



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 three years in compliance with appropriate laws and regulations.

The 2013 revision to the 2010 SHMP improves scientific information on natural hazards and human-caused threats, updates disaster events, 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 agencies, local officials, the State of Idaho, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), 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, regional, tribal, and local agencies and the consistency of hazard impact reduction policy.
4. Reduce adverse environmental, natural resource, and economic impacts of natural, technological, and human-caused hazard events.
5. Enhance vulnerability and risk assessments through the development and collection 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 2013 SHMP profiles 16 hazards and threats: flood, earthquake, wildfire, landslide, dam/levee/canal failure, avalanche, drought, lightning, severe storm, 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.



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From a statewide perspective, the three most significant natural hazards which could result in a catastrophic event are:

- Flood
- Earthquake
- Wildfire

In the past three years, Idaho has declared nine State disasters resulting in two Federal declarations from floods and severe weather, and three Fire Mitigation Assistance Grants (approved by the FEMA Regional Administrator) for wildfires. State drought declarations were also issued for eight Idaho counties in 2010 and 2012. 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 2010, significant mitigation actions have been completed in Idaho. Nearly \$14 million in 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.), and hazard warning systems. 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 four dollars in losses avoided.