



# MITIGATION Outlook

"taking action today to reduce the effects of tomorrow's disasters!"

Mitigation Office  
Arizona Division of Emergency Management (ADEM)

November 2008

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## MITIGATION'S VALUE TO SOCIETY

### BUILDING SAFER AND STRONGER

Mitigation is the effort to reduce the loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters. A recent study by the Multihazard Mitigation Council (MMC) shows that each dollar spent on mitigation saves an average of \$4.00.

### VALUE TO SOCIETY

Mitigation yields benefits to society and therefore:

- It creates safer communities by reducing loss of life and property;
- It enables individuals to recover more rapidly from floods and other disasters; and
- It lessens the financial impact to the state, local jurisdictions and tribal governments.

There are numerous federal programs that the Arizona Division of Emergency Management (ADEM) administers that

address the effects of natural hazards through mitigation activities.

### MITIGATION CREATES SAFER COMMUNITIES

In any disaster, buildings constructed to a higher standard not only reduce property damage, but can also save lives. Homes constructed to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) standards incur 80% less damage from floods than structures not build to those standards.

### MITIGATION SPEEDS RECOVERY

Mitigation is key to decreasing the time it takes to rebuild and recover after a disaster. By using existing, proven plans and building standards, mitigation allows individuals and communities to lessen post-disaster disruption and rebuild more quickly. Long-term hazard mitigation planning and projects

enable communities and individuals to break the cycle of damage, reconstruction and repeated loss.

### MITIGATION SAVES MONEY

Mitigation activities have been proven to lessen the financial impact on individuals, communities, and society as a whole. Floodplain management actions save the country more than \$1 billion in prevented damages each year.

For more information on Mitigation's Value to Society, please visit [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

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*Important  
DATE!*

## GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR THE FEMA HAZARD MITIGATION GRANTS IS RAPIDLY APPROACHING!

Any jurisdiction that is planning on submitting an application for the FEMA Mitigation Grants **MUST** have the information entered into eGrants **NO LATER THAN November 21, 2008**. All applications must be complete with the required Benefit-Cost Analysis and all supporting documentation attached.

The national review process for favorably considered applications will be in the January-February 2009 timeframe. The grant programs soliciting applications are:

- Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM)
- Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA)

Repetitive Flood Claims (RFC)  
Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL)

If you have any questions, contact Bob Kimmell, Hazard Mitigation Grants Program Manager, at (602) 231-6349.



## REVISED BENEFIT-COST ANALYSIS

FEMA has revised the Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) Toolkit (CD). All FEMA Mitigation Grants require a Benefit-Cost Analysis as part of the application process. In September, FEMA released the new CD and instructional material for this revision. The key point is that the application window for the 2009 mitigation grant programs will be closing on November 21, 2008.

Due to the late release of the revised toolkit, BCAs can be produced on the old version or the current revised version if you have the new information. Please remember, the supporting documentation for the BCA must be attached or the application will be incomplete.

A BCA Course using the new toolkit was conducted on October 15-16, 2008 at

ADEM. Fifteen individuals participated in the training and everyone in attendance agreed that the new version is much more user-friendly and easier to work with.

Please contact Bob Kimmell at (602) 231-6349 for further information on the new BCA toolkit.

## MITIGATION PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



When the Rodeo-Chedeski Fire swept through Arizona in 2002, thousands of fleeing residents found a safe haven in the eastern Arizona town of Eagar. Tiny in size, Eagar boasted the biggest shelter around - the 120,000-square-foot Round Valley Ensphere, billed as the only domed high school football stadium in the nation.

Altogether, more than 9,800 evacuees from Show Low and the Lakeside-Pinetop area poured into the "Home of the Dome," tripling Eagar's population almost overnight. The sudden population increase took its toll on the town's infrastructure. Eagar's three connected sewage ponds nearly overflowed. Had the disaster kept evacuees in Eagar for another week, the ponds could have gone over the banks, Eagar officials said. A spill could have caused a nasty chain reaction of contamination, from nearby Nutrioso Creek, the Little Colorado River and Lymon Lake.

The near-miss convinced Eagar officials they needed to be better prepared to avert any future environmental disaster. They proposed to upgrade their sewage treatment with an innovative solar powered aeration system. This system would increase capacity and continue operating if there was a loss of power.

Their plan became a reality when the project was funded under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). The program becomes available after a federal disaster declaration, in this case, the 2002 Rodeo-Chedeski Wildfire. This federal mitigation program helps fund projects that reduce the long-term risk to life and property from future disasters.

The project cost was \$233,444 in which HMGP provided 75% or \$172,171. This enabled Eagar to install nine solar powered aerators in the sewage ponds and have them up and running by February 2003. According to town officials the upgraded system improved the quality of the effluent and performs regardless of the weather. The solar powered sewage treatment system offered other benefits such as an increase in the capacity of the sewage ponds and reduced energy costs. Also, the solar powered circulators, are more environmentally friendly. In quality, the treated effluent meets "gray water" standards and is used for irrigation.

If another wildfire brings thousands to the shelter of the dome again, Eagar officials say they are confident that a sudden influx of visitors can stay in Eagar safely without pushing the town's wastewater ponds over the brink.



*The Round Valley Ensphere—the only domed high school football stadium in the US where 9,800 evacuees took shelter during the Rodeo-Chedeski Fire in 2002.*



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