



Executive Summary

In a time of growing challenges and fiscal constraint, we must advance mitigation planning that saves lives, reduces injuries, and decreases financial losses. This plan serves as the strategy document for Idaho's Hazard Mitigation Program. Idaho's State Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP) identifies the hazards affecting Idaho, analyzes risks and vulnerabilities, determines potential losses, and develops strategies to reduce impacts. Mitigation measures range from public education and land use planning to specific construction actions that reduces hazard losses. The SHMP is revised every five years in compliance with appropriate laws and regulations.

The 2018 revision to the 2013 SHMP improves scientific information on natural hazards and human-caused threats, incorporates the Idaho Multi-Hazard Risk Portfolio (IMHRP) into the State's risk assessment, updates disaster events, and summarizes vulnerability assessment information by county and Tribal Nation. Data sources include a State-building (owned and leased) spatial inventory for an in-depth review of State asset vulnerability to identified hazards, an updated and expanded critical facility spatial dataset, as well as U.S. Census block level aggregate building inventory and demographic data for loss estimation. The SHMP provides strategic direction to mitigate hazards, identifies potential funding resources, and guides decision makers in prioritizing assistance to local entities.

Hazard information from 47 Tribal and county all-hazard mitigation plans are integrated into the SHMP. With the support of various federal and state agencies, local officials, the State of Idaho, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the SHMP is a resource to guide the State toward greater disaster resilience.

The strategic section of the SHMP includes the State of Idaho's hazard mitigation goals:

1. Save lives and reduce public exposure to risk from natural, technological, and human-caused hazard events.
2. Reduce or prevent damage to public and private property from natural, technological, and human-caused hazard events.
3. Enhance coordination between Federal, State, Tribal, regional, local agencies, and non-governmental organizations and consistency of hazard impact reduction policy.
4. Reduce the adverse economic and environmental impacts of natural, technological, and human-caused hazard events.
5. Enhance vulnerability and risk assessments through the development and collection and analysis of data.

The State evaluates potential losses and prioritizes mitigation actions based on the risk and vulnerability assessments. The SHMP analyzes risk by determining each hazard's vulnerability, impact, and to what degree they can be found in our environment. Updated techniques to understand potential damages,



loss, and impacts to assets and capabilities are used in the SHMP. The 2018 SHMP profiles 13 hazards and threats: flood (including dam/levee/canal failure), wildfire, earthquake, landslide, avalanche, drought, severe storm (including lightning, hail, and wind/tornado), volcanic eruption, cyber disruptions, pandemic, radiological, civil disturbances, and hazardous materials. While human-caused threats as described in the Idaho Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) are not required by FEMA to be included in state hazard mitigation plans, it is suggested and considered prudent to include all hazards. The SHMP and the county multi-jurisdictional all-hazard mitigation plans contribute to the THIRA risk assessments.

During the 2018 SHMP update, the three natural hazards which ranked highest are:

- Wildfire; Flood; Severe Storms

In the past five years, Idaho has declared nineteen State disasters resulting in six Federal declarations from floods and severe weather, and seven Fire Mitigation Assistance Grants (approved by the FEMA Regional Administrator) for wildfires. Recent disasters have damaged property, caused injuries and death, and interrupted business and government services. The toll on individuals, families, and businesses can be immense. The time, money, and effort to respond to and recover from these disasters divert shrinking public resources and attention from other important programs and issues.

Since 2013 significant mitigation actions have been completed in Idaho. Nearly \$16.5 million in combined federal funding has been awarded for projects such as upgrading infrastructure to make it more resilient from flooding (bridge and culvert upsizing, storm water management systems), wildfire mitigation projects (fuels reduction, outreach, etc.), volunteer fire assistance, hazard warning systems, and seismic research and mapping. National studies indicate that investments in hazard mitigation will pay dividends in the future – for every dollar spent on a hazard mitigation activity, there are six dollars in losses avoided.

The Idaho Office of Emergency Management is dedicated to fostering a culture of preparedness centered on risk and resilience. The SHMP focuses on understanding the risks we face; collaboration to recognize the interdependent nature of the economy, health and social services, housing infrastructure, and natural and cultural resources; and empowering communities to take actions that put them in the best position to bounce back quickly and effectively when disasters occur. Resiliency covers the capabilities necessary to reduce the loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters. The 2018 mitigation strategy to achieve resilience includes the valuable role of local leadership, collaboration among various parts of the whole community, and education to ensure the capabilities continually develop.