



STATE OF WISCONSIN

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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State Receives Federal Approval for Hazard Mitigation Plan *Approval means additional federal funding during disasters*

(Madison) – Wisconsin has received federal approval for the updated Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan. The plan identifies natural hazards in the state and outlines measures to reduce those risks.

"The plan helps state and local officials understand what our natural hazards are across the state, evaluate those risks and take appropriate steps to help mitigate future damage to homes, businesses and communities before the next storm or flood hits," said Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) Administrator Brian Satula.

The enhanced plan was approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and is active for three years. It analyzes Wisconsin's natural hazards such as flooding, tornadoes and other severe weather. It provides a history of natural disasters that have occurred in the state, an overview of federal disaster declarations, and projects and other measures the state is using to reduce the effects of future disasters.

Wisconsin is one of 10 states in the nation that has the enhanced plan which provides additional federal funding during federally declared disasters for projects such as home buyouts and flood proofing measures. In the last three years, Wisconsin has received more than \$55.4 million in federal funding for mitigation efforts following federal disaster declarations, with \$13.8 million as a result of the enhanced plan.

In the last 20 years, the state has used hazard mitigation funding to acquire and demolish 636 homes and commercial structures that had experienced repetitive flooding. In addition, more than 80 homes and businesses have been flood proofed.

"WEM is actively involved in reducing the impact of future disasters in Wisconsin," said Hazard Mitigation Officer Roxanne Gray. "Our goal is to encourage more communities to implement hazard mitigation actions whether it is to build storm shelters, develop storm water management projects or even buyouts of flood-prone homes to help minimize future losses."

Information about the Hazard Mitigation Program is located at
<http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov>