

LOUDEN TRIBE HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Newsletter 1

January 2014

This newsletter discusses the preparation of the Louden Tribal Council 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.ready.alaska.gov/plans/localhazmitplans.htm>.

The State of Alaska, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM) has selected the Louden Tribe for the first Native Alaska Tribal Hazard Mitigation Plan.

DHS&EM is assisting the council with preparing the FEMA approved hazard mitigation plan and their hazard mitigation grant program project application during 2014.

The Louden Tribe Hazard Mitigation Plan will identify all natural hazards, such as earthquake, erosion, flood, severe weather, and wildland fire hazards and others. The plan will also identify the people and facilities potentially at risk and ways to mitigate damage from future hazard impacts. The public participation and planning process is documented as part of these projects.

What is Hazard Mitigation?

Across the United States, natural and human-caused disasters have increasingly caused injury, death, property damage, and business and government service interruptions. 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 takes 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 potentially causing human injury, property damage, or environmental harm.

Hazard mitigation projects minimize risk and reduce disruption to people and property. Projects may have a short- or long-term impact. Hazard mitigation projects include relocating or elevating buildings, replacing insufficiently sized culverts, using alternative construction techniques, or public outreach 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 FEMA's pre- and post- disaster grants identified in their Hazard Mitigation Assistance and other agency's mitigation grant programs. The Louden Tribal Council will apply for mitigation funds through FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Program.

A FEMA approved and community adopted HMP enables the Local governments and Tribes to apply for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), a disaster related assistance program. Applicants typically compete on a statewide basis.

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM), Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA), grant programs are nationally competitive funding programs. These grants use the same application process and eligibility requirements.

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 criteria. Information about the criteria and other applicable laws and regulations may be found at: <http://www.fema.gov/plan/mitplanning/guidance.shtm>

The DMA2000 requires the plan to include and document the following topics:

- ❑ Plan development process
- ❑ Identify hazards specific to the community
- ❑ Identify the population's and structures' risks
- ❑ Define the jurisdiction's mitigation goals
- ❑ List the community's mitigation strategy, selected actions, and implemented projects
- ❑ Provide a copy of the community's HMP Adoption Resolution

FEMA has prepared Planning Guidance which is available at:

<http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=4225>; 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/resources.shtm>.

The Louden Tribe Hazard Mitigation Plan will follow those guidelines.

We are currently in the early 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.

