



# 1.1 Find Your Local Disaster Plans

Ideally, there is a person, department, or unit in your jurisdiction with the responsibility for emergency preparedness. They are your best source. If emergency planning is new to you, finding your local plans is a good place to start.

Most states and local governments have responded to the federal call for disaster planning, adopting plans to address how the government will respond in the event of a disaster in the jurisdiction, and posting them online and/or making them available in public places frequented by residents (such as the local library).

Generally, these plans are based on FEMA's "Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning Guidance."

- **Multi-hazard mitigation plan:** Per FEMA, this comprehensive disaster plan covers a wide range of mitigation efforts, including prevention efforts and long-term strategic efforts to mitigate potential hazards.
- **Emergency Operations Plan (EOP):** Per FEMA, this specific plan spells out the jurisdiction's immediate response to a disaster. It is sometimes a component of the multi-hazard mitigation plan.

### TIP: Technical Assistance Available to Help!

The federal government strongly encourages states and local jurisdictions to develop and implement disaster plans. FEMA's guidance recommends that these plans address disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. Both HUD and FEMA provide technical assistance and grants to help with the planning process. You can [request program assistance](#) on the HUD Exchange. Information on [FEMA Technical Assistance](#) is available on their website.

Key hints in identifying the Disaster Plan for your jurisdiction:

- While FEMA has distinct names for different types of emergency planning documents, **many state and local governments adopt a variety of names for the plan**, such as: hazard mitigation plan, multi-hazard mitigation plan, emergency preparedness plan, emergency response plan, disaster response plan, or emergency operations plan.
- In addition, **large jurisdictions may have more than one document** to cover the wide number of ways to look at disaster planning (hazard prevention; emergency response; recovery planning); smaller jurisdictions often only have one document.
- Often, **each level of government has its own disaster planning process and documents**— it is likely that the state, urban county, and large local governments (i.e., jurisdictions over 50,000) will each have one. Rural areas may or may not have their own plan, they might be covered in the state plan, or, they might not yet have developed a plan.

For contact information for state emergency management offices, see the FEMA website at:

<https://www.fema.gov/emergency-management-agencies>. For summary information about the FEMA-approved disaster plans in the nation, see the map at: <https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-plan-status>.