

# CITY OF HUGHES HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

January 2009

*This newsletter discusses the preparation of the Hughes Hazard Mitigation Plan. It has been prepared to inform interested agencies, stakeholders, and the public about the project and to solicit comments. This newsletter can also be viewed on the State of Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Website at <http://www.ak-prepared.com>.*

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The State of Alaska, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM) was awarded a Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to prepare Hazard Mitigation Plans (HMP) for eleven Alaskan Communities. Hughes was selected for participation in this effort.

Alaska Division of Community & Regional Affairs (DCRA) is collaborating with DHS&EM and the Interior Regional Housing Authority for preparing community profile maps as part of the hazard mitigation planning process. Examples of the maps can be viewed online at <http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/profiles/profile-maps.htm>.

DCRA is working with DHS&EM, and their contractor URS Corporation, to share information and coordinate map preparation and hazard mitigation plan development efforts. Work on the maps is expected to begin in Spring 2009.

The Hughes Hazard Mitigation Plan will identify all natural hazards, such as flood, earthquake, erosion, wildland fire, weather related hazards and others. The plan will also identify the people and facilities potentially at risk and ways to mitigate damage from hazards. The public participation and planning process will be documented as part of the project.

## What is Hazard Mitigation?

Across the United States, natural and human-caused disasters have increasingly caused injury, death, property damage, and interruption of business and government services. The toll on individuals, families, and businesses can be very high. The time, money, and emotional effort required to respond to and recover from these disasters take public resources and attention away from other important programs and problems.

The people and property in the State of Alaska are at risk from a variety of natural hazards that can potentially cause human injury, property damage, or environmental harm.

Hazard mitigation projects eliminate the risk or reduce the severity of hazards on people and property. Projects may include short- or long-term activities to reduce exposure to or the effects of known hazards. Hazard mitigation activities include relocating or elevating buildings, developing, implementing, or enforcing building codes, and education.

## Why Do We Need A Hazard Mitigation Plan?

Communities must have a State, FEMA approved, and community adopted mitigation plan to receive a project grant from either the Hazard Mitigation Assistance or disaster mitigation assistance programs. The City of Hughes plans to apply for mitigation funds after our plan is complete.

The rules have changed. The Local government and Flood Hazard Mitigation Plans' requirements were consolidated into one planning mechanism. Additionally the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA), Repetitive Flood Loss (RL) and Severe Repetitive Flood Loss (SRL) programs were also consolidated with the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program under the newly developed Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) program. Each of these programs must use the same application process and eligibility requirements for nationally competitive funding.

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) is a disaster related assistance program. Applicants typically compete on a statewide basis.

## The Planning Process

There are very specific federal requirements that must be met when preparing a Hazard Mitigation Plan. These requirements are commonly referred to as the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, or DMA2000. Information about the requirements may be found on the Internet at: <http://www.fema.gov/plan/mitplanning/index.shtm#2> under Laws, Regulations, and Guidance.

The DMA2000 requires the plan to document the following topics:

- Planning process
- Hazard identification
- Risk assessment
- Mitigation Strategy: Goals, actions, and projects
- A plan adoption resolution from the community
- State and FEMA approval

FEMA has prepared Planning Guidance and "How to" Guides that explain in detail how each of the DMA2000 requirements are met. These guides are available at [http://www.fema.gov/plan/mitplanning/planning\\_resources.shtm#0](http://www.fema.gov/plan/mitplanning/planning_resources.shtm#0). The Hughes Hazard Mitigation Plan will be prepared following those guidelines.

We are currently in the very beginning stages of preparing the plan. We will be conducting a public meeting to introduce the project and planning team, and to gather comments from our community residents. Specifically we will complete the hazard identification task, and collect data to conduct the risk assessment.

Our community is located in the Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area, and DHS&EM has previously identified natural hazards that occur in this area that may also occur specifically in Hughes.

