



Section 1. Purpose and Organization of the Plan

Contents

Contents	1-1
Purpose.....	1-1
Organization	1-3
Acknowledgements.....	1-4

Purpose

According to the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), over the next thirty years, the North Central Texas region may be hit by more than 200 tornadoes, more than 2,000 hail events, more than 100 significant wind storms, and countless other floods, droughts and other potential hazards.

In the past, emergency management has focused primarily on responding after the fact to disasters. Recent disasters such as Hurricane Katrina and terrorist attacks of September 11th have underscored the importance of reducing risk from all hazards, whether natural or man-caused. Recent changes in

Hazard mitigation is any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from all hazards.

Federal policy resulting from escalating disaster costs and passage of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 have also given new impetus to hazard mitigation. This Act has challenged the city of Plano to put more emphasis on preventing damage before disaster strikes.

This Hazard Mitigation Action Plan (“Plan”) for the city of Plano, Texas is intended as a blueprint for future hazard mitigation, defined as “any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from all hazards.” Hazard mitigation is the cornerstone of the approach taken by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to reduce our nation’s vulnerability to disasters.

This Plan is designed to help build a sustainable community that, when confronted by natural or man-caused disasters, will sustain fewer losses and recover more quickly. It is also intended to:





- minimize disruption to the City of Plano following a disaster;
- streamline disaster recovery by articulating actions to be taken before a disaster strikes to reduce or eliminate future damage;
- serve as a basis for future funding that may become available through grant and technical assistance programs offered by the State or Federal government. The Plan will enable the city of Plano to take advantage of rapidly developing mitigation grant opportunities as they arise; and
- ensure that the city of Plano maintains its eligibility for the full range of future Federal disaster relief. After November 1, 2004, certain forms of Federal mitigation assistance for projects will be available only to cities and counties that have a FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan in place.

This Plan was prepared under the leadership of William Peterson, Emergency Management Coordinator and Fire Chief, and C. J. Howard, Assistant Emergency Coordinator for the City of Plano, with the technical support of H2O Partners, Inc. of Austin, Texas (www.h2opartnersusa.com). It was prepared as part of a regional, multi-jurisdictional planning process conducted under the auspices of the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) for jurisdictions in a sixteen-county region covering an area of 12,800 square miles and a population of 5.7 million as of January 2003. The Plan builds upon products prepared by the NCTCOG, including guidance on the planning process, a multi-hazard risk assessment, mitigation options and a model resolution.

The Plan is intended to serve as a basis for future funding that may become available from State or Federal grant and technical assistance programs. It will enable the City to take advantage of rapidly developing mitigation grant opportunities as they arise.

Potential funding sources for implementation are identified for each proposed action. These include general revenues, bonds, and grants. The city will seek to obtain the necessary funding to implement the mitigation actions set forth. However, in this era of increased demands and constrained resources at all levels of government, the lack of resources, especially from external sources, may hamper the ability of the city to implement some mitigation actions identified in the plan or to implement them within the timeframe specified.

This Plan covers those areas within the corporate limits of the city of Plano, with a land area of 72.6 square miles.



Organization

Section 2 of this Plan addresses how it was prepared and who was involved in planning. Section 3 articulates the vision, mitigation goals, and objectives that guided the development of the plan. The goals are general guidelines that articulate a desired end state. They are expressed as policy statements of global visions. Objectives are specific and measurable, and define the strategies or implementation steps to attain the identified goals. Section 4 profiles the City of Plano's geography, population, economy, land use and development trends, government, and disaster declaration history. Section 5 identifies and prioritizes the major natural and human-caused hazards that have affected and may again affect the City of Plano and describes the people and property at risk from these hazards.

Sections 6 through 19 discuss each of the high-priority natural and human-caused hazards that could potentially affect the City of Plano. The plan addresses why each hazard is a threat and profiles each hazard in terms of its frequency of occurrence, spatial extent and potential impact. If the hazard has a geographic boundary, it is identified and mapped if possible. Data on the history of hazard events is provided, as available.

Section 20 discusses previously implemented mitigation actions. These include Federal projects such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Public Assistance Projects, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Projects, and other Federal mitigation projects; and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' studies, plans, and projects. It also includes plans, studies and projects of the Texas Water Development Board, and local plans, ordinances, and inspection and permitting processes. Section 21 contains actions to be undertaken by the City of Plano to mitigate the hazards identified in Sections 6 to 19. Mitigation action plans describe each mitigation action, the hazard addressed, the estimated costs, benefits, organization within the City responsible for overseeing implementation, implementation schedule, objectives the action is designed to achieve, priority, and potential funding sources.

Appendix A defines acronyms used in this Plan. Appendix B reports the results of a web-based hazard survey to elicit information from the public on issues of concern about hazard mitigation. A total of 178 responses are analyzed. Appendix C identifies members of the hazard mitigation team who developed this Plan. Appendix D provides the results of a City-wide risk ranking of natural and human-caused hazards. Appendices E, F, G and H provides tools to assist in conducting a risk assessment for human-caused hazards down to the site and building levels. Appendix I is the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Review Crosswalk for FEMA Region VI and the State of Texas. Appendix J gives detailed information about fifty-four potential Federal and state sources that may help to fund implementation of the mitigation actions. Information is given about the programs offered by potential funding sources, including the authority for the program, source of funds, purpose, eligible activities, conditions, hazards covered, matching requirements, application deadlines, and points of contact for further information. Appendix K provides a list of Plano critical facilities included in the





FEMA's HAZUS default data. Finally, Appendix L contains the resolution approved by the Plano City Council adopting the Plan (**forthcoming upon adoption**).

Acknowledgements

The city of Plano is grateful for the contributions of Bill Peterson, Emergency Management Coordinator/Fire Chief, and C. J. Howard, Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator, and representatives of the City's Office of Emergency Management/Homeland Security and other City Departments with responsibility for Police and Fire, Traffic and Transportation, Neighborhood Services, Development Services, Public Services, Public Information, Building Inspection, Floodplain Management and Engineering. A list of Local Mitigation Team members is provided at Appendix C.

The City also gratefully acknowledges the significant contributions by the NCTCOG's Department of Environmental Resources and its Director, John Promise, and Samuel Brush, Manager, Environment and Development. The NCTCOG provided planning tools and products that made significant contributions to major elements of the plan.