2025 Harris County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this document is to familiarize you with the Harris County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan that was recently updated so the necessary actions can be taken to adopt the plan. Each jurisdiction participating in the plan must formally adopt it in order to maintain eligibility for funding under Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hazard mitigation grant programs.

Hazard mitigation is the use of long-term and short-term policies, programs, projects, and other activities to minimize the loss of life, injury, and property damage that can result from a disaster. Hazard mitigation is the first step in reducing risk and is the most effective way to reduce costs associated with hazards. This hazard mitigation plan examines Harris County's vulnerability to identified hazards and outlines actions that Harris County and participating entities can take to mitigate those hazards. This 2025 update to the plan was coordinated with 42 planning partners in the County:

- Harris County
- Harris County Flood Control District
- Harris County Office of County Administration
- City of Bellaire
- City of Bunker Hill Village
- City of Deer Park
- City of El Lago
- City of Friendswood
- City of Galena Park
- City of Hedwig Village
- City of Hilshire Village
- City of Humble
- City of Hunters Creek Village
- City of Jacinto City
- City of Jersey Village
- City of Katy
- City of La Porte
- City of Missouri City
- City of Morgan's Point
- City of Nassau Bay
- City of Pasadena
- City of Piney Point Village
- City of Seabrook
- City of Shoreacres
- City of Southside Place
- City of Spring Valley Village
- City of Stafford
- City of Taylor Lake Village
- City of Tomball
- City of Waller
- City of Webster
- City of West University Place
- Cypress Creek Drainage District
- Cypress Fairbanks Independent School District
- Goose Creek Independent School District
- Gulf Coast Authority
- Harris Health System
- Houston Community College
- Lee College
- San Jacinto College
- Spring Independent School District
- University of Houston
- Varnett Public School

This coordination in planning facilitated a more efficient planning process than would be accomplished by each jurisdiction developing its own plan. It allowed these planning partners to pool resources and eliminate redundant activities.

In updating the hazard mitigation plan, the participating jurisdictions fully coordinated with and solicited participation from county and local governments, relevant organizations and groups, state and federal agencies, and the public. This coordination ensured that stakeholders had established communication channels and relationships to support mitigation planning and mitigation actions included in the plan.

The hazards examined in the plan include the following:

- Coastal erosion
- Dam/levee failure
- Drought
- Earthquake
- Energy pipeline failure
- Extreme cold
- Extreme heat
- Flood
- Hurricane/coastal storms
- Mass movement
- Public health emergency
- Severe weather
- Technology failure
- Toxic release/hazardous materials incident
- Tsunami
- Utility failure
- Wildfire

The risk and vulnerability associated with each of these hazards were determined for each participating jurisdiction, based on past events, past and predicted future losses, and the expected probability of future occurrence. From these evaluations, hazards were ranked as high, medium, or low risk to each jurisdiction. The hazard rankings were used to focus and prioritize individual jurisdictional mitigation strategies.

The planning process included a review and update of mitigation goals and objectives that were previously established. The updated goals and objectives guide the selection of mitigation actions to address risk from the identified hazards. Mitigation goals were updated based on the updated risk assessment, discussions, research, and input from plan participants and stakeholders. The goal development process considered the goals outlined in the 2023 Texas State Hazard Mitigation Plan, as well as other relevant county and local planning documents. The following goals were established for the 2025 hazard mitigation plan update:

1. Improve and coordinate data collection efforts to fully maximize mitigation capabilities.
2. Enhance public outreach strategies to improve information sharing regarding hazards, including risk reduction strategies.
3. Reduce the impacts of hazards on people and property and protect natural and cultural resources.
4. Work to improve and coordinate existing local plans, policies, codes, and regulations to reduce hazard impacts.
5. Implement property protection measures to reduce or eliminate repetitive loss occurrences.

6. Investigate and implement a range of structural projects that will reduce the effects of hazards on public and private property throughout the County.
7. Investigate and implement a range of nature-based solutions that utilize, enhance, and protect natural resources and their ability to reduce hazard impacts.
8. Advance hazard analysis and mitigation strategies to reflect interdependencies across infrastructure and community lifelines.
9. Prioritize mitigation investments to inform and support efforts to seek funding.

Maintenance of the plan includes a schedule for monitoring and evaluating the plan annually and producing an updated plan every five years. The plan will be available online at ReadyHarris.org.