

### Executive Summary

Mitigation is commonly defined as sustained actions taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from hazards and their effects. Hazard mitigation focuses attention and resources on community policies and actions that will produce successive benefits over time. A mitigation plan states the aspirations and specific courses of action that a community intends to follow to reduce vulnerability and exposure to future hazard events. These plans are formulated through a systematic process centered on the participation of citizens, businesses, public officials, and other community stakeholders.

The planning area for this plan update is for Collin County, Texas and includes the following jurisdictions:

- A. Collin County (unincorporated)
- B. City of Allen
- C. City of Anna\*
- D. City of Blue Ridge\*
- E. City of Celina\*
- F. Town of Fairview\*
- G. City of Farmersville\*
- H. City of Frisco
- I. City of Josephine\*
- J. City of Lavon
- K. City of Lowry Crossing\*
- L. City of Lucas
- M. City of Melissa\*
- N. City of Murphy\*
- O. Town of New Hope\*
- P. City of Parker\*
- Q. City of Princeton\*
- R. Town of Prosper\*
- S. Town of St. Paul\*
- T. City of Wylie

*\*New jurisdiction not included in the 2011 HazMAP*

The contents of this plan update are designed and organized to be as reader-friendly and functional as possible. The structure and format of this plan has significantly changed from the initial Mitigation Plan that was adopted in 2011. However, the content or base information has been maintained.

As this plan is an update to the original plan, there have been developments and evolutions to the hazard mitigation strategy of Collin County. The first is the addition of new jurisdictions to the plan. Each jurisdiction's individual mitigation strategy is discussed in their annex. Fourteen new jurisdictions participated in this plan. Jurisdictions that participated in the 2011 HazMAP have changes in development highlighted in their individual annex.

As the growth of Collin County has expanded since the previous version of the plan, the vulnerability analysis has changed. New hazards have been added, including:

- Expansive Soils
- Lightning

Discussion of these hazards, along with expanded discussion of all previously-included hazards, can be found in chapter 3.

The objectives of this updated plan remain the same as in the previous plan. These include:

- To save lives and reduce injuries.
- Minimize damage to buildings and infrastructure (especially critical facilities).
- Minimize economic losses

Further examination of the action items from the 2011 plan, including the status of each action item, can be found in Chapter 4 of the main plan. New action items for each jurisdiction are located in the jurisdictional annexes.

During the development phase of this updated planning document, the review team noted some changes. While the scope and intent of the 2011 priorities remain the same, some of the underlying factors driving the priorities reflect new external trends, such as public perceptions and expectations, or are indicative of new awareness and approaches to community mitigation strategies.

### 2011 Plan Priorities:

- 1) Local Plans and Regulations, including: changes to plans and regulations across a variety of community departments and commissions for the purpose of strengthening future documents
- 2) Structure and Infrastructure Projects, including: construction regulations; rights-of-way, easements and road specifications; implementation of the Tornado Safe Room Rebate Program; development of extreme temperature shelters
- 3) Natural Systems Protection, including: flood zone regulations, wildland fire planning and prevention, and acquisition of hazard prone land; studies to further identify hazard-prone areas
- 4) Educations and Awareness Programs, including: systems to alert residents of impending hazard events, and public education programs to promote awareness of natural hazards and mitigation efforts

### Areas of 2015 Priority Refinement:

- Post disaster conditions
  - With the potential for significant reimbursement for post-disaster projects through FEMA grants, it was prudent the plan be updated.
- Financial, legal and political realities
  - The Collin County Hazard Mitigation Action Plan (HazMAP) was updated to new standards utilizing a HMA grant and the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG). This provided the necessary financial assistance and personnel to help organize the jurisdictions of Collin County, as well as compile the data into a cohesive plan.
  - Due to a HMA grant funding the NCT Safe Room Rebate Program, there was initial concern that only jurisdictions that were part of the county plan or had their own HazMAP would be eligible. As a result, most of the Collin County jurisdictions opted to participate in the Collin County HazMAP.
- Changes in hazard focus
  - Collin County has not changed the overall focus on hazards but has updated the likelihood of an occurrence based on new data from past meteorological and archival data. With these updates, the data has shown we are more likely to experience certain disasters over others. Through the use of the Priority Risk Index, persons interested in the plan will be able to better understand the rank of disasters and why one disaster may be considered at a higher risk than others. In addition, expansive soils and lightning were included as potential hazards. These hazards were not included in the 2011 plan.

## **Collin County Hazard Mitigation Action Plan**

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The 2015 Planning Team acknowledges this mitigation plan is a planning document, not a regulatory document. The plan meets Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) planning requirements by addressing hazards, vulnerability and risk.