

# Free Emergency-Response Resources from US FEMA

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*I've been updating a couple of excellent chapters by the distinguished emergency-management expert Franklin Platt < <http://www.linkedin.com/in/franklinplatt/> > for the Computer Security Handbook, 6<sup>th</sup> edition, which is due out in October 2013 from Wiley publishers. Frank's work has always impressed me with its thoroughness and professionalism, and I was pleased to be able to pitch in to help update it by checking the current status of all the references. In so doing, I researched the extensive resources he identified at the Web site of the United States Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) < <http://www.fema.gov/> > , and am pleased to provide readers with an annotated and updated list of pointers to these excellent documents. Mostly I just adapted the tables of contents from the documents themselves, but I think it's helpful for readers to see them all at once. My thanks to Frank Platt for his superb chapters – and while I'm at it, for being the head of the Vermont Chapter of InfraGard < <http://www.vtinfragard.org/about.html> > .*

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FEMA provides extensive resources for Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning on a wide range of topics and including email updates.

- FEMA Publication 386-1, *Getting Started: Building Support for Mitigation Planning*, < <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=1867> > establishes the hazard-mitigation process. Elements include
  - Step One: Assess Community Support
  - Step Two: Build the Planning Team
  - Step Three: Engage the Public
- Publication 386-2, *Understanding Your Risks: Identifying Hazards and Estimating Losses*, < <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=1880> > shows a method of cost-estimating potential losses due to flooding using tables rather than by calculation. These tables quickly show that losses can be far greater than expected.
  - Identify Hazards
  - Profile Hazard Events (specific worksheets for each of the following)
    - Flood
    - Earthquake
    - Tsunami
    - Tornado
    - Coastal storm

- Landslide
  - Wildfire
- Publication 386-3, *Developing the Mitigation Plan: Identifying Mitigation Actions and Implementation Strategies*, < <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=1886> > provides guidance on developing the mitigation strategy. Descriptions and worksheets are included for each of the following:
  - Develop mitigation goals and objectives
    - Review and analyse the results of the hazard profiles and loss estimation
    - Formulate goals
    - Determine objectives
    - Get public input
  - Identify and prioritize mitigation actions
    - Identify alternative mitigation actions
    - Identify and analyse state and local mitigation capabilities
    - Evaluate, select and prioritize mitigation actions
- Publication 386-4, *Bringing the Plan to Life: Implementing the Hazard Mitigation Plan*, < <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=1887> > discusses guidance on implementation.
  - Adopt the mitigation plan
    - Brief local leadership
    - Demonstrate the support of partner organizations
    - Have the plan adopted by the proper legislative or executive authorities
    - Submit your plan for approval
    - Publicize the adoption and approval of the plan
  - Implement the plan recommendations
    - Confirm and clarify responsibilities
    - Begin to integrate mitigation actions |throughout government operations
    - Monitor and document the implementation of your projects and actions
    - Establish indicators of effectiveness or success
    - Celebrate success
  - Evaluate your planning results
    - Evaluate the effectiveness of the planning process
    - Evaluate the effectiveness of your actions
    - Determine why the actions worked (or did not work)
    - Keep the community updated and involved, and celebrate your successes
  - Revise the plan

- Review those factors that affect your community's planning context
  - Analyse your findings and determine whether to revise your planning process or mitigation strategy
  - Incorporate your findings into the plan
- Publication 386-5, *Using Benefit-Cost Review in Mitigation Planning*, < <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=2680> > provides heuristics for selecting among mitigation options to maximize cost-effectiveness of expenditures.
  - Review benefits and costs
  - Prioritize actions - qualitative methods
    - Simple listing
      - List identified actions
      - Identify benefits and costs
      - Assign priority
    - Relative rating
  - Prioritize actions - quantitative methods
    - Simple score
    - Weighted score
  - Document the review and prioritization process
- Publication 386-6, *Integrating Historic Property and Cultural Resource Considerations into Hazard Mitigation Planning*, < <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=1892> > discusses how to work with local planning authorities to protect cultural capital.
  - Organise resources
  - Assess risks
  - Develop a mitigation plan
  - Implement the plan and monitor progress
- Publication 386-7, *Integrating Manmade Hazards into Mitigation Planning*, < <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=1915> > explores how to plan for terrorist or criminal attacks in emergency planning.
  - Organise resources
  - Assess risks
  - Develop a mitigation plan
  - Implement the plan and monitor progress
- Publication 386-8, *Multi-Jurisdictional Mitigation Planning*, < <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=1905> > emphasizes the importance of collaborative response planning.
  - Introduction
    - What is a multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan?
    - Why conduct multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation planning?
    - How do you organize a multi-jurisdictional plan?
    - About this document
  - Plan adoption
    - Multi-jurisdictional plan adoption

- Plan participation
    - Multi-jurisdictional planning participation
    - Direct representation model
    - Authorized representation model
    - Combination model
  - Planning process
    - Documentation of the planning process
  - Risk assessment
    - Identifying hazards
    - Profiling hazards
    - Assessing vulnerability: overview
    - Assessing vulnerability: identifying structures
    - Assessing vulnerability: estimating potential losses
    - Assessing vulnerability: analyzing development trends
    - Multi-jurisdictional risk assessment
  - Mitigation strategy
    - Local hazard mitigation goals
    - Identification and analysis of mitigation actions
    - Implementation of mitigation actions (multi-jurisdictional mitigation actions)
  - Plan maintenance
    - Monitoring, evaluating, and updating the plan
    - Incorporation into existing planning mechanisms
    - Continued public involvement
- Publication 386-9, *Using the Hazard Mitigation Plan to Prepare Successful Mitigation Projects*, < <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=3388> > is an extensive guide to using all the other resources mentioned above. It is focused primarily on working with the US FEMA.
  - FEMA has also developed a *Benefit-Cost Analysis Tool*, < <http://www.fema.gov/benefit-cost-analysis> > which assist grant applicants with financial analyses, such as net present value. The same site includes hazard data. Even though it is aimed at US users, it can be helpful to anyone working on financial estimation for risk management.

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