

hazards as an additional method to focus their analysis and planning efforts. They compare the likelihood or probability that a hazard will impact an area, as well as the consequences of that impact to public health and safety, property, the economy, and the environment. This comparison of the consequences of an event with its probability of occurrence is a measure of the risk posed by that hazard to the community.

Depending on the participating jurisdiction, a variety of information is obtained regarding hazard identification and risk estimation. The planners representing the jurisdiction attempt to incorporate consideration of hazard specific maps, including flood plain delineation maps, whenever applicable, and GIS-based analyses of hazard areas and the locations of critical facilities, infrastructure components and other properties located within the defined hazard areas.

Estimating the relative risk of different hazards is followed by the assessment of the vulnerabilities in the likely areas of impact to the types of physical or operational agents potentially resulting from a hazard event.

#### *Vulnerability Assessment*

There are two procedures available to the Working Group to assess the communities' vulnerabilities to future disasters.

- 1) The first method is an examination of the vulnerabilities of the important facilities, systems and neighborhoods to the impacts of future disasters. For the participating jurisdictions and organizations, the individuals most familiar with the facility, system or neighborhood will provide a guided, objective assessment process established by Working Group, and a complete the analysis and examination details.

The process ranks both the hazards to which the facility, system or neighborhood is most vulnerable, as well as the consequences to the community should it be disrupted or damaged by a disaster. This process typically results in identification of specific vulnerabilities that can be addressed by specific mitigation projects that can be proposed and incorporated into this plan.

The LMS Working Group will review past occurrences and decide on the need for specific mitigation projects based on the type or location of damage they caused. Analysis on these experiences can result in the formulation of specific mitigation projects for incorporation into the plan.

- 2) The second method for assessment of community vulnerabilities involves comparison of the existing policy, program and regulatory framework promulgated by local