

WHAT IS HAZARD MITIGATION?

Breaking the cycle of response and recovery by planning for hazards, increasing preparedness, and reducing the impact and long-term risk to people and property from future disasters.

PROMINENT LOUISIANA HAZARDS

- Coastal hazards (saltwater intrusion, sea level rise, subsidence)
- Dam/levee failure
- Drought
- Excessive heat
- Flooding
- Sinkholes
- Thunderstorms (hail, lightning, high winds, tornadoes)
- Tropical Cyclones
- Wildfires
- Winter weather

COSTS OF WEATHER AND CLIMATE EVENTS IN LOUISIANA

- Weather & climate disasters cost Louisiana **\$310+ billion** since 1980*.
- Most damage occurred from tropical cyclones*.

FUTURE ESTIMATES

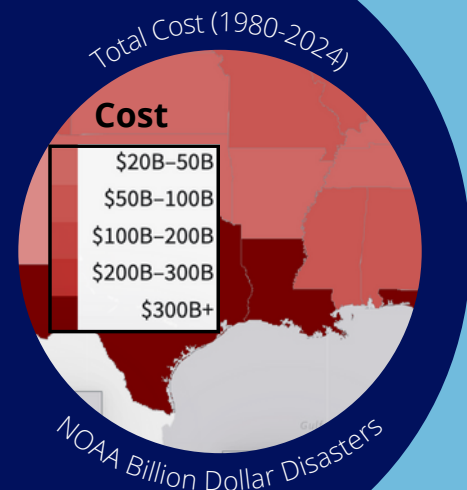
- **\$5 billion/year** in annual losses are projected by 2050, mostly from flooding**.
- Up to **570 million labor hours (\$47 billion)** lost per year by 2090 in the SE U.S.^
- Up to **40% (175%) increase** in electricity demand per year by 2050 (2100)^^.
- **\$50 billion investment** in every Coastal Master Plan project would still leave ~1500-3000 sq. mi. of coastline submerged within 50 years^^^.

*NOAA Billion Dollar Disasters

**2024 Louisiana Hazard Mitigation Plan

^4th (^5th) National Climate Assessment

^^^Louisiana Climate Action Plan



HAZARD MITIGATION PLANS (HMP) AND PLANNING

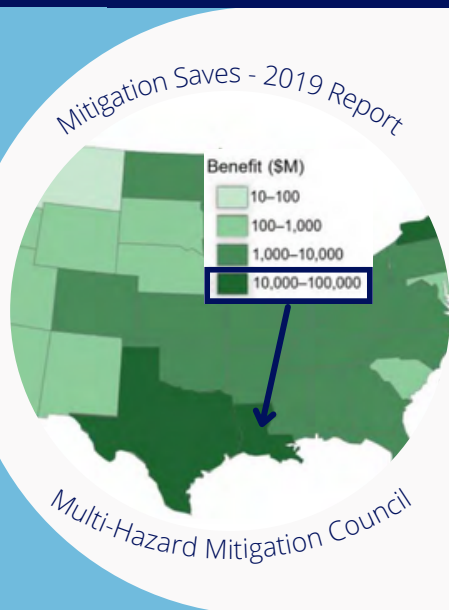
- Reduce vulnerability and impacts to natural disasters.
- Make your community eligible to apply for FEMA hazard mitigation funding once the plan is approved by FEMA and adopted by the community.
- Increase resilience by promoting safety measures and increasing a community's ability to adapt and quickly recover from events.
- Promote community vitality after a disaster.
- Lessen response and recovery after an event.
- Lead to safer communities that are less reliant on financial assistance for future events.



FEMA HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM (HMGP) PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES

- Acquire flood-prone structures to help owners relocate to safer areas.
- Protect homes & businesses with floodwater barriers (levees, flood walls).
- Retrofit infrastructure and utilities to decrease risk of freezing and bursting water pipes, and maintain delivery of natural gas and electricity.
- Construct tornado safe rooms for communities and individuals.
- Improve drainage systems to reduce flooding.
- Strengthen building codes to meet wind-resistant standards.
- Develop and adopt hazard mitigation plans, which are required for state, local, tribal, and territorial governments to obtain federal funding assistance for these projects and others.

HMGP grant opportunities are contingent on funding available through Presidentially Declared Disasters as part of the Stafford Act.



COST SAVINGS

*Mitigation Saves - 2019 Report

- **\$6 are saved for every \$1** the federal government spends on hazard mitigation*.
- Hazard mitigation leads to fewer casualties, injuries, PTSD, and property damage*.
- Louisiana benefits at least **\$10 billion** from federal grants to mitigate for flood, wind, earthquake, or fire*.
- Adopting latest building codes can save **\$11 for every \$1** spent by protecting property and lives*.
- **\$6 are saved for every \$1** spent on adopting latest code requirements for river flooding*.
- Savings in federal and private insurance payouts, indirect damages, household expenditures, and business stimulus.

HAZARD MITIGATION SUCCESS IN LOUISIANA

- **Jefferson Parish:** 23 home elevation projects that were implemented after Hurricane Katrina withstood Hurricanes Isaac and Ida, saving \$2.23 per \$1 spent.
- **Mandeville:** The city implemented a 10-year cumulative substantial damage or substantial improvement ordinance to elevate homes, resulting in far fewer flooded buildings and economic disruptions after Hurricane Ida compared to previous storms.
- **Plaquemines Parish:** To combat riverine saltwater intrusion, they connected water mains with neighboring parishes, built a booster station for the water supply, and upgraded electrical systems at water treatment plants to support reverse osmosis units.
- **Lincoln Parish:** After the 2016 flood, generator projects for critical infrastructure began, aiding disaster response in 2019 after an EF-3 tornado impacted the City of Ruston and LA Tech University. Additional generators will expand emergency power resilience.



NEED HELP WITH YOUR HMP? CONTACT SDMI FOR ANY QUESTIONS.

For more information please contact:

Darrian Bertrand
dbertrand@ou.edu
Southern Climate Impacts Planning
Program, University of OK



Chris Rippetoe
crippe2@lsu.edu
Stephenson Disaster
Management Institute, LSU