

Pre Disaster Mitigation Plan Public Survey

Overview

The Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) through a federal grant is working in conjunction with your community to create a Natural hazards Pre Disaster Mitigation Plan. The Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program provides funds to states, territories, Indian tribal governments, communities and universities for hazard mitigation planning and the implementation of all hazard mitigation projects prior to a disaster event. These plans and projects reduce the overall risk to the population and structures, while also reducing reliance on funding from actual disaster declarations. For this round of funding we are soliciting input from Blackstone, Douglas, Grafton, Holden, Hopedale, Mendon, Millville, Oxford, Paxton, Princeton, Sutton, West Brookfield, and Westborough.

You have the opportunity to provide input on your community's Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Plan, in fact, your input is vitally important and requested! This plan is intended to reduce the vulnerability of citizens, critical facilities, infrastructure, private property, and the natural environment within the town.

As we create the plan, we need to hear from you. There are two easy ways you can help:

1. Take this survey! (Surveys should be submitted by November 20th. Your answers will help the Pre Disaster Mitigation Planning Committee determine the community's concerns and questions about the PDM Plan and guide discussions during the revision process.
2. Attend the public meetings. At least two public meetings will be held during the process. These meetings will provide you with an opportunity to learn more about the PDM Plan, ask questions, and make comments.

If completing in hard copy, please mail to:
PDM Planning c/o Eric Smith,
CMRPC,
2 Washington Square, Union Station,
Worcester, MA 01604

or fax to (508)792-6818

by Friday November 20, 2015.

Thank you for your participation and your input. Please encourage your neighbors to also participate.

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*** 1. In what town do you live?**

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Blackstone | <input type="radio"/> Oxford |
| <input type="radio"/> Douglas | <input type="radio"/> Paxton |
| <input type="radio"/> Grafton | <input type="radio"/> Princeton |
| <input type="radio"/> Holden | <input type="radio"/> Sutton |
| <input type="radio"/> Hopedale | <input type="radio"/> West Brookfield |
| <input type="radio"/> Mendon | <input type="radio"/> Westborough |
| <input type="radio"/> Millville | |

Other (please specify)

*** 2. How concerned are you about the town being impacted by a natural disaster?**

- Extremely Concerned
- Somewhat Concerned
- Not Concerned

*** 3. Have you ever experienced, or been impacted by a natural disaster?**

- Yes
- No

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4. If you answered yes to the previous question, please indicate the type of disaster and number of occurrences below

	1	2	3	4	5+
Flood	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hurricane	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tropical Storm	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tornado	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wildfire	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hailstorm	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Snow and Blizzard	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ice Storm	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nor'easter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Earthquake	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drought	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Heat Wave	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Thunderstorm	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
High Winds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Landslide	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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1

2

3

4

5+

5. Please select the top THREE (3) natural hazards you think are the HIGHEST THREAT to your town or neighborhood

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drought | <input type="checkbox"/> Landslides |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dam Failure | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Pandemic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Earthquake | <input type="checkbox"/> Nor'easter Storms |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Erosion | <input type="checkbox"/> River Ice Jams |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extreme Temperatures | <input type="checkbox"/> Severe Thunderstorms |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flooding (River/Stream) | <input type="checkbox"/> Severe Winter Storms |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flooding (Street) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sinkholes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hail Storms | <input type="checkbox"/> Tornadoes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High Winds | <input type="checkbox"/> Tropical Storms |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hurricanes | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Fires |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ice Storms | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildfires |

Is there another natural hazard not listed above that you think is a wide-scale threat to your town or neighborhood. If YES, please list threat.

*6. Over the past several years, has the weather in town been...(check one)

- Much worse than usual
- Somewhat worse than usual
- About the same
- Somewhat better than usual
- Much better than usual
- Don't know

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***7. Have the following types of weather events become more or less common in your community over the past several years, or have they stayed about the same?**

	Much Less Common	Somewhat Less Common	Stayed About the Same	Somewhat Common	Much More Common	Don't know
Extreme Temperatures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tornadoes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hurricanes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
High Wind Events	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Severe Thunderstorms Containing Hail and/or Damaging Winds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Severe Cold	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Flooding Events	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Severe Winter Storms	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nor'easters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ice Storms	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Droughts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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Much Less Common Somewhat Less Common Stayed About the Same Somewhat Common Much More Common Don't know

* 8. Does your street flood during rain events?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide the street name and specific location(s) on the street

9. If your street floods during rain events, how many times did your street flood during the past 12 months?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5+

* 10. Is your home located in a floodplain?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

* 11. Do you currently have flood insurance?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

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12. If you do NOT have flood insurance, please select the reason why:

- Not located in a floodplain
- Too expensive
- Not necessary because it never floods
- Not necessary because I'm elevated or otherwise protected
- My mortgage did not require flood insurance
- Never really considered it

Other (please specify)

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*** 13. How vulnerable (exposed to the possibility of harm or danger) - if at all - are the people living in your immediate household, including yourself, to the impact of natural disaster hazards?**

- Not at all vulnerable
- Moderately vulnerable
- Only a little vulnerable
- Very vulnerable
- Don't know

*** 14. Have you taken any actions to make your home, business or neighborhood more resistant to natural hazards?**

- Yes
- No

Other (please specify) If YES, please explain

*** 15. Are you more interested in making your home, business or neighborhood more resistant to natural hazards?**

- Yes
- No

*** 16. Would incentives such as insurance discounts, property tax breaks or low interest loans motivate you to take additional steps to protect your property from natural disasters (example: flood-proofing home, tornado shelters, etc.)?**

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

If NO, please explain

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*** 17. What is the most effective way for you to receive information about how to make your home, business and neighborhood more resistant to natural hazards? Please check all that apply.**

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local Newspaper | <input type="checkbox"/> Town Website |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Television | <input type="checkbox"/> Town Meetings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local Town Cable Channel | <input type="checkbox"/> School Meetings and Messages |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Radio | <input type="checkbox"/> Information at Local Library |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information on Utility Bills | <input type="checkbox"/> Roadside Message Boards |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Direct Mailings | <input type="checkbox"/> Phone Info from "Code Red" Systems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Email | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) |

*** 18. How do you receive warnings regarding severe weather events? Please check all that apply.**

- Television
- Radio
- Town's "Code Red" System (via telephone)
- NOAA Weather Radios
- Cell Phone Services/Apps
- Email
- Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
- Cable TV System Alerts

Other (please specify)

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*** 19. A number of town-wide activities can reduce our risk from natural hazards. In general, these activities can fall into one of the following six (6) general categories. Please tell us how important you think each one is for your town to consider pursuing.**

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
PREVENTION: Administrative or regulatory actions that influence the way land is developed and buildings are built (e.g.: Planning, zoning, open space and floodplain codes and regulations)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
PROPERTY PROTECTION: Modification of existing buildings to protect or remove from hazard. (e.g.: relocation, elevation, retrofit, storm shelters)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION: Actions to minimize hazard losses and preserve or restore functions of natural systems. (e.g.: floodplain protection, slope stabilization, forest management)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
STRUCTURAL PROJECTS: Actions intended to lessen the impact of the hazard by modifying the natural progression of the hazard. (e.g.: dams, levees, retaining walls, storm sewers/drainage)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
EMERGENCY SERVICES: Actions that protect people and property during and immediately after a hazard event. (e.g.: warning systems, evacuation and response training, protection of facilities)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
PUBLIC EDUCATION & AWARENESS: Actions to inform citizens about hazards and techniques to protect themselves and their property. (e.g.: outreach, school programs, library materials, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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Very Important

Somewhat
Important

Not Important

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*** 20. Do you think climate change is affecting our weather?**

Yes

No

If YES, please explain

*** 21. Which of the following town resources do you think may be harmed by climate change in the next several years? (check all that apply)**

Public Water Supplies

Wetlands

Public Sewer Systems

Floodplains (flood insurance rates increasing)

People's Health

Private Wells/Septic Systems

Transportation/Roads/Bridges

Privately Owned Lands/Buildings

Historic Sites

Utility/Energy Costs

Local Rivers

No Local Risk From Climate Change

22. In your opinion, what are some steps your local government could take to reduce or eliminate the risk of future hazard damages in the town and in your neighborhood?

23. Are there any other issues regarding the reduction of risk and loss associated with natural hazards or disasters the town can implement that you think are important?

*** 24. How well prepared do you feel your town is for a natural disaster?**

Very prepared

Somewhat prepared

Not very prepared

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25. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION! The survey may be submitted anonymously, however if you would like to receive information regarding upcoming public meetings for the hazard mitigation plan, please provide your name and contact information,

Name

Address

Phone

Email