

AGENDA NOTE - HRPDC ANNUAL RETREAT

ITEM #8: HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

SUBJECT:

Hazard mitigation: any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from hazards. Implementing regional hazard mitigation goals and objectives will be supported by HRPDC Emergency Management staff upon adoption of the updated Hazard Mitigation Plans.

ISSUES:

Multiple Hazard Mitigation Plans (Peninsula, Poquoson, South Hampton Roads, Chesapeake, Southampton County, and Franklin) were originally created and updated (are in the process of being updated) as required by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 to support eligibility for the National Flood Insurance Program, federal funding for mitigation activities, and funding opportunities from disaster declarations. The updates involved an evaluation and revision of the planning process, capability assessment, Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA), vulnerability assessment, and the plan maintenance section. As such, mitigation strategies were either updated and/or changed to reflect regional and locality mitigation specific goals and objectives to better prepare Hampton Roads for the risks associated with the hazards addressed in the plan.

To achieve goals, a range of activities is needed to focus on improving general public information on the various aspects of hazard prevention and mitigation, increasing the level of regulatory review in regard to new development with hazards in mind, and providing various public improvements through the goals and objectives adopted, which will:

- Help communities become more sustainable and disaster resistant through implementing the most appropriate mitigation actions, based on the knowledge gained in the hazard identification and loss estimation process;
- Allows the region and/or localities to focus efforts on the hazard areas most important by determining and setting priorities for mitigation planning efforts; and
- Can save money by providing a forum for engaging in partnerships that provide the technical, financial, and staff resources with efforts to reduce the effects of natural and manmade hazards.

The implementation process puts your planning team's hard work into motion and focuses on the actions necessary to establish and maintain the effectiveness of the plan as a fundamental tool for risk reduction.

HRPDC Emergency Management Administrator Richard Flannery will provide a brief presentation.

DISCUSSION