

## Executive Summary

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According to Title 44 CFR §201.1, 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.



Photo source: Fox News

Hazard mitigation is any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from hazards, Title 44 CFR §201.2. The mitigation activities may be implemented prior to, during, or after an event. It has been noted that hazard mitigation is most effective when based on an inclusive, comprehensive, long-term plan that is developed before a disaster occurs.

This document details the continual work of the Franklin County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Working Group over the past several years to develop the comprehensive planning process and an analysis on the risks posed by natural disasters and their vulnerability, extent and impact to those risks. After reviewing risks and vulnerabilities, the greater community has agreed upon mitigation goals, objectives and measures intended to reduce, or in some cases, eliminate future losses due to these risks.

This local mitigation strategy seeks to accomplish the following:

- ✓ Identify and describe hazards to which Franklin County is vulnerable;
- ✓ Identify and assess the facilities, structures and other assets within Franklin County that are most vulnerable to particular hazards;
- ✓ Set goals and objectives as a strategy to mitigate property against future losses;
- ✓ Based upon these goals and objectives, identify and prioritize mitigation projects that will take advantage of available funding and reduce future losses;
- ✓ Identify potential funding sources; and
- ✓ Promote hazard risk awareness and mitigation education.

Franklin County is threatened by a number of different types of natural hazards (i.e. flooding, hurricanes, tropical storms, storm surge, coastal erosion, tornadoes, waterspouts, severe thunderstorms, wildfires, etc.). These hazards endanger the health and safety of the population of the county, jeopardizing its economic vitality, and imperil the quality of its environment.

Extensive research and analysis has been performed to identify the hazards threatening the jurisdictions of the City of Apalachicola, the City of Carrabelle, and Unincorporated Franklin County to estimate the relative risks posed to the community by those hazards.

With the natural hazard events evaluated and determined, the Working Group (WG) has worked to identify proposed mitigation projects that will avoid or minimize these vulnerabilities and to make the communities of Franklin County much more resistant to the impacts of future disasters. The mitigation projects have been developed and will continue to be evaluated for implementation whenever the financial resources become available.

In addition, the mitigation project list is considered a “living document”. The project list will and should evolve as projects are undertaken and completed, as future disasters affect the county and new needs are identified, and as local priorities change. As the mitigation projects identified in this plan are implemented, step-by-step, Franklin County will become a more “disaster resistant” community.

## Purpose

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 states that if States and local governments do not have approved multi-hazard mitigation plans in place and a disaster occurs, they will not be entitled to public assistance and other federal disaster funding. In addition, local jurisdictions are required to review and revise their plan to reflect changes in development, progress in local mitigation efforts, and changes in priorities, and resubmit the plan for approval every 5 years in order to remain eligible for the mitigation project grant funding.

The Franklin County Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group is comprised of local government agencies, community businesses, County residents, representation from each jurisdiction, and neighboring communities. The LMS Working Group have met each successive year to discuss the mitigation progress and to submit the required annual LMS report to the State.

The purpose of the local mitigation strategy is to identify and assess the natural hazard risks which may face the County and its municipalities and to develop local strategies to reduce the impact of potential future disasters. Through the publication of this 2020 LMS plan update, the WG continues to solicit the involvement of the entire community to make the people, neighborhoods, businesses, and institutions of Franklin County safer from the impacts of disaster events.

## Plan Organization

This Plan is organized into six main sections to address the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requirements for a local mitigation plan, plus appendices. The plan is completed as follows:

### Sections

Section 1	Introduction
Section 2	Planning Process
Section 3	Franklin County Profile
Section 4	Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Assessment
Section 5	Mitigation Strategy
Section 6	Plan Maintenance

### Appendices

Appendix A	Franklin County’s LMS Working Group Meeting Documentation
Appendix B	LMS Projects, Initiatives or Action Items
Appendix C	Franklin County Flood Plain Management Ordinance
Appendix D	City of Apalachicola Flood Plain Management Ordinance
Appendix E	Flood Risk Report
Appendix F	Flood Mitigation Plan
Appendix G	Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)

Note: Throughout the LMS plan, reference to the LMS mitigation projects could be projects, actions or initiatives.