

# Hazards Mitigation Plan for the Thurston Region

## Goals and Policies from Chapter 2, Recommendations

[Revisions to 1b, added 7d, revised 7e.]

1. Protect life
  - a. Design, build, operate, and maintain disaster resistant communication systems that provide emergency notifications and instructions.
  - b. ~~Decrease~~ Prioritize mitigation actions that directly benefit the impacts of hazards on at risk individuals or people with special needs populations.<sup>1</sup> and underserved populations who lack the means to reduce their exposure to hazards.
  - c. Address emergency evacuation needs, prioritizing areas of the community where mitigation strategies are ineffective or cost prohibitive.
  - d. Train and equip emergency service providers to effectively respond to hazard events.
2. Protect infrastructure
  - a. Maintain and upgrade roads, bridges, and other transportation infrastructure and services to withstand the effects of hazards without prolonged operational disruptions.
  - b. Maintain and upgrade utility systems and services to withstand the effects of hazards.
  - c. Maintain or replace public buildings such as offices, schools, and other facilities to withstand the effects of hazards.
  - d. Strengthen or relocate critical facilities or create protective spaces or infrastructure around them so they are not significantly affected by the effects of hazards.
3. Protect property
  - a. Minimize the number of properties that are situated in hazard prone locations.
  - b. Protect and preserve vital records, data, information technology systems, and facility contents.
  - c. Safeguard objects or places that have cultural or historic significance.
4. Protect the environment
  - a. When possible, use mitigation strategies that preserve ecological functions of natural systems.
  - b. Consider mitigation actions that restore natural systems that provide protective measures to surrounding properties.

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<sup>1</sup> Special Needs Populations: Populations whose members may have additional needs before, during, and after an incident in functional areas, including but not limited to: maintaining independence, communication, transportation, supervision, and medical care. Individuals in need of additional response assistance may include those who have disabilities; who live in institutionalized settings; who are elderly; who are children; who are from diverse cultures; who have limited English proficiency or are non-English speaking; or who are transportation disadvantaged. Glossary, National Response Framework

- c. Continue evaluating the effectiveness of Critical Areas Ordinances and development regulations and revise as necessary to ensure development does not occur in areas prone to hazards or changing environmental conditions that threaten public safety.
  - d. Support efforts to increase local jurisdictions' abilities to appropriately respond to hazardous material releases.
5. Sustain the economy
- a. Develop and maintain efforts to prepare recovery plans.
  - b. Focus on mitigation strategies that protect medical treatment centers, employment centers, commercial districts, and schools.
  - c. Coordinate with regional, state, and federal agencies to identify and prioritize continuity of operations on lifeline transportation corridors and systems.
  - d. Strengthen public-private partnerships to reinforce or establish redundancy for critical supply systems.
  - e. Develop and maintain continuity of operations plans for essential public safety services.
6. Build community support
- a. Coordinate and provide leadership in the hazard mitigation planning process among local, tribal, state, and federal government entities.
  - b. Engage residents, businesses, employers, medical centers, utility companies, subject matter experts, community, and faith-based organizations as partners to help identify opportunities to strengthen the region's hazard resilience.
  - c. Update the region's Hazards Mitigation Plan every five years, or sooner if necessary to respond to emerging threats
7. Expand understanding of hazards
- a. Monitor and evaluate precipitation, groundwater, and stream flow levels, and survey flood high water marks.
  - b. Partner with state and federal agencies, colleges, universities, and nongovernmental organizations to participate in modeling programs to map high risk hazard areas.
  - c. Participate in regional or statewide disaster scenario exercises to assess mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery capacities, and apply lessons learned to mitigation activities.
  - d. Incorporate best available science and data about climate change into hazard mitigation planning
  - e. Develop a better understanding of the location and mitigation needs of vulnerable and special needs populations within the communities.
  - f. Document, share, and act on lessons learned following disaster events.
8. Implement effective mitigation strategies
- a. Focus mitigation efforts on the region's greatest risks and vulnerabilities.
  - b. Integrate adopted mitigation strategies into other planning documents such as response plans, comprehensive plans, strategic plans, Critical Areas Ordinances, Capital Facility Plans, zoning code, and development regulations.

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- c. Apply for federal mitigation assistance grants and leverage other funding sources to finance mitigation projects.
- 9. Increase public awareness
  - a. Develop and sustain ongoing communication campaigns with residents, customers, businesses, and other stakeholders about the known risks of hazard events and the actions that community members or organizations can take to prevent or minimize losses.
  - b. Conduct broad outreach activities to engage all sectors of the community in the hazards mitigation planning process.