

Overview

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), hazard mitigation planning reduces loss of life and property by minimizing the impact of disasters. This begins with local governments identifying hazards which may affect their area and developing strategies to protect from future events. By doing so, we can break the cycle of damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage. The following Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) has been developed in accordance with local, state, and federal guidelines. Chapter 44, Part 201.6, of the Code of Federal Regulations requires that all hazard mitigation plans be reviewed, updated, and resubmitted for approval on a five-year basis in order to remain eligible for federal hazard mitigation grants. As the State of Florida operates under FEMA's Program Administration by States (PAS) with regard to the review and approval of LMS plans, this plan will be submitted to the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM).

Over the years, several hazards have been identified as being a threat to Bradford County. Tropical cyclones, thunderstorms, tornadoes, and wildfires, among others, threaten the county, its infrastructure and populace. The objective of the LMS Working Group and this LMS Plan is to develop a process to plan for, assess, and mitigate these hazards in order to protect the people, property, and economy of Bradford County.

This LMS Plan is required by FEMA and FDEM to be adopted by not only Bradford County, but the local governing bodies contained within, which include: the City of Starke, the City of Lawtey, the City of Hampton, and the Town of Brooker. Adoption of the Bradford County LMS Plan by the City and County Commissions will not have any legal effect on the Comprehensive Plan or any other legally binding documents. However, adoption of the LMS will give the county and its jurisdictions priority with respect to funding for disaster recovery and hazard mitigation from state and federal sources.

Additionally, by publishing this LMS Plan and ensuring its availability to the public, the Bradford County LMS Working Group will continue to seek out the involvement of the community as a whole in order to make Bradford County a safer place to live and work as it relates to the impacts of disastrous events.