**WHAT IS HAZARD MITIGATION?**

Hazard mitigation is defined as any cost-effective action(s) that has the effect of reducing, limiting, or preventing vulnerability of people, property, and the environment to potentially damaging, harmful, or costly hazards. Hazard mitigation measures, which can be used to eliminate or minimize the risk to life and property, fall into three categories. First are those that keep the hazard away from people, property, and structures. Second are those that keep people, property, and structures away from the hazard. Third are those that do not address the hazard at all but rather reduce the impact of the hazard on the victims such as insurance. This mitigation plan has strategies that fall into all three categories.

Hazard mitigation measures must be practical, cost effective, and environmentally and politically acceptable. Actions taken to limit the vulnerability of society to hazards must not in themselves be more costly than the value of anticipated damages.