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## Hazard Mitigation Planning With CEI



New England weather is notoriously difficult to predict, and virtually every type of weather has been and will be experienced in this region. From freezing temperatures and blizzard conditions in the winter to stifling heat and humidity in the summer, communities must plan for the worst. The old adage of “if you don’t like the weather, wait a minute” certainly applies.



The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) defines hazard mitigation as “any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from (natural) hazards”, such as floods, hurricanes, winter storms, tornadoes, earthquakes, etc. Hazard mitigation may include both structural measures, such as flood control structures, and nonstructural measures, such as regulations and bylaws, to prevent flooding. Local planning and mitigation efforts allow communities to evaluate existing critical infrastructure susceptible to hazards and identify improvements to reduce damage from natural disasters.

Preparation of a Local Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan before a major disaster occurs can help a community prevent property damage and loss of life associated with natural hazards, save money by instituting mitigation measures to protect against natural hazards, allow funding through FEMA for post-disaster remediation, and expedite disaster recovery. The Plan can also help to reduce or eliminate repetitive flood losses.

CEI is currently working with a number of communities to develop FEMA-approved Local Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans to address natural hazards including, but not limited to winter storms, flooding, hurricanes, dam failures, earthquakes, tornados, and wildfires/brushfires. Our detailed scope of services often include the following major activities:

- ✓ Hazard Identification/Mapping
- ✓ Vulnerability Assessment
- ✓ Mitigation Goals/Actions Development and Prioritization
- ✓ Implementation Plan for Mitigation Activities

CEI generally prepares Local Multi-hazard Mitigation Plans through a collaborative planning process with a Local Planning Team (LPT) consisting of representatives from various departments.

For more information about CEI’s Hazard Mitigation Planning and Flood Management services please contact Matt Lundsted, P.E., CFM [mlundsted@ceiengineers.com](mailto:mlundsted@ceiengineers.com) or Nick Cristofori, P.E. [ncristofori@ceiengineers.com](mailto:ncristofori@ceiengineers.com) at 800.725.2550.