

MANATEE COUNTY LOCAL MITIGATION STRATEGY

Mitigation is defined as a method to allay, alleviate, cushion, or prevent. Hazard Mitigation is any action taken to permanently reduce or eliminate long-term effects of hazards. Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) is a plan that a community can develop to promote hazard mitigation and to manage post-disaster recovery. It's a natural extension of the Department of Public Safety and the Division of Emergency Management.

Local Mitigation Strategy requires planning and being prepared for something which is not a daily occurrence. It begins with a "blueprint" through which a community can assess its hazards and begin planning its goals for loss reduction.

The primary purpose of the LMS is to reduce loss of life and property and to lessen the impact of disasters through planning ahead. In addition to possibly saving your life and the life of your loved ones, the strategy includes protecting your property.

An important aspect of Local Mitigation Strategy is that it brings a community together with a common goal. This means all neighborhoods, businesses, municipalities, and County agencies work hand in hand to protect the health and well-being of all the residents of the county.

Why Do We Need Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS)?

By having a plan, we become *pro-active*, rather than *reactive*. We can reduce the cost of disasters by identifying mitigation projects and locating funding to accomplish them. This will get the community "back on its feet" more quickly should a disaster occur.

LMS deals not only with flooding and hurricanes, but with all hazards to which a community might be vulnerable, including natural, technological, societal hazards, and even terrorism.

LMS is not something we do only when a disaster strikes, but rather is an ongoing process which must be a part of everyday business to make our community a better and safer place to live.

Why Develop a Local Mitigation Strategy?

- To reduce loss of life and property
- To find solutions to lessen the impact of disasters
- To minimize disruption to the economy
- To maximize opportunities to retrofit and rebuild
- To have a plan in place to manage hazards to the community before, during, after an event

Pre-disaster planning provides more time, more public involvement, better recovery, fewer constraints, better solutions.

Local Mitigation Strategy ~ A Blueprint to keep you safe.