



afterword

You have completed your loss estimate. Now what?

Your loss estimate is the foundation upon which you will develop a state or local mitigation plan. With it, you should be able to identify what areas of your community or state are susceptible to each hazard, where the highest losses would occur, how much a hazard may cost were it to occur, and how the lives and quality of life in your community or state might be affected in the aftermath of a disaster. You also now have a factual basis for developing a mitigation strategy for your community or state. This will be important data necessary to support future mitigation decisions.

It is therefore important to compile the results of your work into a written report. This report should be presented to citizens and elected officials. The State Hazard Mitigation Officer should be aware of the completion of your loss estimate because the State may want to use it as part of its statewide risk assessment.

The results of your risk assessment will likely draw interest from a wide range of sectors in the community or state. Business owners and residents will want to know what the results of the risk assessment mean for them and what to do next. You have an opportunity to use the results of the risk assessment as a tool to galvanize the community and to secure interest and support for the remainder of the hazard mitigation planning process. The risk assessment can be an effective tool for public education, disaster response and recovery, and economic development. For example, you can use the results of the risk assessment to:

- Promote flood insurance by targeting at-risk properties;
- Support a public hazard awareness initiative;
- Encourage elected officials to approve and implement a hazard mitigation plan;
- Support economic development decisions by allowing hazards to be mitigated when new development takes place; and

As detailed in the Foreword, the Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning process consists of four basic phases.



The next how-to in the series, *Develop a Mitigation Plan*, will directly build on the work you have just completed.



- Reduce costs spent on disaster response and recovery through pre-identification of at-risk populations or areas, and implementation of mitigation initiatives.

By gathering information from a variety of state and local resources, you have begun to forge relations within your community and state that will continue to be nurtured throughout the planning process.

In the next phase of the Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning Process, *Develop a Mitigation Plan*, you will find solutions to address the potential impacts of natural hazards in your community or state by developing a strategy to reduce the effects of the hazards. The mitigation strategy will be based on the risk assessment you just completed in the second phase of the Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning process and will provide a comprehensive strategy to address the mitigation priorities within your community or state.

