

Mitigation Action Evaluation Worksheet Instructions

The heart of a hazard mitigation plan is the potential mitigation actions a community may pursue to decrease damages in the event of a natural disaster. In addition to identifying mitigation actions, it is important to evaluate the merits of alternative mitigation actions and the local conditions in which these actions will be pursued. In doing so, you can be confident that the activities you end up with will have public, government, and political support, and will provide the appropriate response to the hazard issues in your community.

Step 1. Identify hazard mitigation actions. Review the attached list of *Mitigation Action Examples*, check the 2006 All-Hazards Mitigation Plan, speak to neighboring communities, and utilize the internet to research potential mitigation actions/projects.

Step 2. To prioritize which actions may be best for your community, use the following list of questions and the attached *STAPLEE Action Evaluation Table* to evaluate and prioritize each of the mitigation actions identified. For each STAPLEE consideration, indicate an H (High), M (Medium), L (Low), or N (Non Applicable). High indicates the project is very beneficial to an entity with regards to the specific category. Medium indicates that the mitigation action is favorable for the entity. Low signifies that the item is not favorable for the entity. Not applicable indicates that the category does not apply in that particular instance.

Social. Will the community accept the proposed action? Is the action compatible with community plans, agencies, and organizations? Does the action adversely affect one segment of the population or community?

Technical. Is the action technically feasible? Does it help to reduce losses in the long term and have minimal second hand impacts? How effective is the action in avoiding or reducing future losses? Will it create more problems than it solves? Does it solve the problem or only a symptom?

Administrative. Does the jurisdiction have the capability (staff, technical experts) and/or funding to implement the action, or can it be readily obtained? Can the jurisdiction provide the necessary maintenance? Can it be accomplished in a timely manner?

Political. Is there political support to implement and maintain this action? Have political leaders participated in the planning process? Is there a local champion willing to ensure success of the action? Have all stakeholders been offered an opportunity to participate in the planning process?

Legal. Does the state, county, community, or school district have the authority to implement the proposed action? Is there a technical, scientific, or legal basis for the mitigation action (does the action fit the hazard setting)? Are there any potential legal consequences? Will the community be liable for the actions or support of actions, or lack of action? Is the action likely to be challenged by stakeholders who may be negatively affected?

Economic. Are there sources of funds that can be used to implement the action? What benefits will the action provide? Does the cost seem reasonable for the size of the problem and likely benefits? What burden will be placed on the tax base or local economy to implement this action? Does the action contribute to other community economic goals, such as capital improvements or economic development?

Environmental. How will this action affect the environment (land, water, endangered species)? Is this action consistent with local, state, federal environmental goals?

Mitigation Action Examples

Bridge Replacement
Road/Bridge Protection
Back-up Generators
Storm Shelters/Safe Rooms
Bury Power and Service Lines
Electrical System Looped Distribution
Elevated Pad Mounted Transformers
Windbreaks
Tree Maintenance Programs
Weather Radios
Emergency Communications (Example: Reverse 911 System)
Warning Sirens
Alert Sirens
Community Rating System (CRS)
Evaluate and Improve Building Standards
Levee Improvements
Stream Bank Stabilization
Grade Control Structures
Remove Flow Constrictions
Storm Water Systems Improvements
Flood Prone Property Acquisition
Floodplain Mapping/Remapping
National Flood Insurance Program
Flood Walls
Anchoring Fuel Tanks
Public Awareness Programs
Infrastructure Protection
Emergency Preparedness Training
Drainage Improvements
Evacuation Plan/ Emergency Snow Route
Watershed Studies
Structural Inventory
Critical Facility Improvements (Example: Lower intake structures at water plants)
Flood Control (Detention, Diversion, etc.)
Dam improvements