



2025

Harris County

Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

STAFF BRIEFING DOCUMENT

Today we ask that the **Name of Governing Body** adopt the Harris County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Each jurisdiction participating in the plan must formally adopt it in order to maintain eligibility for funding under Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hazard mitigation grant programs.

Hazard mitigation is the use of long-term and short-term policies, programs, projects, and other activities to minimize the loss of life, injury, and property damage that can result from a disaster. Hazard mitigation is the first step in reducing risk and is the most effective way to reduce costs associated with hazards. This hazard mitigation plan examines our vulnerability to identified hazards and outlines actions that we can take to mitigate those hazards.

This 2025 update to the plan was coordinated with 42 planning partners in the County. The process started in March of 2024 when we were invited by Harris County to participate in the planning process. The plan has been reviewed and was recently approved by both the Texas Division of Emergency Management and FEMA.

The hazards examined in the plan include the following:

- Coastal erosion
- Dam/levee failure
- Drought
- Earthquake
- Energy pipeline failure
- Extreme cold
- Extreme heat
- Flood
- Hurricane/coastal storms
- Mass movement
- Public health emergency
- Severe weather
- Technology failure
- Toxic release/hazardous materials incident
- Tsunami
- Utility failure
- Wildfire

The risk and vulnerability associated with each of these hazards were determined for each participating jurisdiction, based on past events, past and predicted future losses, and the expected probability of future occurrence. From this data we were able to identify actions that can be taken to mitigate the hazards. Our annex to the plan identifies our risk and vulnerability to the hazards and actions we can take to mitigate them.

The following goals were established for the 2025 hazard mitigation plan update:

1. Improve and coordinate data collection efforts to fully maximize mitigation capabilities.
2. Enhance public outreach strategies to improve information sharing regarding hazards, including risk reduction strategies.
3. Reduce the impacts of hazards on people and property and protect natural and cultural resources.
4. Work to improve and coordinate existing local plans, policies, codes, and regulations to reduce hazard impacts.
5. Implement property protection measures to reduce or eliminate repetitive loss occurrences.
6. Investigate and implement a range of structural projects that will reduce the effects of hazards on public and private property throughout the County.
7. Investigate and implement a range of nature-based solutions that utilize, enhance, and protect natural resources and their ability to reduce hazard impacts.
8. Advance hazard analysis and mitigation strategies to reflect interdependencies across infrastructure and community lifelines.
9. Prioritize mitigation investments to inform and support efforts to seek funding.

Maintenance of the plan includes a schedule for monitoring and evaluating the plan annually and producing an updated plan every five years. The plan will be available online at ReadyHarris.org.