could possibly face while in Polk County, such as floods, wildfires, tornadoes, thunderstorms, and hurricanes.
- Outlines short and long-term mitigation goals and objectives and includes a number of proposed projects to minimize vulnerability to these hazards.
- Works to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to human life and property from disasters.

Section 322 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act) as enacted under the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires the adoption of LMS plans in order for jurisdictions to be eligible for federal hazard mitigation grants.

WHY IS THE LOCAL MITIGATION STRATEGY UPDATE IMPORTANT?

- Hazard mitigation reduces the impacts of a disaster and can result in substantial savings in life and property following an event.
- It prepares residents and businesses for the potential impacts of various types of hazards and provides opportunities for receiving federal grant funding in the event of a declared disaster.
- The Polk County LMS is a FEMA approved plan that is compliant with federal regulations. To remain compliant with federal regulations, a review and update to the LMS must occur every 5 years. The update ensures that the plan remains current in its discussion of local risks and risk reduction strategies.

LMS WORKING GROUP

The LMS Working Group consists of several of municipal and community partners within Polk County who provide direction and guidance on the update of the mitigation strategy and projects sent to state and federal partners for funding consideration. As part of the LMS update process, the LMS Working Group meets to discuss ways to eliminate the impact of future disasters on Polk County residents and business owners and property. **All members of the public are encouraged to attend and participate.**

PARTNERS

FEMA requires each local jurisdiction and the School Board to have either its own local mitigation plan or actively participate in the development and maintenance of a multi-jurisdictional plan.

