

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Purpose and Authority

The purpose of the State of Arizona Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (the Plan) is to provide guidance for hazard mitigation in the State of Arizona. The Plan identifies hazard mitigation actions and projects that have the potential to reduce the loss of life and property, human suffering, economic disruption, and disaster assistance costs resulting from natural and human-caused disasters in Arizona. This Plan also meets requirements of a Standard State Mitigation Plan under 44 CFR 201, published by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Meeting the requirements of the regulations mentioned above keeps the State of Arizona eligible to receive disaster assistance including hazard mitigation grants available through the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, P.L. 93-288, as amended.

This plan was prepared by the Arizona Division of Emergency Management (ADEM), a division of the Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA). Arizona Revised Statutes (ARS) 26-305 establishes ADEM under DEMA via the following:

A. There is established in the Department of Emergency and Military Affairs the Division of Emergency Management which is administered by the department, under the authority of the Adjutant General, subject to powers vested in the Governor as provided by law.

The section goes on to designate ADEM as the State of Arizona entity responsible for emergency preparedness, including mitigation, via the following:

B. The division shall prepare for and coordinate those emergency management activities which may be required to reduce the impact of disaster on persons or property.

C. Through the powers vested in the Governor, the division shall coordinate the cooperative effort of all governmental agencies including the Federal government, this State and its political subdivisions to alleviate suffering and loss resulting from disaster.

2.2 Plan Description

Following this Introduction, this plan consists of the following sections:

Planning Process: Describes the process followed to develop this Plan.

Community Descriptions: Describes the State's geography, population, economy and hazards.

Risk Assessment: Identifies hazards that could affect Arizona and summarizes the resulting vulnerability and risk.

Mitigation Strategy: The State's mitigation commitment to prevent injury to people and damage to property in Arizona.

Local Planning Coordination: Describes the State's involvement in coordinating and guiding local mitigation planning efforts.

Plan Maintenance Procedures: Describes the process the State will use to monitor/update the Plan and monitor mitigation activity progress.