

# IS-329 State Hazard Mitigation Planning

## Purpose and Organization

This independent study course provides state personnel and other partners with an opportunity to learn about the policies and procedures to update state hazard mitigation plans and how to effectively advance mitigation. IS-329 covers mitigation planning foundations, including how to build a state planning team, identify vulnerable assets, assess the impacts of natural hazards and develop a mitigation strategy.

There are six lessons. They cover a broad background on mitigation planning, the guiding principles for state mitigation plans, requirements for both standard and enhanced plans and the submittal and review process. It also provides resources for additional information. A final exam is required in order to successfully complete the course. IS-329 is a self-paced, online course that is estimated to take approximately 3.5 hours to complete. The course is hosted through the [Emergency Management Institute \(EMI\) website](#).



American Planning Association members of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) can earn Certification Maintenance (CM) credits for this training. When CM credits are available, they are noted at the end of an activity description. More information about AICP's CM program can be found at [planning.org/cm](http://planning.org/cm). To log credits for this course, search for event #9204568 or "Federal Emergency Management Agency" in the [CM Search](#) and add the credits to your log.

## Learning Objectives

The intent of the course is to provide state staff that are responsible for hazard mitigation planning an overview of the requirements established in 44 Code of Federal Regulations Part 201. In addition, when updating state hazard mitigation plans, this facilitates state compliance with FEMA planning requirements. After this independent study, participants can:

- Explain the purpose and intent of state hazard mitigation planning.
- Present five guiding principles that are used in plan review.
- Describe the requirements for standard and enhanced state hazard mitigation plans.
- Describe the submittal and review procedures for both standard and enhanced state hazard mitigation plans.
- Know where to find additional resources.



# FEMA

## Who should take this course?

This training is designed for state emergency management agency staff, state agencies that have participated or will participate in plan updates, state mitigation advisory committee members, non-governmental partners and organizations and regional planning organizations.

## Why is this important?

State mitigation plans set the foundation for mitigation planning for local communities. These plans identify common hazards, which local communities can reference when creating or updating their own plans. This training provides planners with the knowledge to successfully update mitigation plans. IS-329 primarily covers materials presented in the State Plan Review Guide and State Key Topics Bulletins. It also covers several new topics that have emerged more recently, including:

1. Addressing changes in the probability of future hazard events, including how weather and climate patterns will affect changes in location, frequency, extent and intensity of events.
2. Collaboration with the seven sectors described in the National Mitigation and Disaster Recovery Framework for a holistic approach to planning and implementation.
3. State and FEMA responsibilities, including the annual mitigation program consultations, which are the yearly meetings between the state and FEMA to coordinate on mitigation programs.
4. The High Hazard Potential Dam Grant Program, which provides technical, planning, design and construction assistance to communities whose dams pose a threat to life and property.

State mitigation plans are a prerequisite for receiving certain kinds of non-emergency disaster assistance, including FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance, Public Assistance Mitigation, and the Rehabilitation of High-Hazard Potential Dam grant program. For more details, visit [Mitigation Planning and Grants](#).

### Resources and Additional Information

The [State Mitigation Plan Review Guide \(2015\)](#) is FEMA's policy on and interpretation of the mitigation planning requirements for state mitigation planning.

[FEMA's mitigation planning site](#) provides resources and information on the mitigation planning process.

[Mitigation Ideas: A Resource for Reducing Risk to Natural Hazards \(2013\)](#) provides a resource that state governments can use to identify and evaluate a range of potential mitigation actions for reducing risk of natural hazards and disasters.

The American Planning Association's [Survey of State Land-Use and Natural Hazards Planning Laws](#) provides a summary of legislation from all 50 states for laws that are intended to require, promote, or encourage local mitigation of natural hazards and how they relate to land use in state legislation.

The sections of the Code of Federal Regulations that establish requirements for state standard and enhanced plans are located in [44 CFR 201.4 \(Standard State Plans\)](#) and [201.5 \(Enhanced State Plans\)](#).