

The Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission is now in the process of developing a comprehensive **All-Hazard Mitigation Plan** for the counties of Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock and their respective municipalities. The purpose of this regional initiative is to create a detailed multi-jurisdictional plan aimed at reducing the harmful effects of natural and human-caused hazards on our communities. The finished plan will be approved by the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Federal Emergency Management Agency and will enable participating jurisdictions to qualify for funding under such federal disaster-based programs as the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).

The hazard mitigation plan will address a wide range of hazards facing the region, including natural hazards such as floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, winter storms and drought, and human-caused hazards such as civil disruption, interruption of communications, utility outages, hazardous materials emergencies, and potential acts of terrorism involving biological, chemical or radiological agents.

By developing our plan as a region and working together on common hazards, risks and solutions, the proposed planning process will eliminate the need for each local jurisdiction to devise its own approach. The planning effort will result in valuable techniques that will enable the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to better understand the vulnerability of our area and evaluate future hazard mitigation projects and policies.

The initiative is made possible through funding from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

### What is Hazard Mitigation?

*Hazard mitigation is defined as any action taken to reduce or eliminate the risk to lives and property as the result of a natural or human-caused disaster. This can include anything from carrying flood insurance to removing homes from the floodplain, or from building a tornado safe room to having winter weather and hurricane "survival kits." All citizens can and should play a part in making America's communities more disaster resistant.*

# Steps in the Planning Process

## CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT



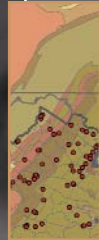
In order to determine the overall capability of the R-RRC region to support a comprehensive hazard mitigation program, local jurisdictions will be asked to complete a questionnaire in conjunction with a series of upcoming workshops. The workshops will be held to solicit needed input from stakeholders in the area with regard to hazards that have impacted them and to document general concerns. Using the information collected from completed questionnaires and workshops, the R-RRC project team will analyze the technical, fiscal, legal, administrative and other capabilities of each jurisdiction. This will help the project team to identify and evaluate existing mitigation measures and practices and to determine new and appropriate hazard mitigation actions for each jurisdiction. A greater understanding of capability will also help guide the implementation of mitigation projects and drafting of new policies. Special attention will be given to any existing state, regional or local plans, ordinances and development guidelines such as comprehensive plans, zoning ordinances, subdivision and site-specific regulations, building codes, flood insurance programs, natural resources, and conservation statutes.

## HAZARD IDENTIFICATION



During this stage of the process, the project team will work to compile data on all relevant natural and human-caused hazards. Hazards that affect the region will be identified based on historical records and other sources of data such as available geographic information systems (GIS). Upon completion of the hazard identification, the project team will provide a list of selected hazards to local government officials for review and comment. Examples of hazards that may be studied in depth include: floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, winter storms, drought, civil disruption, interruption of communications systems, utility outages, hazardous materials emergencies, and potential acts of terrorism involving biological, chemical or radiological agents.

## RISK ASSESSMENT



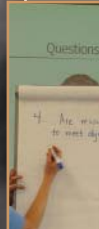
This task will involve the collection and integration of data, including an inventory of assets that may be affected by natural and human-caused hazard events, such as the number of residents and visitors, housing units, commercial property, critical facilities and infrastructure such as roads and bridges. The project team will collect information from national and state databases and integrate it with existing local-level data. The R-RRC will act as the central repository for all information collected and following its compilation will assist in the assessment of the potential impact that might be expected from each hazard using FEMA's Hazards U.S. (HAZUS) multi-hazard loss estimation software and other risk modeling techniques. The resulting information will provide local jurisdictions with enhanced insight into a full range of hazards and the potential impacts, damages and economic losses they may face were such events to take place.

## MITIGATION STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

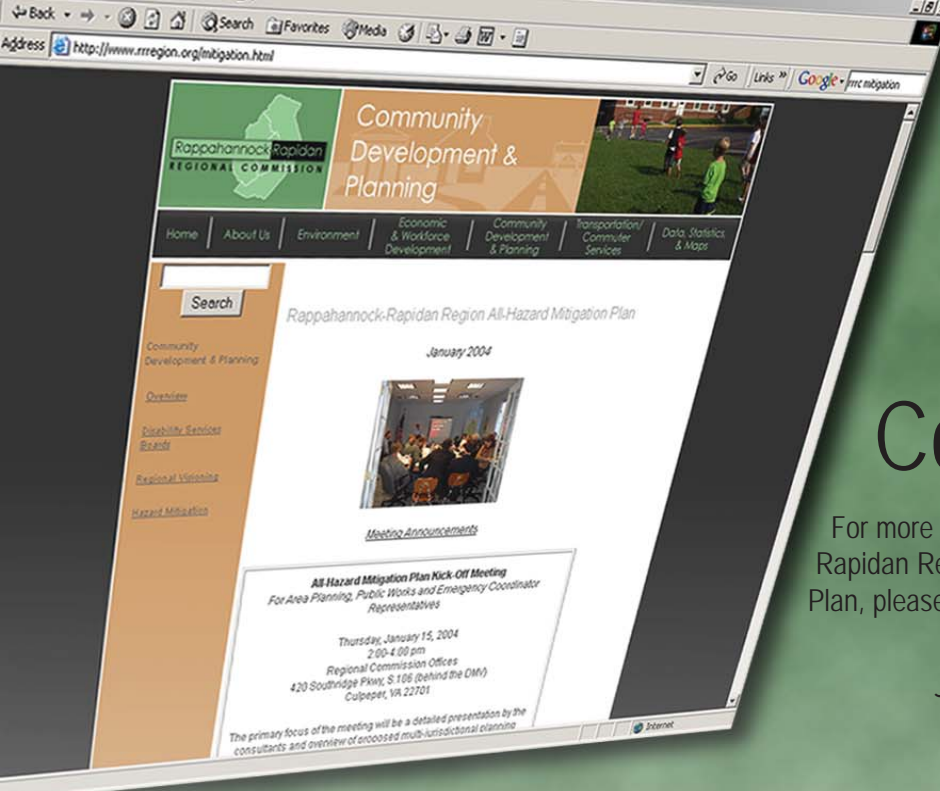


Based on the findings of the initial information gathered during the capability and risk assessment phases, the project team, working closely with the region's planners, public works officials, emergency coordinators and others, will propose an overall mitigation strategy for the area. During this step, goals, objectives and actions to reduce the damage from each hazard will be identified by way of community brainstorming sessions to be held in each county. During these sessions, recommended strategies will be solicited and options presented to assist local jurisdictions in deciding upon appropriate actions and mitigation projects for their communities.

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT



At least two rounds of public meetings will be held during this process to present the progress made and to solicit input from the public. The first round of public meetings will be held to present the findings of the capability and risk assessments and to gather feedback from members of the community. The second round of public meetings will be held to present the final draft of the plan prior to its adoption by local officials and its subsequent review by the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. In addition to public meetings, R-RRC will be soliciting input through a public participation survey that will be available at each public meeting and also on the R-RRC Web site. Public involvement and public commitment to hazard mitigation is crucial to the success of this planning effort. Any thoughts, concerns or opinions voiced by members of the community will be considered in the development of the plan.



## Contact Us

For more information on the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission Hazard Mitigation Plan, please contact:

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[www.rrregion.org/mitigation](http://www.rrregion.org/mitigation)

## Visit Us Online

The Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission has launched a Web page devoted to providing you with information about the hazard mitigation planning effort.

Information available on the site includes an overview of the planning process, meeting announcements and public participation surveys.

Visit us online at [www.rrregion.org/mitigation](http://www.rrregion.org/mitigation).

The Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission (R-RRC) serves the counties of Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock, and the towns of Culpeper, Gordonsville, Madison, Orange, Remington and Warrenton.

One of 21 Planning Districts chartered by the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Regional Commission provides professional planning and technical assistance, a concerted approach to regional cooperation, assistance with program delivery, and a forum for the interaction of appointed and elected local government officials and citizen members.



## Rappahannock-Rapidan Region All-Hazard Mitigation Plan

