

Hazard Mitigation Executive Summary



The intention of this Plan update is to serve as a blueprint for coordinating and implementing hazard mitigation policies, programs, and projects. It provides a list of mitigation goals, objectives, and related actions that may assist Calhoun County in reducing risk and preventing loss from future natural and technological hazard events. The impacts of hazards can be lessened and sometimes avoided altogether if appropriate actions are taken before hazardous events occur. By avoiding unnecessary exposure to known hazard risks, communities will save lives and property and minimize the social, economic, and environmental disruptions that commonly follow hazard events.

Hazard mitigation is commonly defined as:

- Sustained actions taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from hazards and their effects. A hazard mitigation plan states the aspirations and specific courses of action that a community intends to follow to reduce vulnerability and exposure to future hazard events.

Calhoun County and its municipalities agree that hazard mitigation makes sense. Through the identification of vulnerable areas and the implementation of measures aimed at minimizing exposure, the negative impacts of both natural and technological hazards may be reduced for Calhoun County.

Examples of strategies for hazard mitigation:

- Tornado Saferooms
- Drainage improvement projects
- Purchase of back up generators for critical infrastructure buildings

The results of the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) as well as the Capability Assessment to develop goals and form strategies, actions, and projects for the county and its independent jurisdictions.

The necessity to meet basic needs and resettle displaced populations immediately following a disaster often overshadows the more abstract, longer-term sustainability considerations.

This trend highlights the need for pre-disaster mitigation planning that incorporates principles of sustainable development within the context of reconstruction, so that communities can more easily rebuild in a manner that will make them less vulnerable to future hazard events while improving the quality of life

