

Hazard Mitigation Proposal (HMP) Analysis Memo

Activity Description: Students will first be matched to a hazard in New Orleans to complete this activity. Students will work in class in groups to develop “expertise” on their assigned hazard. They will then work in different groups to share information on their assigned hazard as they conduct a critical analysis of NOLA’s Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). For homework, each student will develop a Mitigation Proposal that addresses issues raised in their group analysis.

Objective: Identify gaps in the HMP that require corrective action, which might be achieved through proposed disaster risk reduction ideas. The gap analysis of the assigned HMP will be accomplished by conducting a comparative analysis of the appropriate Implementation Plan of the Sub Committee of Disaster Reduction and the FEMA Mitigation Ideas document. The analysis results will serve as a framework for a class discussion.

Readings and reference materials:

FEMA: [*Mitigation Ideas: A Resource for Reducing Risk to Natural Hazards*](#)

NOLA: 2015 City of New Orleans HMP, available at
<http://www.nola.gov/hazard-mitigation/hazards-and-planning/>

SDR Implementation Plans, available at
<http://www.sdr.gov/grandchallenges.html>:

- Coastal Inundation
- Drought
- Earthquake
- Flood
- Heatwave
- Human and Ecosystem Health
- Hurricane
- Landslide and Debris Flow
- Space Weather
- Technology Disasters
- Tornado
- Tsunami
- Volcano
- Wildland Fire
- Winter Storm

In-class Instructions

Each student will be assigned a group and a hazard. During class, students will review the NOLA HMP in reference to their assigned hazard. They may use the SDR Implementation Plans as an additional resource. As a group, students will share feedback about their assigned hazard.

Part I: NOLA Hazards

1. Review the NOLA HMP with specific attention to your assigned hazard. How is it presented in the HMP currently: vulnerability, frequency, probability, severity, impacts, etc.?

2. What are other risks or hazards associated with your assigned hazard?

For example, a hazard such as a blizzard is also associated with ice, extreme cold, and high winds (natural hazards), as well as personal injury, death, carbon monoxide poisoning, motor vehicle accidents, and hypothermia (risks).

3. How is your hazard prioritized (high, low) in the HMP? What information helped you determine its prioritization?

4. What are the strengths of the existing HMP? What are the weaknesses? How might the City of New Orleans improve its HMP for your assigned hazard?

Part II: NOLA HMP Review Group

Work with your second group to review your findings for each assigned hazard. Take notes on your teammates' hazards. You will be responsible for incorporating their feedback into your own analysis.

Homework Instructions

Part III: HMP Analysis

Each student will prepare their own memo informing the reader that the requested critical analysis of the HMP was completed. To do so, the memo will present analysis results and mitigation recommendations. Students are strongly encouraged to review and cite FEMA's Mitigation Ideas to strengthen their recommendations. Each hazard category assigned to the group must be incorporated into the proposal. Memos should be 1--3 pages, typed and double-spaced.