

MITIGATION IN LONG TERM RECOVERY

Mitigation is the ongoing effort to reduce disaster's effect on people and property. This means taking action to reduce or eliminate long-term risk from hazards and their effects.

Federally Declared Disasters

In addition to the assistance provided to individuals and to local and state governments, FEMA may also provide technical assistance and grants for Hazard Mitigation projects and activities when the disaster has a federal declaration.

FEMA's Hazard Mitigation assistance includes:

- Hazard Mitigation Survey Teams who assess the area(s) following the disaster declaration identifying mitigation measures.
- Funding of mitigation projects through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), which can fund up to 75% of the cost of a project. The state administers HMGP.

Eligible applicants include local jurisdictions, states, tribes, and certain private nonprofits that can apply through the state for the HMGP following a presidential disaster declaration.

Examples of projects under the HMGP include:

- Acquisition or relocation of structures
- Elevation of structures/utilities
- Construction activities that result in protection from hazard (i.e. Saferooms)
- Floodproofing of facilities

Home Building and Rebuilding Mitigation Measures

Many LTR groups have found that retro-fitting as homes are refurbished or reconstructed will reduce vulnerability to future disasters.

Some examples of retro-fitting that can lessen the loss of life and property damage include:

- Floodproofing foundations or waterproof veneer for external walls

- Landscaping that will contribute to water management, wind management, and fire management (berms, tree shelter belts, cutting of hanging tree limbs, removal of underbrush/debris/vegetation, etc.)
- Strapping down mobile homes
- Anchoring fuel tanks (heating oil, propane, fuel) whether located inside or outside of the home or buried
- Relocating or elevating electrical fuse and junction boxes to second floor or attic locations
- Relocating all wiring, including sockets and outlets, to a level above the base flood line
- Anchoring water heaters, appliances, and tall bookcases or cabinets to floors or walls
- Elevating appliances in basements (air conditioner, furnace, washer/dryer, water heater)
- Window coverings (security film, shutters)
- Wind-resistant metal ties from roof to walls to foundation
- Incorporating a tornado safe room into the structure
- Installation of adequate backflow valves and sump pumps

More ideas and tips are available on the Mitigation Education/Training “How To” pages of the FEMA website at www.fema.gov/fima/how2.shtm.