

Executive Summary

This State Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP) is the official statement of Nevada's statewide hazard mitigation goals, strategies, and priorities. Hazard mitigation can be defined as any action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property from natural and human-caused disasters.

The standard version of the SHMP was originally submitted by the Nevada Division of Emergency Management (NDEM) and approved by FEMA in 2004; it was updated in 2007, updated and enhanced in the 2010 iteration. Since 2010, the Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (NHMPC), NHMPC Planning Subcommittee, NDEM staff Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology staff at the University of Nevada Reno contributed to the current 2013 update of the Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP).

The Division of Emergency Management created the Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee in 2003 to support the development and implementation of the first State Hazard Mitigation Plan. Initially, members were tasked with directing the planning process and the review and approval of the resulting draft document. Since its formation, the Committee has expanded and currently promotes the development of hazard plans and public awareness of mitigation activities in Nevada's communities throughout the state. Other responsibilities include the review and prioritization of mitigation activities presented by state and local agencies to the Division of Emergency Management and the Division of Water Resources for funding under the Unified Hazard Mitigation Assistance programs, promoting land use regulations and providing technical assistance and data for the development of the state and local planning efforts. The Committee meets quarterly, with special meetings scheduled as necessary. Prior to November 2009, meetings were held alternately in the City of Reno (north) and the City of Las Vegas (south). However, since the beginning of the 2010 calendar year, the NHMPC members agreed to hold meetings around the state in an effort to provide current information about hazards, mitigation efforts, and funding opportunities to the communities hosting the meetings and to learn about the concerns of those communities regarding hazards, capabilities, and resiliency.

The Planning Subcommittee was created to allow greater flexibility for stakeholder participation in the planning process. Representatives from state, local and tribal agencies were invited to participate in the process via email from the Division of Emergency Management on behalf of the NHPC. Invitations were sent in January of 2011 as the 2013 update of the plan began. The Subcommittee invited participation from experts in different fields based on the hazards being addressed. The Subcommittee established a Planning Team to coordinate the data compilation and to implement the proposed updates of the plan document.

The Planning Team consists of four people gathering the information and incorporating it into the draft plan document: the SHMO, a mitigation specialist, a geologist/editor from the Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology, University of Nevada, Reno, and a data processing specialist.

Each draft section was distributed via email and posted on the NHMPC and DEM website for review by the Subcommittee members with a request for feedback and distributed to other agencies with expertise in each of the hazards. Any feedback was incorporated into the appropriate draft section revision by the Planning Team members, which was then

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reposted on the website and sent again via email to members for their review and comment prior to presenting drafts for the Subcommittee to make recommendations to NHMPC. The Subcommittee meetings take place one month before the full NHMPC meetings to allow the review and contribution by the NHMPC members of all updates before approval of the drafts is placed for approval on its agendas. Public comment is possible through the NDEM and NHMPC websites for any and all portions of the plan posted. The mitigation planning process at the state level is continuous; the compilation and sharing of data, integration, and implementation of the plan begins immediately upon submission to FEMA for review.

All sections of the 2013 Enhanced Plan were reviewed by the Subcommittee and the Planning Team; modifications were made to each and every section of the plan with current information, new maps, additional hazard data, tabulation of data, and integration of local plans. The NHMPC reviewed and approved the final drafts of all sections and appendices of the updated plan. The NHMPC is confident of the integration of local and regional planning efforts into the State plan and the capability of the State to implement its strategies, assess their effectiveness and modify those strategies as necessary to accomplish the plan's goals.

The most important parts of the plan are contained in Sections Three and Section Four. Section Three contains the five elements of the Risk Assessment process:

- Identifying and screening the hazards faced by the State
- Profiling those hazards
- Identifying the assets at risk
- Assessing the vulnerabilities and finally
- Analyzing potential losses due to the major hazards in the state

Much of the work of the Planning Subcommittee was spent in compiling this information, which has been expanded with more detail and member input since the last iteration.

Section Four describes the State's mitigation goals and resultant selection of mitigation activities to achieve those goals, which constitute the State's Mitigation Strategy. While the overall goals have not changed since the last iteration, some of the strategic actions have been modified, added, or deleted to correspond with those of member agencies.

The NHMPC and NDEM acknowledge the numerous local, state, federal and tribal groups, agencies and their representatives who patiently provided their time, effort, and resources to make this a truly Enhanced Plan. There are too many to list all contributors without omitting someone whose help was invaluable, so please know that your assistance is greatly appreciated.