

# *Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)*

## **What is Mitigation Planning?**

Hazard mitigation is sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and their property from hazards. The purpose of mitigation planning is to identify hazards known to Santa Fe and then policies and actions that can be implemented over the long term to reduce risk and future losses.

## **Why assess and plan for risk?**

The plan and its process show the link between land-use decisions and vulnerability. It serves as a tool to be used by planners or other officials to advise and inform decision makers as they plan for future growth in Santa Fe. Mitigation Plans form the foundation for a community's long-term strategy to reduce disaster losses and break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage.

## **Why have a Mitigation Plan?**

Communities must have a plan to apply for or receive certain FEMA mitigation grants. These grants can augment local mitigation activities already being done. Ultimately, these actions reduce vulnerability, and communities are able to recover more quickly from disasters.

## **Why should I get involved?**

Public involvement builds support and ensures a strong base for future mitigation activities. The value of public involvement lies in sharing responsibility with those who will strongly influence the success or failure of mitigation efforts. Involving a broad cross-section of interested individuals and organizations is a way of collecting good ideas and suggestions and ensuring that the community will view hazard mitigation as relevant to their needs. The planning process is as important as the plan itself. It creates a framework for risk-based decision making to reduce damages to lives, property, and the economy from future disasters.

## **How can I get Involved?**

A planning team of local experts, public- and private-sector agency representatives, and residents will be meeting throughout the next few months to provide input in revising the current plan. This planning team will review and identify potential hazards and set mitigation strategies specific to the needs of the residents of the city. The planning team will also host a public meeting to discuss the plan on May 9, 2013. Information on meeting time and dates will be posted on the City of Santa Fe web site.



## ***For More information on the City of Santa Fe Mitigation Plan***

### ***Contact:***

***Andrew Phelps, Emergency Manager  
City of Santa Fe Office of Emergency Management  
120 S. Federal Place, Rm. #308  
Santa Fe, NM 87504-0909  
(505) 955-6537  
ajphelps@santafenm.gov***