



Exploring Local Hazard Mitigation Plans

Setting the Stage

In order to be eligible for pre- and post-disaster grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), each county must undergo a hazard mitigation planning process every five years. The purpose of the planning process is to reduce the impact of natural hazards to people, property, and infrastructure. Each Hazard Mitigation Plan must include several elements, including a summary of the planning process, a risk assessment, and hazard mitigation strategies.

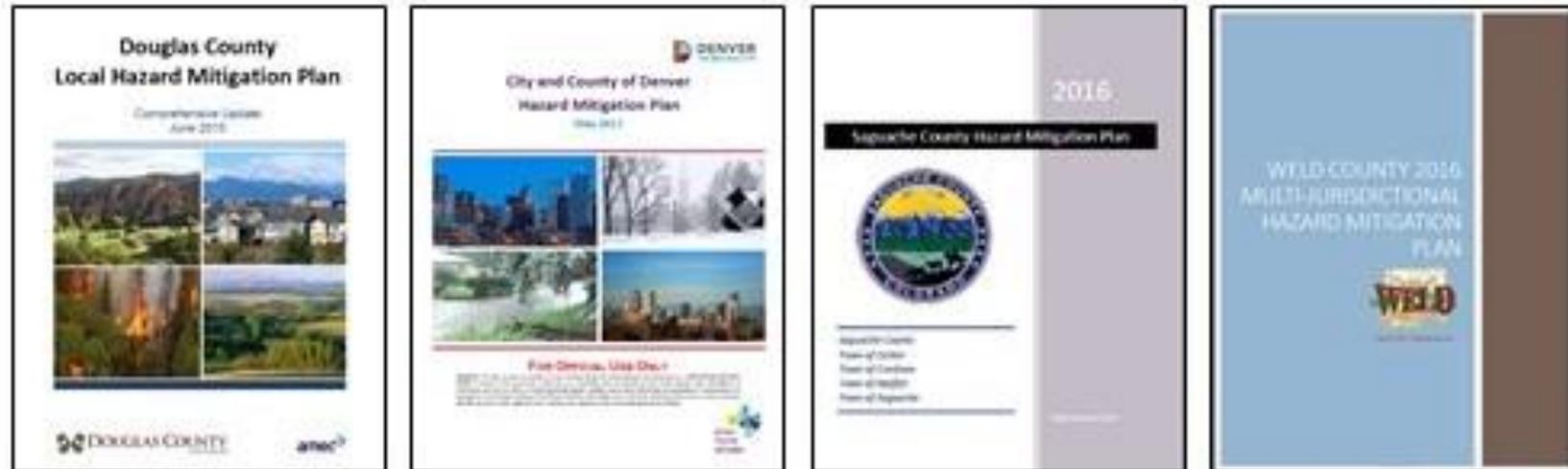


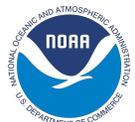
Photo: Hazard Mitigation Plans from around Colorado

Driving Questions:

- What are the impacts of the hazard [wildfire, flooding, or drought] in our community?
- What is the likelihood of the hazard occurring and what is our vulnerability to the hazard?
- What actions are being taken in our community to mitigate impacts of hazards?

Lesson Overview

- **Activity 1** (Engage): Warm-Up Brainstorm
- **Activity 2** (Explore & Explain): Text Structure Reading Comprehension
- **Activity 3** (Explore & Elaborate): Quiz Questions



These materials were developed by CIRES Education & Outreach at the University of Colorado Boulder.

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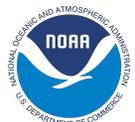


Activity 1: Warm-up Brainstorm

The following questions are written on the posters around the room:

- Has a [wildfire, flood, or drought] happened in our community before? When? What happened?
- What is the likelihood of a [wildfire, flood, or drought] occurring in our community?
- Is our local government planning for a [wildfire, flood, or drought] to occur? How can they mitigate impacts to our community if the hazard occurs?

Respond to the questions with words, short phrases, or pictures on the paper.



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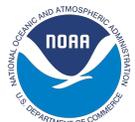
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Activity 2: Text Structure Reading Comprehension

Text Structures:

Writers use text structures to organize their writing and they are a useful tool for reading comprehension of nonfiction. Examples of text structures include sequence, description, compare-contrast, cause-effect, and problem-solution.



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Activity 2: Local Mitigation Plan Graphic Organizer

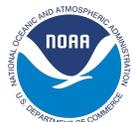
Hazard Description: What are the causes and impacts of this hazard?

Geographic Location: Which parts of the county are more vulnerable to the hazard?

Historic Events: When was the last time your county experienced the hazard? What happened?

Probability of Future Occurrences: What is the likelihood of the hazard occurring in your county?

Vulnerability Assessment: What is the estimated economic impact of the occurrence of this hazard? Are some types of property or sectors more vulnerable than others?



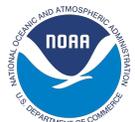
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Activity 2: Local Mitigation Plan Graphic Organizer

Graphic/Map: Choose one graphic or map from the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Draw a sketch of it below and write a short summary of what it shows.



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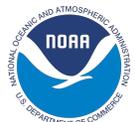
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Activity 3: Quiz Questions

Develop three multiple choice questions based on your reading of the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Questions must include the question and four multiple choice answers, with the correct answer marked. Questions can address:

- Local history of the hazard
- Likelihood of the hazard occurring
- Vulnerability of the community to the hazard
- Local mitigation strategies



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