



### **What is the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update?**

Hazard Mitigation planning is a proactive effort to identify actions that can be taken to reduce the dangers to life and property from natural hazard events. The Town of Reading adopted a hazard mitigation plan in 2011 and FEMA regulations require that the plan be updated every five years.

### **Why is this plan important?**

The Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires that a city or town have an approved hazard mitigation plan in order to qualify for federal funding from the following grant programs:

- Pre-Disaster Mitigation Competitive (PDM-C)
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
- Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)

Additionally, the plan provides a municipality the opportunity to review potential vulnerabilities to natural hazards and develop measures that can reduce or mitigate these vulnerabilities and be included in the local planning process.

### **What goes into a hazard mitigation plan?**

A hazard mitigation plan assesses the municipality's risks and vulnerabilities to natural hazard events such as flooding, hurricanes, winter storms, and earthquakes. MAPC uses statewide data and information directly from the community to make this assessment.

The plan includes a set of goals related to the overall goal of hazard mitigation planning, an assessment of existing mitigation measures, and a set of new mitigation measures that will serve to advance the plan goals. The plan update will also look at implementation progress that has been made on mitigation measures from the previous plan.

### **What is the Local Hazard Mitigation Committee?**

The Local Hazard Mitigation Committee includes and coordinates with representatives from a number of different Town departments including Public Works, Engineering, Health, Community Development, Emergency Management and Fire. This committee provides the local on-the-ground knowledge necessary to write this plan including information on local hazard areas and current mitigation measures. This committee also identifies and prioritizes mitigation measures to be included in the plan.

### **How can the public become involved in the Hazard Mitigation planning process?**

Public participation is very important to the hazard mitigation planning process. FEMA requires a minimum of two public meetings. As a first draft of the plan is developed, the Town will provide an online link where the plan can be viewed and comments may be provided by the public.