

### 3. PLANNING PROCESS

This section provides an overview of the planning process; identifies the planning team members and key stakeholders; documents public outreach efforts; and summarizes the review and incorporation of existing plans, studies, and reports used to develop this SHMP. Planning teleconferences, meetings, and outreach support documents are provided in Appendix 13.8.

DMA 2000 requirements and State mitigation plan implementing processes include:

DMA 2000 Requirements	
Standard State. Planning Process	
S1.	Does the plan describe the planning process used to develop the plan? [44 CFR §§201.4(b) and (c)(1)]
S2.	Does the plan describe how the state coordinated with other agencies and stakeholders? [44 CFR §§201.4(b) and (c)(1)]
Source: FEMA, March 2015.	

#### 3.1. OVERVIEW

The State of Alaska, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM) provided funding and project oversight for AECOM to update the legacy 2013 SHMP as well as facilitate and guide planning team meetings and data gathering.

The planning process began on December 19, 2017 with AECOM staff reviewing the legacy 2013 SHMP to determine what information currently existed while subsequently developing a prioritized process to complete the project in the most time and resource efficient process.

The planning team determined that the 2018 SHMP update needed to be reorganized to make the plan more readable by simplifying and streamlining information access, to assess hazard analytics to determine more concise information needs, and to incorporate the most current hazard data with associated maps to better define hazard locations and statewide vulnerabilities.

Therefore, the following seven-steps were completed throughout the 12 month update process beginning November, 2018 and continuing through October, 2018.

1. Organize resources: Engage the SHMAC as the main component of the SHMP planning team along with various interested public and non-profit participants who could provide technical expertise and historical information needed during the update activity.
2. Evaluate and update the legacy 2013 SHMP: The planning team reviewed the plan to determine whether it was used as intended – did it fulfill statewide needs? The team examined how SHMP process decisions affected hazard impacts.
3. Participant agencies were encouraged to provide data as to how their respective agencies incorporated mitigation initiatives and actions into their existing planning mechanisms.
4. DHS&EM contracted with the Department of Natural Resources’ (DNR) Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys (DGGS) to update Alaska’s disaster profiles and reassess Alaska’s risk and vulnerabilities for those natural hazards under their purview.
5. The planning team reviewed the resulting hazards analysis, risk analysis, and vulnerability assessment, prior to and during developing the mitigation strategy, to assure it matched their respective agencies determinations.

6. The planning team reviewed current administrative, technical, legal and regulatory, and fiscal capabilities to determine whether existing provisions and requirements adequately addressed, strengthened or hindered mitigation implementation and plan component integration within existing planning activities and documents.
7. After reviewing the risks posed by each hazard, the planning team reviewed and developed new SHMP mitigation goals and action initiatives.

### **3.2. PLANNING TEAM AND INTERESTED PARTIES PARTICIPATION**

DHS&EM determined the need to engage the State Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee (SHMAC) as the primary planning team for the 2018 SHMP update process.

AECOM extended an invitation to SHMAC members and entities (Appendix 13-6). The January 19, 2017 project kick-off teleconference described the planning process and announced the upcoming SHMP's update requirements. All SHMAC and SHMP planning team related announcements were emailed to federal and state, relevant academia and non-profits on nearly a bi-weekly basis as schedules permitted during the SHMP update process. The following agencies were invited to participate as planning team members and review the SHMP:

#### **State:**

- Alaska Volcano Observatory (AVO)
- Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP)
- Denali Commission
- Alaska Department of Administration (DOA)
  - Division of Risk Management (RM)
- Department of Community, Commerce, and Economic Development (DCCED)
  - Division of Community Advocacy (DCRA)
    - Alaska Climate Change Impact Mitigation Program (ACCIMP)
    - Floodplain Management
- Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
  - Division of Spill Prevention and Response (DSPR)
  - Village Safe Water (VSW)
- Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS)
- Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DLWD)
- Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA)
  - State Defense Force (ADF)
  - Alaska National Guard (ANG)
  - Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM)
- Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
  - Division of Forestry (DOF)
  - Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys (DGGS)
  - Division of Mining, Land, and Water (DMLW)

- Dam Safety and Construction Unit
- Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT/PF)
  - Central Region
  - North Region
  - Southcoast Region
- University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA)
- University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF)
  - Geophysical Institute (GI)
  - Alaska Earthquake Center (AEC)

**Federal:**

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
  - Division of Rural Development (RD)
  - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce)
  - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
    - National Oceanic Service (NOS)
    - National Weather Service (NWS)
      - Northern Tsunami West Coast (NTWC)
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
  - Alaska Volcano Observatory (AVO) *(joint program with UAF/GI & DGGs)*

**Other:**

- City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ)
- Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB)
- Matanuska -Susitna Borough (MSB)
- Municipality of Anchorage (MOA)
- Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium-Community Development (ANTHC)
- Alaska Municipal League, Joint Insurance Association (AML-JIA)
- Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC)
- Alaska Institute for Justice (AKIJ)
- Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC)



### **3.3. LEGACY 2013 SHMP REVIEW AND ANALYSIS**

#### **Legacy Year HMP Lifecycle Planning Team Meeting Recommendations**

44 CFR requires states to schedule SHMP planning team meetings and teleconferences to review, discuss, and determine mitigation implementation and other plan component integration into state agency policies, programs, and procedures, and to annotate accomplishments; track data relevance for future SHMP update inclusion; and document recommendations for future SHMP updates.

**The Legacy 2013 SHMP document was revised as described below.**

#### **Section 1 Introduction**

This section was revised to add an entire new section explaining State level authorities and regulatory planning requirements.

#### **Section 2 The Alaska Experience**

This section was revised to update and expand Alaska information, providing facts, transportation, and cost of living challenges.

#### **Section 3 Planning Process**

This section was updated to reflect 2018 public process, State Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee (SHMAC) membership, plan update participation.

#### **Section 4 Plan Adoption**

2018 resolutions and dates were added to this section.

#### **Section 5 Hazard Profile Analysis**

DHS&EM contracted with DNR/DGGS to update Alaska-wide hazard profiles. DGGS provided a comprehensive update effort that formed the foundation for Section 5, Hazard Profiles and Section 6, Risk and Vulnerability Assessments.

The planning team reviewed hazards that DGGS was not tasked to update (e.g., flood, weather, wildland fire) and updated their profiles and changes that may have occurred since the legacy 2013 SHMP was implemented.

Furthermore, many hazard profiles were updated to combine closely associated hazard categories (e.g., new ground/failure profile combined avalanche, landslide, permafrost sink holes, and other components). The weather profile addresses climate change as it pertains to changing patterns and impacts. Other natural hazards also describe relevant climate change impacts as appropriate; these modifications meet Alaska's needs better.

#### **Section 6 Vulnerability Analysis**

This section was updated this section to analyze vulnerability with existing critical facility and infrastructure data.

#### **Section 7 Mitigation Strategy**

This section was revised to include reviewed 2013 mitigation goals and actions. Mitigation goals, actions, programs, and strategies were separated from each hazard category and defined within Section 7, Mitigation Strategy. All mitigation project and initiatives were combined in a

similar manner and their respective current status reviewed. A new Mitigation Action Plan was developed to facilitate future mitigation action and initiative responsibility and progress tracking.

**Section 8 References**

Revised to reflect 2018 update research efforts.

**3.3.1. LEGACY PLAN NEEDS DETERMINATION**

DHS&EM intermittently reviewed the legacy 2013 SHMP during its five-year life cycle editing each section to update pertinent information. Table 3-1 was developed to guide planning team efforts and categorized to identify SHMP components’ data gaps that necessitated focused review. The team determined that potential development changes, construction, and infrastructure conditions, climate change impacts, and population increases or decreases have influenced hazard risks and/or facility vulnerabilities. These were addressed as needed throughout this SHMP update.

The 2018 SHMP update process included inviting new and existing stakeholders to review the legacy 2013 SHMP to determine what was accomplished versus what their respective agencies intended to accomplish. Pertinent section data were also identified to guide the 2018 development process.

**Table 3-1 Legacy HMP Review and Update Needs Determination**

2013 HMP Section	2013 SHMP Items Needing Updates	Status <i>* Key: F: Fulfilled NF: Not Fulfilled</i>	2013 SHMP Identified items for Deletion	Newly Identified Items to be Added for 2018 SHMP Compliance	New Action Commitments
Planning Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning process obligations successes</li> <li>• Planning team membership</li> <li>• Mitigation resource list</li> <li>• Continue public outreach initiatives</li> <li>• HMP initiative integration into other planning mechanisms</li> <li>• Plan Maintenance Activities</li> </ul>	<p>F: DHS&amp;EM staff completed a SHMP reviews during 2016 – but did not routinely engage SHMAC with SHMP review activities</p> <p>NF: Participating agencies 2013 SHMP component integration into other planning mechanisms or initiatives was sporadic</p> <p>F: DHS&amp;EM Continued SHMAC involvement to guide mitigation project selection and prioritization during the plan’s five-year life cycle</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refine plan maintenance processes documentation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DHS&amp;EM will strive to engage SHMAC to conduct annual SHMP review activities</li> <li>• Strive to integrate HMP initiatives into other planning mechanisms</li> </ul>



**Table 3-1 Legacy HMP Review and Update Needs Determination**

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Hazard Profile Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update hazard profiles and new event history</li> <li>Profile newly identified hazard risks</li> </ul>	F: DHS&EM contracted DGGS to update Alaska’s hazard profiles, develop new event history, and a GIS dataset based on their research findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participating agency specific hazard mitigation process (31 pages)</li> <li>Out-dated information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Edit SHMP to reflect new hazard and vulnerability data</li> <li>Update hazard impacts spanning 2013 to 2018</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage local &amp; tribal jurisdictions to review the 2018 SHMP to facilitate updating their respective HMPs</li> </ul>
Risk Analysis and Vulnerability Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update a the State’s sparse asset inventory</li> <li>Develop statewide vulnerability analysis &amp; summaries based on newly define hazards and their potential impact areas</li> </ul>	NF: Identify SHMP development and infrastructure changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Out-dated information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updated asset inventory</li> <li>Updated infrastructure vulnerabilities</li> <li>Updated residential structure vulnerabilities</li> <li>Describe newly identified repetitive loss data as appropriate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strive to fill data gaps</li> <li>Collect new scientific information to resolve data gaps</li> <li>Better define or determine future potential statewide climate change impacts</li> </ul>
Mitigation Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop concise, global mitigation goals</li> <li>Mitigation Strategy-define how the state manages their current or future programs</li> </ul>	NF: Track project implementation processes or progress  NF: SHMP component integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removed agency specific mitigation projects and initiatives</li> <li>Out-dated information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop SHMP focused mitigation strategies, processes, SOPs, etc to more closely align with SHMP review criteria</li> <li>Update statewide capability assessment(s)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annually review mitigation strategy successes, implementation challenges,</li> <li>Track SHMP agency progress with integrating SHMP component integration</li> </ul>

### 3.4. 2018 UPDATE SHMP PLANNING ACTIVITIES

AECOM made initial contact with the DHS&EM project manager and grant programmatic leaders to discuss the requirements for completing the 2018 State Hazard Mitigation Plan update under a compressed contract timeline. Scott Simmons, AECOM Alaska’s HMP lead, worked with the project manager to review and provide information updates throughout the planning process.



Mr. Simmons requested guidance on whether the SHMAC, comprised of nearly 50 state agencies, was still in-place as an adjunct SHMP planning team. He further inquired as to whether AECOM was allowed to engage them in participating and assisting with SHMP development. Mr. Simmons reasoned that agency-pertinent natural hazard data could only come from appropriate regulating agencies. Agency participation is critical to facilitate updating the SHMP’s hazard profiles, infrastructure risk, and vulnerability, and to provide insight into how they manage their respective mitigation projects and initiatives.

Table 3-2 lists the SHMP’s SHMAC and agency participation teleconference activities with focused discussions seeking agency-specific insight with first-hand update assistance.

**Table 3-2 Public Involvement Mechanisms**

State Hazard Mitigation Agency Committee Teleconferences	Description
January 19, 2018	Invited agencies to review 2013 SHMP located on the DHS&EM Local/Tribal All Hazard Mitigation Plan Development website at: <a href="http://ready.alaska.gov/plans/localhazmitplans">http://ready.alaska.gov/plans/localhazmitplans</a>
January 31, 2018	Reviewed selected priority update items
February 21, 2018	Reviewed selected priority update items
March 7, 2018	Reviewed selected priority update items
March 26, 2018	Reviewed selected priority update items
April 18, 2018	Reviewed legacy SHMP goals, projects, and MAP initiatives
May 2, 2018	Reviewed legacy SHMP goals, projects, and MAP initiatives
May 16, 2018	Reviewed selected priority update items
July 13, 2018	Reviewed selected priority update items
July 19, 2018	Discussed DGGs draft hazard profile completion, solicited agency submittals
August 8, 2017	Submitted draft SHMP update for DHS&EM review
September 14, 2018	Submit draft SHMP update for SHMAC review
October 12, 2018	Submit for FEMA review

AECOM described the specific information needed from the SHMAC to assess critical facility vulnerability and population risk by the location, value, and population size. After the risk analysis and vulnerability assessment was completed DGGs updated the hazard profiles and vulnerabilities data, and validated their estimates.

SHMAC teleconferences were occurring throughout the planning process to keep forward momentum. Teleconferences focused on reviewing and prioritizing each agency’s new mitigation actions identified based on the results of the risk assessment and to facilitate agencies that needed assistance providing essential status updates for their legacy 2013 SHMP mitigation projects and initiatives.

*Note: Agency and participant comments were continually received throughout the SHMP development process and draft review period and addressed during draft SHMP development.*



### 3.5. PLAN MAINTENANCE

This section describes a formal plan maintenance process to ensure that the SHMP remains an active and applicable document. It includes an explanation of how the State’s planning team intends to organize their efforts to ensure that improvements and revisions to the SHMP occur in a well-managed, efficient, and coordinated manner. Planning maintenance includes programmatic integration as a vital SHMP component to assure mitigation success. The planning team will:

Incorporate and integrate SHMP components into existing planning mechanisms, actions, and initiatives

Continue public involvement

Monitor, review, evaluate, and update the SHMP annually

#### 3.5.1. INCORPORATING EXISTING PLANS AND OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

During the 2018 SHMP update planning process, the planning team reviewed and incorporated pertinent historical information and new data that became available since the legacy 2013 SHMP received FEMA final approval. These data included newly available plans, studies, reports, and technical research. These data were reviewed and referenced where applicable for the SHMP’s jurisdictional information, hazard profiles, risk analysis, and vulnerability assessment. References are listed in Appendix 13.26.

#### 3.5.2. INTEGRATING SHMP WITHIN AGENCY AND FEMA PLANS, PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

DMA 2000 Requirements	
Enhanced State. Integrated Planning	
E2.	Does the plan demonstrate integration to the extent practicable with other state and/or regional planning initiatives and FEMA mitigation programs and initiatives? [44 CFR §201.5(b)(1)]
<i>Source: FEMA, March 2015.</i>	

##### 3.5.2.1. PROGRAM INTEGRATION

###### State Planning Programs

DHS&EM’s mitigation staff actively pursues and effectively engages Alaska agencies and jurisdictions with developing strong mitigation programs. All of the programs and activities listed in Table 3-3 demonstrate how Alaska state and federal agencies strive to jointly educate the population to facilitate increasing their hazard reduction knowledge needed when they seek funding to reduce their hazard event impacts and damages.

**Table 3-3 State Mitigation Initiatives**

State Planning Activities	Agencies	Alaska Mitigation Integration
Administrative Order 175	Legislature	Requires state agencies to comply with federal flood damage standards and consider flood and erosion issues when siting and constructing State owned and financed construction projects.



**Table 3-3 State Mitigation Initiatives**

State Planning Activities	Agencies	Alaska Mitigation Integration
Hazard Mitigation Plan Development	DHS&EM	Mitigation Planning Technical Assistance.
National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program (NTHMP)	NOAA, FEMA, USGS, State Emergency Management Agencies: AK, CA, HI, OR and WA. Eastern and Gulf states joined the program in 2005 and all other coastal states and territories joined in 2006	Collaborative federal and state effort to preserve life and property along U.S. coastlines from tsunami inundation events. Funds public outreach, tsunami inundation map development, mitigation, and hazard assessment programs, such as Deep-ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunamis (DART).
Alaska Tsunami Ready Program	DHS&EM, NWS	Promotes tsunami hazard preparedness as an active collaboration among federal, state and local emergency management agencies, the public, and the NWS tsunami warning system.
Tsunami Inundation Mapping Program	NOAA, DHS&EM, UAF/GI, AEC, DNR/DGGS	Develops and provides tsunami inundation maps for communities along the Gulf of Alaska maps depict historical tsunami inundation locations that are essential for determining potential evacuation routes and aide long-term planning for vulnerable coastal communities.
National Tsunami Warning Center (NTWC)	NOAA/NWS	Provides accurate and timely tsunami bulletins, warnings, and watches to is Area of Responsibility (AOR) that includes Canadian provinces and all U.S. coastal states, except Hawaii.
Alaska Storm Ready	DHS&EM, NWS, Local Communities	Assists communities with storm preparedness; encouraging them to take a proactive approach to improving local hazardous weather operations by providing local emergency officials with clear guideline or requirements to be StormReady certified.
Earthquake Simulator – Quake Cabin	DHS&EM	Participants actively experience demonstrations that exemplify methods and effectiveness for securing potential falling objects and furniture in their homes, offices, or work areas. Used for general disaster preparedness awareness.
Earthquake Resistant Model Home	DHS&EM	Displays with the Quake Cabin at safety fairs, home shows, and other educational outreach functions The model home demonstrates earthquake mitigation effectiveness such as attachment hardware and bracing options.
Alaska Seismic Hazard Safety Commission	Public agency and private Commissioners	Focus on mitigating risk that increases public awareness through education.
Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program	DHS&EM	Educates the public about mitigation projects such as seismic hazards structural retrofits and risk reduction Structural and non-structural seismic mitigation and post-earthquake evaluation and training.
Alaska Earthquake Center (AEC) (Alaska Statute 14.40.075)	University of Alaska Fairbanks, Geophysical Institute (UAF/GI) and the USGS	Dedicated to reducing earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions impacts through partnerships Provides definitive earthquake information to the public, emergency managers, scientists and engineers.
Emergency Watershed Protection	Alaska Disaster Fund, NRCS/EWP	State capability, mitigation strategy.



**Table 3-3 State Mitigation Initiatives**

State Planning Activities	Agencies	Alaska Mitigation Integration
Alaska Climate Adaptation Science Center (AK CASC)	UAF, DGGs, UAS, USFWS, NOAA, USDA Forest Service, NPS, DGGs	Program partners provide expertise in climate science, ecology, environmental impacts assessment, modeling, cultural impacts and advanced information technology. These partnerships are essential for addressing climate issues in Alaska, where changes in temperature and precipitation are already having significant impacts on terrestrial and marine ecosystems. ( <a href="https://casc.alaska.edu/about/program-partners">https://casc.alaska.edu/about/program-partners</a> ).
Dam Safety Program	DNR, Dam and Construction Unit	Recommendations for minimum standards for dam design, construction, and operation hazard potential classification that includes hydrologic and seismic evaluations, construction quality assurance, and emergency action planning.
Alaska Dam Rehabilitation Program	DNR, Dam and Construction Unit	Manages a continuous dam inspection and rehabilitation program striving to ensure the highest degree of safety from dam failure events for Alaska residents.
National Levee Safety Program	USACE, DHS&EM, DNR, Dam and Construction Unit	Levee inspection, maintenance and repairs. Mitigation grant funding for many Alaska projects.
RISK Map Business Plan	DCCED/DCRA, DHS&EM, FEMA	Integrates Alaska’s map modernization projects, updated Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) mapping, assessment, and planning. Alaska’s Map Modernization projects, develops the Alaska RISK Map Business Plan, and participates in Cooperating Technical Partnership (CTP) Agreements with FEMA.
National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)	FEMA, DCRA, Floodplain Coordinator	Offers federally backed flood insurance to communities enforcing local floodplain management ordinances. 31 communities actively participate in Alaska’s NFIP program.
Community Rating System (CRS)	FEMA, DCRA, Floodplain Coordinator	Adjusts the rates paid for flood insurance based on mitigation measures undertaken by the community. The rating system uses a unique numbering methodology. The lower the community rating number the more the community has undertaken to encourage and enforce floodplain management efforts.
Flood Mitigation Grant Programs	DCCED/DCRA	Manages FEMA’s state level Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant programs.
Spring Pre-Flood RiverWatch Program	DHS&EM and NWS’s River Forecast Center (RFC)	Created to educate and warn communities of impending flooding, issues flood watch and warnings. Educates communities about flood preparedness.
WaterWatch Program	USGS, DHS&EM	“Flood and high flow” maps show stream gauge location of stream gages and their corresponding water levels.
Alaska Climate Change and Resiliency	DHS&EM, NWS	State capacity, capability, and mitigation strategy.
Pilot Information Reports (PIREPs)	NWS Aviation Weather Center	Provides actual current weather, terrain, and river conditions and observations as a courtesy to other fliers.



**Table 3-3 State Mitigation Initiatives**

State Planning Activities	Agencies	Alaska Mitigation Integration
Alaska Silver Jackets Program	DCCED/DCRA, DHS&EM, USGS, FEMA, HUD, Denali Commission, USFWS	Alaska’s interagency program to create comprehensive and sustainable solutions to flood hazard issues including mitigation planning, flood hazard mapping, risk reduction activities, and response and recovery planning were successful throughout the legacy 2013 SHMP’s 5-year life cycle. (e.g., the State of Alaska Silver Jackets team partnered with the Northwest Arctic Borough to design a bi-lingual English and Inupiat poster detailing simple measures that people can take to reduce their flood risk.)
Environmentally Threatened Communities (ETC)	Denali Commission, ANTHC, DHS&EM	The Denali Commission is leading federal, state, and tribal resources to assist communities in developing and implementing both short- and long-term solutions to address climate change impacts: erosion, flooding, and permafrost degradation.
Alaska Permafrost Observatory	UAF/GI,	Deploys sensors for timely detection of changes in permafrost temperature and forecasting areas of permafrost degradation.
Alaska Soil Survey Information	USDA/NRCS	Assists landowners and communities in selecting the best sites for their homes, infrastructure, and farmland.
Prevention and Emergency Response Program (PERP)	DEC, SPAR, EPA, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER)	Responsible for ensuring spill prevention and response and to make sure spills get cleaned up Area Response Teams have expertise and resources to combat a spill and also work in coordination with other State, local, and Federal officials.
Alaska State Public Health Laboratories (ASPHL)	ASPHL, State of Alaska Epidemiology (SOE), Public Health Nursing (PHN)	ASPHL provides analytical and technical laboratory information in support of state and national public health disease prevention programs and represents the first line of defense in the rapid recognition of the spread of communicable diseases and biological emergencies.
Infectious Disease Program	PHN, SOE, ASPHL	Partners with local providers to perform tuberculosis, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), foodborne illnesses, and other reportable diseases such as giardiasis and measles case investigations.
Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP)	DNR, DOF. AFS, DGGS	Collaborative efforts between wildfire suppression agencies, federal, state, and local governments, community groups, and individuals to identify fire risk sources and prioritize mitigation project areas.
Alaska Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement	Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the US Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), National Park Service (NPS), and the US Forest Service (USFS)	State capability assessment, mitigation strategy.



**Table 3-3 State Mitigation Initiatives**

State Planning Activities	Agencies	Alaska Mitigation Integration
Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group (AWFCG)	State, Federal, and Native Land Management Agencies/ Owners	Alaska forum that fosters cooperation, coordination, collaboration, and communication for wildland fire management. Plans and implements interagency fire management practices statewide and promotes programs and interagency partnerships.
Alaska Multi-Agency Coordination Group (MAC)	Alaska: DEC, ADF&G, DNR USDOI: BIA, BLM, NPS, USFWS USDA: USFS AK Native Reps: Chugachmiut (consortium) Association of Village Council Presidents (consortium) (AVCP) Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) Structural Fire Departments and Other Organizations: Anchorage Fire Dept. (AFD)	Fosters safety, cooperation, coordination, collaboration and communication for wildland fire management and related-activities in Alaska. The AWFCG is the leadership focus for planning and implementing interagency fire management statewide.
Alaska Interagency Coordination Center (AICC)	DOF, AFS, BLM, & other agencies	Coordinates state-wide tactical resources, logistics support, and predictive services for state and federal agencies involved in wildland fire management and suppression.
Alaska Firewise	DOF, AFS, DHS&EM	Collaborative effort among federal, state, local, and private agencies and organizations to promote wildland/urban interface fire safety and mitigation.
Alaska Volcano Observatory	USGS, DNR/DGGS, and UAF/GI	A joint USGS, DNR/DGGS, and UAF/GI program. The AVO is the state’s principal agency responsible for volcano hazard assessing, monitoring, and issuing early warnings. Distributes daily written status reports to more than 100 recipients at federal, state, local agencies, the media, and the public via Internet and fax.

**FEMA Mitigation Programs Integration**

The 2018 SHMP actively participates in and works with communities and other state agencies to pursue FEMA program integration and supporting communities who seek Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA), National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) participation, Community Rating System (CRS) capacity to garner participant insurance discounts, and Risk Map initiatives that helps communities mitigate their flood risks and vulnerabilities. For example, the DCCED/DCRA manages the state’s Risk MAP and NFIP, as well as FMA grant initiatives. Tables 3-3 and 3-4 list federal and state agency programs and initiatives that represent and support the State’s mitigation strategy (SHMP Section 9). Additional agency grant availability information can be found in Appendix 13.20.



**Table 3-4 FEMA Supported Mitigation Programs**

State Disaster Assistance	SHMP Integration
HMA Program (HMGP)	Funding Cost Share (Technical assistance and State absorbs 25 percent (%) grant participant cost share).
HMA Programs (PDM, FMA)	PDM grant application technical assistance.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant program</li> </ul>	FEMA funding available to eligible local and tribal jurisdictions on an annual basis. This grant is nationally competitive and can only be used to fund pre-disaster mitigation plans and projects.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant program</li> </ul>	FEMA funding available to eligible local and tribal jurisdictions on an annual basis. This grant can be used to mitigate repetitively flooded structures and infrastructure to protect repetitive flood structures. Qualified jurisdictions may qualify for this funding source because they participate in the NFIP.
US Department of Homeland Security	Homeland Security grants to provide and improve emergency operation center capacity.
Fire Mitigation Fees	These grants can finance future fire protection facilities and provide fire capital expenditures for new development within special districts.
Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program (EHRP)	Provides structural and non-structural seismic mitigation and post-earthquake evaluation and training annually to specialists in the government and private sector responsible for facilities, building code revisions, and retrofit projects.
TsunamiReady Community Program	Promotes tsunami hazard preparedness as an active collaboration among federal, state, and local emergency management agencies, the public, and the NWS tsunami warning system with clear program criteria and guidance for achieving official TsunamiReady certification.
Tsunami Inundation Mapping Program	Develops and provides tsunami inundation maps for communities along the Gulf of Alaska as part of the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program (NTHMP) for determining potential evacuation routes and aide long-term planning for vulnerable coastal communities.

### 3.5.3. FEMA MITIGATION PROGRAMS

The 2018 SHMP strives to integrate FEMA programs such as Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA), National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), Community Rating System (CRS), and Risk Map initiatives within Section 9, Hazard Mitigation Strategy’ mitigation actions. Section 9 describes the State’s efforts at increasing NFIP and CRS participation, implementation, supports the Risk MAP program, and HMA grant program funding to assist communities with mitigating historical hazard threats.

**FEMA Program SHMP Integration includes:**

- HMA mitigation grant funding sources
- Alaska’s ongoing Risk MAP Business Planning activities to improve NFIP participation
- CRS local capability assessment
- Bundling together funding sources using FMA, Increased Cost of Compliance, Flood Insurance proceeds, and HMGP funding to facilitate flood damage recovery efforts



**3.5.3.1. SUPPORTING JURISDICTIONAL MITIGATION CAPABILITIES**

DMA 2000 Requirements	
Standard State. Planning Process	
S13.	Does the plan generally describe and analyze the effectiveness of local and tribal, as applicable, mitigation policies, programs, and capabilities? [44 CFR §201.4(c)(3)(ii)]
S14.	Does the plan describe the process to support the development of approvable local and tribal, as applicable, mitigation plans? [44 CFR §§201.3(c)(5) and 201.4(c)(4)(i)]
S15.	Does the plan describe the criteria for prioritizing funding? [44 CFR §201.4(c)(4)(iii)]
S16.	Does the plan describe the process and timeframe to review, coordinate and link local and tribal, as applicable, mitigation plans with the state mitigation plan? [44 CFR §§201.3(c)(6), 201.4(c)(2)(ii), 201.4(c)(3)(iii), and 201.4(c)(4)(ii)]
Source: FEMA, March 2015.	

**3.5.3.2. DHS&EM’S LOCAL AND TRIBAL MITIGATION POLICIES, PROGRAMS, AND CAPABILITIES ANALYSIS AND EFFECTIVENESS**

The State of Alaska subscribes to a whole community approach to emergency management. It is expected that extensive collaboration with the public, all levels of government, government agencies, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and community organizations will be required to address and build mitigation policies, programs, and capabilities analysis and effectiveness. The state’s intent is to foster a cooperative relationship with each community and tribal governments in order to build the most resilient Alaska possible.

**3.5.3.3. LOCAL AND TRIBAL MITIGATION PLANNING EFFECTIVENESS**

Open dialogue between the community and state is fostered and assistance is offered at all HMP development stages.

The State, in partnership with the community and assisted by a contractor, guides the planners through the planning process from grant application to plan approval, into mitigation project development striving for face-to-face communication and cooperation.

The planning processes begin with a kick-off meeting where a State of Alaska HMP planner, the State-selected contractor, and community leaders come together to discuss HMP goals and needs. In some instances, due to geography or inclement weather, this may be accomplished via teleconference. New or update HMP performance expectations are covered for both the contractor and the local and tribal community as applicable. Community HMP involvement levels, local planning team development, completion timelines, and incremental and final product deliverables are discussed. Future meetings are scheduled with the local planning team(s) and community council(s) to address new or update HMP information. For HMP updates, discussions occur to define any infrastructure construction or develop changes as well as associated risk vulnerabilities to known hazard events that have occurred since the legacy HMP was implemented.

A state representative from DHS&EM is present to build the state-city or state-tribe relationship. State participation ensures that the local government is aware of how the plan needs to interface with applicable state mitigation processes and priorities, their planning resources, hazards and associated vulnerabilities, and mitigation options.

From the kick-off meeting to the final draft edit, public feedback and input is not only encouraged but essential for developing a viable HMP. The State recognizes that the community's insight and collective history may be some of the only historical information available. It is not uncommon for Alaska Native tribes to pass down oral stories from generation-to-generation.

The community provides the draft plan to their public to solicit comments and ensure accuracy. It can be made available on city and/or tribal websites, at town offices or other community locations. Public comments are gathered and included within the plan content.

The State, community, or tribal contractor finalizes the draft plan after the completed plan has been through public review and technical editing. The jurisdiction, tribe, or contractor then sends it for State (DHS&EM) review. The State confirms the plan fulfills FEMA regulatory criteria ensuring: communities are aware of their hazard data, their planning resources, and that the plan follows the state's mitigation priorities. The State then sends the plan to FEMA for formal review and approval.

The State strives to review and forward mitigation plans within 30 days of receipt from the community or contractor. If FEMA requires revisions, the State will coordinate with the local government or tribe to obtain the required information, amend the plan and resubmit to FEMA in a timely manner. Once the plan has fulfilled FEMA criteria, it will move to the Approvable Pending Adoption (APA) stage. The State will contact the jurisdiction encouraging them to formally adopt their HMP; knowing the adopted plan will be approved. The State will ensure the plan is adopted within one calendar year from the APA date. Once adopted, the State will forward community and tribal resolutions (as applicable) to FEMA to complete the final phase – plan approval. FEMA's approval letter starts the plan's five-year lifecycle as determined from the HMP's approval date.

The completed HMP along with all approval letters, resolutions, review tool, and HMP development or supporting documents are packaged and sent (electronically and hard copy) to local and tribal communities. An electronic copy of the HMP is provided to the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development to post on their Community Plans Library portal. The local or tribal jurisdictions are also provided with the following documents to aid in plan execution:

- The first is a one page document titled "I have a Mitigation Plan: What do I do now?"
  - It is a how-to guide that assists with getting projects off the paper, through application, and completed
  - The guide provides direction and information relating to programs available, funding availability, requirements, application processes, deadlines, and contact information
- Other documents include:
  - The HMA fact sheet and handout
  - Mitigation Planning Benefits and Process
  - Maintaining your Hazard Mitigation Plan
  - Notice of Funding Opportunity

### **3.5.3.4. DHS&EM HMP DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES**

Barriers to timely plan development and subsequent review dissemination include:

- DHS&EM's mitigation section experienced frequent turn-over spanning from 2014 to 2017.
- The HMP planner position remained unfilled almost half of that time with four people ultimately transitioning through that position.
- The SHMO position experienced similar turnover with four different people being selected and ultimately transitioning to other positions in and out of DHS&EM. The HMGP manager was selected to fill the SHMO position. The new SHMO works diligently to understand the position's requirements and responsibilities.
- With the absence of a State HMP planner the new PDM grant manager reviewed local hazard mitigation plans and provided technical assistance to participating communities and tribes, while striving to understand the position's requirements and responsibilities.
- In December 2017 the present planner was hired and immediately began reviewing mitigation plans. Twenty-one plans from the PDM 2014 cycle and 25 from the PDM 2015 cycle were backlogged needing immediate attention. These plans needed to be reviewed while the new planner was simultaneously striving to understand and adjust to the position's requirements and responsibilities.

### **3.5.3.5. DHS&EM MITIGATION PROGRAM FUNDING PRIORITIZATION PROCESS:**

Alaska's local and tribal plans inform and influence the state's risk assessment and mitigation priorities. The State uses information from these mitigation plans to supplement data. It is this information that provides a broader understanding of regional vulnerabilities that will shape prioritization actions and policies to reduce risk most effectively.

### **3.5.3.6. DHS&EM JURISDICTIONAL MITIGATION PLAN REVIEW, COORDINATION, AND LINKING TO SHMP PROCESS:**

A component of updating the State's mitigation strategy is the consideration and inclusion of the local and tribal mitigation plan strategies. By reviewing, prioritizing, and incorporating the types or categories of actions identified by communities, the State can better understand how to support investments in local and tribal mitigation efforts.

Reviewing the local and tribal hazard mitigation plans informs and influences the state's risk assessment and mitigation priorities. The reviews determine whether HMPs follow and fulfill state hazard mitigation goals, priorities, and if it is integrated into the state and borough HMPs, as well as numerous agency mitigation initiatives as applicable.

The State uses the State Mitigation Plan Review Guide, released March 2015, to ensure it meets the requirements of the Stafford Act and Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and subsequently includes it with the completed Mitigation Plan.

**3.5.3.7. CONTINUED AGENCY INVOLVEMENT**

DHS&EM, with assistance from the SHMAC and agency planning team members, is committed to continually guide, reshape, and update the SHMP throughout its five-year lifecycle. An electronic copy of the SHMP will be posted on the DHS&EM Mitigation Planning website: <http://ready.alaska.gov/Plans/Mitigationplan>, for reference.

DHS&EM seeks many opportunities to raise community awareness about Alaska’s various locational hazard impacts through the SHMP. This effort includes organizing and participating at community and state fairs, emergency management focused meetings, and workshops, as well as state and federal focused association and professional venues where they provide educational hazard pertinent materials.

DHS&EM has committed to having the mitigation planning staff collect, log, and track public and agency comments regarding the SHMP. This information will include collected data and other pertinent material within an annual SHMAC report for future SHMP update consideration and inclusion.

**3.5.3.8. MONITORING, REVIEWING, EVALUATING, AND UPDATING THE SHMP**

DMA 2000 Requirements	
Standard State. Planning Process	
S17.	Is there a description of the method and schedule for keeping the plan current? [44 CFR §§201.4(c)(5)(i) and 201.4(d)]
S18.	Does the plan describe the systems for monitoring implementation and reviewing progress? [44 CFR §§201.4(c)(5)(ii) and 201.4(c)(5)(iii)]
<i>Source: FEMA, March 2015.</i>	

The SHMP was prepared as a collaborative effort. To maintain momentum and build upon previous hazard mitigation planning efforts and successes, the State of Alaska will continue to use the SHMAC as their planning team to monitor, review, evaluate, and update the SHMP.

**3.5.3.9. PLANNING TEAM SHMP MAINTENANCE RECOMMITMENT**

The DHS&EM’s planning team organized 2018 SHMP improvements and revision efforts to follow three process steps:

1. Review and revise the 2018 SHMP to reflect regulatory plan development changes, planning process improvements, project implementation progress, project priority changes, and mitigation strategy progress throughout the SHMP’s five-year life cycle.
2. Submit an SHMP update at the end of its five-year lifecycle for FEMA review and approval.
3. Continually strive to encourage the SHMAC to implement and integrate mitigation initiatives within their respective agency regulations, policies, and procedure documents.

DHS&EM reviewed the legacy 2013 SHMP’s during 2016 to analyze and update numerous sections. The revised data was saved within a designated “2016 SHMP update folder” to easily access the data for inclusion within the next SHMP update submittal.

However, very few legacy SHMP components were integrated within other SHMAC agency planning mechanisms. The 2018 SHMP update team reviewed and edited the legacy 2013 SHMP

data, included the 2016 edits. The contractor also worked with DHS&EM section managers along with SHMAC agencies to collect newly available data for inclusion.

### **3.5.3.10. MONITORING THE SHMP**

The SHMAC and participating agencies listed in Section 3.2 will continually monitor their portion of the SHMP, evaluate their respective projects' status annually, and update their data for each SHMP's five-year life cycle, within 90 days of a presidentially declared disaster (if required), or as necessary to reflect changes in state and jurisdictional development projects, as well as changes to state or federal law.

The Hazard Mitigation Plan Annual Progress Report and Hazard Mitigation Plan Annual Evaluation Forms are essential SHMP review tools (Appendix 13.6) that the SHMAC participants can access and complete annually to facilitate accomplishing their reporting commitments. FEMA and DHS&EM determine when significant changes warrant an update prior to the SHMP's scheduled five-year anniversary date.

Each SHMAC agency authority is responsible for implementing their respective agency's components, commitments, and determining whether their respective actions were effectively implemented. Each authority will subsequently coordinate or communicate their finding annually to the DHS&EM SHMP planning lead or designee for project progress tracking.

The DHS&EM SHMP planning lead or designee, will serve as the primary point-of-contact and will coordinate planning team efforts to monitor, evaluate, revise, and update SHMP mitigation strategy actions' progress status.

### **3.5.3.11. REVIEWING THE SHMP**

The planning team did not track any legacy SHMP maintenance components due to intermittent and limited staff with a lack of training. This is a major barrier to enabling SHMP maintenance successes. DHS&EM mitigation planning section positions e.g., the State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO), grants manager, and mitigation planner were in constant transition or turn-over status from 2014 through 2017. Replacement staff was constantly struggling to learn their new position's requirements only to end forward progress due to transfers or the addition of new staff without relevant experience.

Therefore, no mitigation project or initiative had consistent tracking to determine project closure or planning team success, address roadblocks to SHMP action, initiative implementation, or to assure project integration into their respective planning mechanisms.

The planning team recommits to reviewing their success for completing SHMP review, maintenance, and mitigation goals, as well as activities and initiatives during future annual review processes.

Additionally, during each annual review, each authority or agency administering a mitigation project will submit a Project Progress Report (Appendix 13.6) to the DHS&EM SHMP planning lead. The report will include the mitigation project's current status, any project changes, a list of identified implementation problems (with appropriate strategies to overcome them), and a statement of whether or not their respective projects have helped achieve their perceived goals.

### 3.5.3.12. EVALUATING THE SHMP

The Annual Review Questionnaire and Progress Report (Appendix 13.6) provide the basis for future SHMP evaluations by guiding the planning team through the process of identifying new or more threatening hazards, adjusting to changes or increases in resource allocations, and garnering additional support for SHMP implementation.

The DHS&EM SHMP planning lead or designee will initiate an annual SHMP review two months prior to the scheduled SHMAC plan meeting date to ensure that all data is assembled for discussion with the SHMAC. The findings from these reviews will be presented at the annual planning team meeting. Each review, as shown on the Annual Review Worksheet, will include an evaluation of the following:

- Determine authorities, outside agencies', stakeholders', and residents' participation with SHMP implementation successes.
- Identify notable risk changes for each identified and newly considered natural-caused hazards.
- Consider land development activities and related programs' impacts on hazard mitigation.
- Risk MAP implementation progress and integration (identify problems and suggest improvements as necessary).
- Evaluate SHMP local resource implementation for identified activities.

### 3.5.3.13. UPDATING THE SHMP

The SHMAC agencies did not review their respective data legacy 2013 SHMP during its initial five-year life cycle. However, they recommitted to annually reviewing the plan as described in Section 3.6.10 for inclusion within the SHMP's five year life cycle (or when significant disaster events, agency critical facility relocation or development, or other significant change(s) necessitates an update). The SHMAC will collectively review all agencies Annual Review Questionnaires (Appendix 13.6) to determine their success with implementing the SHMP's Mitigation Action Plan.

Completed Annual Review Questionnaires will enable the planning team to more efficiently identify possible changes or increases in development, resource allocations, and in garnering additional support for SHMP integration and implementation (successes, failures, and roadblock experiences). Mitigation Action Plan initiatives should refocus attention on new or more threatening hazards, changing resource availability, and in garnering stakeholder support for SHMP project implementation.

Throughout the SHMP's five-year life cycle, DHS&EM SHMP planning lead will undertake the following activities:

- Request grant assistance from FEMA to update the SHMP (it can take up to two years to obtain funding and one year to update the plan).
- Ensure that each agency or authority administering their internally identified mitigation projects has submitted appropriate progress reports for SHMAC review.
- Update the SHMP review data (Table 3-1) to identify those SHMP sections that need improvement and describe the proposed changes.

- Thoroughly analyze and update the natural hazard risks.
  - Determine the current status of each agencies' mitigation projects.
  - Identify the proposed grant funded projects that were completed, deleted, or deferred (delayed) as well as any ongoing or combined projects. Each action should include a description of whether the project should remain on the list, be deleted because the action is no longer feasible, or reasons for their implementation delay.
  - Describe how each action's priority status has changed since the SHMP was originally developed and subsequently approved by FEMA.
  - Determine whether or not the action has helped achieve the appropriate goals identified in the plan.
  - Describe whether the action project's owner has experienced any barriers preventing them from implementing their mitigation actions (projects) such as financial, legal, and/or political restrictions, and define the appropriate strategies to overcome those barriers.
  - Update ongoing processes, and change the proposed implementation date and/or duration timeline for delayed actions the owning agency still desires to implement.
  - Prepare a new draft State of Alaska SHMP.
    - Finalize an updated/draft SHMP for FEMA review.
    - Submit the draft SHMP to FEMA for review.
    - Submit the final SHMP for FEMA final approval.

### **3.6. FEMA'S FORMAL SHMP REVIEW**

Outdated Hazard Mitigation Plans do not qualify the State for disaster assistance until the SHMP has been updated and received FEMA final approval; only emergency assistance to avert direct hazard impacts will be allowed. Additionally, complete, unapproved SHMPs do not allow the state to receive funding until the SHMP has received formal State adoption, and subsequent FEMA final approval. Therefore, once the SHMP has fulfilled all FEMA criteria, Alaska's governor or designee is required to sign a formal SHMP Adoption Resolution or a Letter of Promulgation. The required documents are then sent to FEMA for final SHMP approval.

FEMA's final approval assures the State eligibility for applying for appropriate disaster assistance and mitigation grant program funding.

### **3.7. TRIBAL OR NATIVE VILLAGE MITIGATION GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS CONSIDERATIONS**

An Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) tribe can potentially qualify to either apply for applicable grant funding as a State sub-applicant, or apply directly to FEMA as an eligible federally recognized IRA tribal government with sovereign authority working directly with government agencies.

Therefore, the tribe can determine which of the two following options will best fit their needs. These options are:

**Option 1:**

The tribe can submit grant applications through the State with no loss in tribal governance authorities.

The tribe submits their mitigation grant applications to the State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO) for initial State review. This option could potentially enable the tribe to avoid paying future mitigation project grant funding match.

The SHMO will then coordinate tribal applications during their grant review and prioritization process for potential approval and award. DHS&EM will review, prioritize, and award grants, assigning their most current grant recipient cost share requirements to successful grant awardees.

**Option 2:**

The tribe can submit mitigation grant applications directly to FEMA or other granting agencies as a sovereign, federally recognized IRA tribal government maintaining sovereign authority working directly with government agencies.

As an IRA tribe, the tribal council submits their mitigation grant applications directly to FEMA with full knowledge the tribe will be responsible for providing any applicable programmatic project matching funds.

FEMA will review, prioritize, and award grants, assigning their most current grant recipient cost share requirements to successful grant awardees.

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