



# MITIGATION Outlook

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

Mitigation Office  
Arizona Division of Emergency Management (ADEM)

May 2009

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## THE "OTHER" MITIGATION PROGRAMS

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) mitigation grants which the Arizona Division of Emergency Management (ADEM) administers are not the only mitigation programs around. There are several national hazard mitigation programs developed by FEMA and other agencies that are designed to help communities with their mitigation activities to achieve tangible results in specific areas. The following programs are just a few:

**StormReady:** The National Weather Service (NWS) developed the nationwide StormReady Program which is a program that uses a grassroots approach to help communities develop plans to handle all types of severe weather. The program encourages communities to take a new, proactive approach for improving communication and safety skills needed for local hazardous weather operations. Additional information can be found at [www.stormready.noaa.gov](http://www.stormready.noaa.gov).

**FireWise:** The FireWise Community Program's goal is to encourage and acknowledge action that minimizes the potential losses from wildfires. It also educates communities to prepare for fires before they occur. Additional information can be found at [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org), <http://ag.arizona.edu/firewise> and [www.azsf.az.gov/fire\\_management/firewise\\_communities/default.asp](http://www.azsf.az.gov/fire_management/firewise_communities/default.asp).

## BCA TRAINING

It is important to note that FEMA will only accept the new Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) format which was released in October 2008. Although we have not received confirmation on the dates, the ADEM Mitigation Office has requested training on the new toolkit be conducted during the July-August timeframe. If you did not attend the training held last October on the new version, we highly recommend that you take advantage of this training. You will find the new format easier to navigate and more "user friendly" overall from the previous version. If you have any questions concerning the new BCA software please contact Bob Kimmell.

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**National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP):** The NFIP is one of the oldest mitigation programs around. Communities participating in the NFIP adopt and enforce floodplain management ordinances to reduce future flood damage. According to FEMA, flood damage is reduced by nearly \$1 billion a year, nationally, through communities implementing sound floodplain management requirements and property owners purchasing flood insurance. Additionally, buildings constructed in compliance with the NFIP building standards suffer approximately 80% less damage annually than those not built in compliance. Additional information can be found at [www.fema.gov/business/nfip/](http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/).

**Community Rating System (CRS):** The CRS is a part of the NFIP that helps coordinate all flood-related activities in a community. It is a voluntary program with the goal of reducing flood losses by creating incentives for communities to go beyond minimum floodplain management requirements. The incentives are in the form of insurance premium discounts. The program also seeks to reduce flood losses and promote flood insurance awareness. Additional information can be found at [www.fema.gov/business/nfip/crs.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/crs.shtm).

## FEMA NATIONAL REVIEW

The FEMA National Review of the 2008 Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) programs was held in Washington, DC in February 2009. Arizona has not received the status of our project submissions as of yet, but we anticipate the results any time now. Bob Kimmell was selected to participate on the review panel along with five other individuals from Arizona. The grant review process is an excellent experience which enables the Mitigation Office to have a better perspective and greater ability to advise applicants during the grant application process. The 2009 application window will open in June and several jurisdictions already have potential projects they'd like to submit. Remember, it is not too early to start developing your application!



If you have any questions concerning any of our grant programs and/or the application process, please contact Bob Kimmell, Mitigation Grants Program Manager.

# LOCAL MITIGATION PLANS

The purpose of mitigation planning is for state, local and Indian tribal governments to identify the natural hazards that impact them, to identify actions and activities to reduce any losses from those hazards and to establish a coordinated process to implement the plan, taking advantage of a wide range of resources. Effective Mitigation efforts can break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage.

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA2K) requires all states, Indian tribal governments and local jurisdictions to

have a FEMA approved hazard mitigation plan to be eligible for certain types of federal mitigation and/or disaster funds.

At this time, all 15 counties, six tribal governments and 83 local jurisdictions have FEMA approved mitigation plans, making them eligible to apply for mitigation grant programs. ADEM is currently working with several counties and tribal governments to develop their first plan updates to ensure compliance with the five-year local plan update requirement.

This on-going planning effort is made possible by ADEM coordinated federal grants and ADEM meeting the matching requirements on behalf of the participating jurisdictions.

For additional information about Mitigation Planning, please contact Sue Wood or visit the FEMA web site at <http://www.fema.gov/plan/mitplanning/index.shtm>.



# MITIGATION PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



Roosevelt Lake (west of the Town of Payson in Gila County) was formed by the construction of a masonry dam on the Salt River in 1911, making it the oldest artificial reservoir in Arizona. Many homes were constructed in the 1960s along the southern portion of the lake and many of these homes are subject to repetitive damage from flooding. Roosevelt Estates is one of the communities in this area.

Near the corner of Ash Street and Palo Verde Drive, the geographic low point of the Roosevelt Estates, six homes were flooded by the 2003 monsoon storms; three of them suffered substantial damage, and two of the three were left uninhabitable. This is the area where Campaign and Pinto Creek converge. During that storm, six to twelve inches of rain fell in a 12-hour period. Altogether, 20 homes lost all utilities for one day and phones were out for one week.

As a result of the Rodeo-Chediski Fire, the largest and most severe wildfire in Arizona history, mitigation funds became available through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Gila County applied for and received some of the funds to acquire the three most severely flood-damaged homes and return the lots to a natural state. The cost for purchasing the three homes totaled \$298,388 including appraisals and escrow fees. The savings from damages prevented to these three properties from floods occurring in 2005 and 2006 alone equals more than \$500,000.

Cottonwoods, Eucalyptus trees and native Chaparral grow among the rocks. Additionally, Gila County has placed a permanent deed restriction on the properties, preventing any future development except for public facilities associated with open space or recreational uses.



Silt and debris flowed through this home in Roosevelt Estates during the September 2003 flood.

Roosevelt Estates' Hazard Mitigation Grant Program acquisition. Land returned to natural state where three flood-damaged homes stood at the corner of Ash and Palo Verde.

Photos: Courtesy of Gila County Emergency Mgmt.

## STATE MITIGATION PLAN

Having an approved state hazard mitigation plan ensures a state's eligibility for federal public assistance funds to restore buildings, roads, bridges, etc., damaged as a result of a declared disaster as well as mitigation grant program eligibility. Hazard mitigation plans establish a program to reduce the loss of life and property and disaster costs resulting from natural disasters, focusing on breaking the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage.

The current *State of Arizona Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan* was approved by FEMA December 14, 2007. Planning efforts began in April 2009 to update the current plan to ensure FEMA approval by its due date of December 13, 2010.

The plan update is being coordinated by ADEM and the planning team for this effort is comprised of representatives from various agencies including AZ Dept of Water Resources, AZ

State Forestry Division, State Climatologist's Office, Natural Resources Conservation Service and more. The planning team will be closely reviewing and revising the current plan's Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategy to ensure a meaningful and successful plan update.

The update is expected in draft form no later than June 2010 and will be made available for viewing on our website. At that time, we will encourage and give the local jurisdictions and public time to review and comment prior to the plan being submitted to FEMA for review and approval.

You may view the current State of Arizona Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan at <http://www.dem.azdema.gov/operations/mitigation/hazmitplan/hazmitplan.html> or for additional information contact Sue Wood.



## MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL MITIGATION PLANNING

A multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan is a plan jointly prepared by more than one jurisdiction, resulting in a single plan that addresses the hazards and strategies of all participating jurisdictions. Jurisdictions can benefit in several ways from participating in a multi-jurisdictional planning process, such as:

- ❖ Enabling comprehensive approaches to mitigation of hazards that affect multiple jurisdictions;
- ❖ Allowing economies of scale by leveraging individual capabilities and sharing costs and resources;
- ❖ Avoiding duplication of efforts;
- ❖ Imposing an external discipline on the process; and
- ❖ Creating partnerships and sharing of information between different governmental and/or organizational levels.

ADEM continues to apply for planning grants for counties needing to update their FEMA approved hazard mitigation plan. These updates coordinated by ADEM will be developed as multi-jurisdictional plans, including the county and all incorporated jurisdictions within the county's boundaries that wish to participate. Each participating jurisdiction must adopt the plan to receive formal approval from FEMA and gain or maintain eligibility for federal mitigation grant funds.

For further information, please contact Sue Wood.

## THE MITIGATION STAFF

**Note:** All phone numbers at ADEM have changed to a new prefix. The new prefix is 464-6XXX.

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