FEMA, Hazard Mitigation, and Coastal Resilience

Coastal Hazard Resilience Network Kick-Off Meeting

October 29, 2013

Hazard Mitigation Planning

Washington State Hazard Mitigation Plan

- The Washington State Hazard Mitigation Plan’s Mission is to reduce the adverse impacts and losses caused by natural hazard events. It examines natural hazard risks throughout the state and identifies and prioritizes mitigation activities.
- The Plan is developed and maintained by Washington Emergency Management Division in coordination with the State Hazard Mitigation Advisory Team, which includes many state agencies. [http://www.emd.wa.gov/plans/washington_state_hazard_mitigation_plan.shtml](http://www.emd.wa.gov/plans/washington_state_hazard_mitigation_plan.shtml)
- The Plan is reviewed annually and updated every 3 years. Most recent plan was finalized October 1, 2013 and approved by FEMA. FEMA approval provides eligibility for Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants, as well as direct federal disaster assistance.

Local Mitigation Plans

- Local jurisdictions (counties, cities, special districts) create plans that analyze risk to natural hazards and create a strategy to reduce these risks. Jurisdictions with plans that are reviewed and approved by FEMA are eligible for Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants. Plans must be updated every 5 years to continue grant eligibility.
- Most counties and cities in Washington have FEMA-approved mitigation plans.
- Communities can use hazard data, risk assessments, and project funding to improve their plans and implement mitigation strategies.

Tribal Mitigation Plans

- Tribes throughout Washington create plans that analyze risk to natural hazards and create a strategy to reduce these risks. Tribes with plans that are reviewed and approved by FEMA are eligible for Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants, as well as direct federal disaster assistance. Plans must be updated every 5 years to continue eligibility.
- Approximately half the Tribes in Washington have FEMA-approved mitigation plans.
- Tribes can use hazard data, risk assessments, and project funding to improve their plans and implement mitigation strategies.
- Tribal Mitigation Planning Handbook is being developed and is expected to be released in 2014.
Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Grants

- Three HMA grant programs:
  1. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program - HMGP assists in implementing long-term hazard mitigation measures following Presidential disaster declarations.
  2. Pre-Disaster Mitigation - PDM provides funds on an annual basis for hazard mitigation planning and the implementation of mitigation projects prior to a disaster.
  3. Flood Mitigation Assistance - FMA provides funds on an annual basis so that measures can be taken to reduce or eliminate risk of flood damage to buildings insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).
- Managed by Washington Emergency Management Division
  http://www.emd.wa.gov/grants/grants_hazard_mitigation.shtml

Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning

- The vision for Risk MAP is to deliver quality data that increases public awareness and leads to action that reduces risk to life and property. Risk MAP builds on flood hazard data and maps produced during the Flood Map Modernization program.
- The STARR FEMA Region X Service Center (RSC) website provides information on ongoing mapping, planning, training, and outreach projects in hazard mitigation and floodplain management.
  http://www.starr-team.com/starr/RegionalWorkspaces/RegionX/Pages/default.aspx

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