

## **MITIGATION STRATEGIES**

This section of the Plan identifies mitigation strategies to reduce the community's risk from natural and man-made disasters. The Working Group establishes the following goals and objectives to guide mitigation efforts and activities within the County to reduce the loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters. The goals and objectives are multi-hazard in scope and are written to meet the needs and capabilities of all communities within Osceola County.

Each goal provides objectives that define specific mitigation results that guide the development and implementation of proposed mitigation initiatives.

### ***Goals & Objectives***

#### **1. To establish and continue local government capabilities for developing, implementing and maintaining effective mitigation programs by:**

- Making collected data and information needed for defining hazards, risk areas, and vulnerabilities readily available
- Helping emergency services organizations develop preplanning capability to promptly initiate emergency response operations
- Supporting effective use of data and information related to hazard mitigation planning and program development
- Measuring and documenting the effectiveness of hazard mitigation initiatives implemented in the community
- Deriving and utilizing mitigation "lessons learned" from each significant disaster event occurring in or near the community
- Making community mitigation planning and programming assistance available to the community

#### **2. To build toward a disaster resilient community with all sectors of the community working together by:**

- Advocating for resources to establish and implement a business continuity and recovery program in the community for key community organizations
- Establishing and maintaining interagency agreements for local agencies and organizations, where possible, for the development and implementation of mitigation-related projects and programs
- Having governing bodies endorse and implement the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and support community mitigation programming
- Establishing and continuing successful outreach programs, where possible, to gain participation in mitigation programs from key business, industry, institutions and community groups
- Periodically updating the community regarding local efforts in mitigation planning

#### **3. To maximize capabilities for initiating and sustaining emergency response operations during and after a disaster by:**

- Establishing and maintaining policies concerning the relocation, retrofitting or modification of evacuation routes

- Determining evacuation shelter priorities for the funding of shelter retrofit or relocation needed to ensure their operability during and after disaster events
- Retrofitting or relocating local emergency services facilities to withstand the structural impacts of disasters, as funding becomes available
- Providing response capabilities necessary to protect visitors, special needs individuals, and the homeless from a disaster's health and safety impacts as resources permit
- Retrofitting or relocating shelters or structures for vehicles and equipment needed for emergency services operations to withstand the impacts of disasters as funds become available
- Retrofitting or relocating utility and communications systems supporting emergency services operations to withstand the impacts of disasters as funds become available
- Prioritizing routes to and from key critical facilities and evacuation routes for accessibility

**4. To minimize disruption to the continuity of local government operations by:**

- Retrofitting or relocating buildings and other facilities used for the routine operations of government, where possible, to withstand the impacts of disasters
- Preparing community redevelopment plans to guide decision-making and resource allocation by local government in the aftermath of a disaster
- Working to protect important local government records and documents from the impacts of disasters
- Updating plans and identifying resources to facilitate reestablishing local government operations after a disaster
- Obtaining redundant equipment, facilities, and/or supplies, as needed funding becomes available, to facilitate reestablishing local government operations after a disaster

**5. To minimize threats of disasters to the health, safety and welfare of the community's residents and visitors by:**

- Establishing and maintaining systems for notifying the public at risk and providing emergency instruction during disasters
- Supporting effective structural measures to protect residential areas from the physical impacts of disasters
- Seeking to reduce the vulnerability of facilities in the community posing an extra health or safety risk when damaged or disrupted by the impact of a disaster
- Encouraging the retrofit or relocation of public and private medical and health care facilities in the community to withstand the impact of disasters
- Removing or relocating residential structures from defined hazard areas where feasible
- Encouraging the retrofit of residential structures by their owners to withstand the physical impacts of disasters
- Reducing the vulnerability of structures, facilities and systems serving visitors to the community in order to meet their immediate health and safety needs

- Providing resources, equipment and supplies to meet community health and safety needs after a disaster

**6. To support effective hazard mitigation programming through establishment and implementation of applicable local government policies and regulations by:**

- Identifying local government facilities that could be enhanced by mitigation techniques to minimize physical or operational vulnerability to disasters
- Reviewing and where appropriate, revising land use policies, plans and regulations in order to discourage or prohibit inappropriate location of structures or infrastructure components in areas of higher risk
- Ensuring that hazard mitigation needs and programs are given appropriate emphasis in resource allocation and decision-making
- Establishing and enforcing building and land development codes that are effective in addressing the hazards threatening the community
- Avoiding high hazard natural areas for new or continuing development
- Participating in and supporting the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and the associated Community Rating System (CRS)
- Locating new local government facilities outside of identified high hazard areas and/or designing them in a manner that minimizes their vulnerability to the impacts of such hazards
- Encouraging the use of appropriate hazard mitigation techniques in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of structures and utilities in the community
- Promoting private property maintenance that is consistent with minimizing vulnerabilities to disaster

**7. To minimize the vulnerability of homes, institutions and places of employment to the effects of disaster by:**

- Identifying funding and providing economic incentive programs for the general public, businesses and industry to implement structural and non-structural mitigation measures
- Supporting key employers in the community in the implementation of important mitigation measures for their facilities and systems
- Assisting with the removal, relocation or retrofitting of vulnerable structures and utilities in hazard areas including schools, libraries, museums, and other institutions important to the daily lives of the community

**8. To minimize the threat to the economic vitality of the community from a disaster by:**

- Strengthening where feasible components of the infrastructure needed by the community's businesses and industries from the impact of disaster
- Developing emergency response and disaster recovery plans that consider the needs of key employers in the community
- Encouraging community businesses and industries to make their facilities and operations more disaster resistant
- Helping to establish and maintain programs, facilities and resources to support the

resumption of business activities by local businesses and industry impacted by disasters

- Educating the public regarding the condition and functioning of the community in the aftermath of a disaster

**9. To minimize disruption to the community's infrastructure from a disaster by:**

- Encouraging hazard mitigation programming by private sector organizations owning or operating key community utilities including major energy sources, and telecommunications
- Supporting routine maintenance of the community's infrastructure to minimize the potential for system failure
- Strengthening transportation and utility services in the community to reduce failures

**10. To promote community awareness and education by:**

- Encouraging interested individuals to participate in hazard mitigation planning and training activities
- Providing public education, especially to those living or working in defined hazard areas, about their vulnerability to disasters and effective mitigation techniques
- Offering training to managers of public facilities about hazard mitigation techniques and the components of the community's mitigation plan
- Providing technical training in mitigation planning and programming to appropriate local government employees
- Encouraging information sharing about appropriate hazard mitigation techniques among owners and operators of businesses and industries in the community