1.3 More Information on Disaster Planning

FEMA provides a number of planning guides and fact sheets on its website that a jurisdiction can download and use to guide its disaster planning efforts. Additional resources are listed in the Sample Plans and Guidance Tool provided in Step 5 of this Guide.

To understand the big picture:

- Provides guidance on the planning process and how to organize a disaster planning team.
- Critical tool if you are starting a disaster plan from scratch.

To develop a comprehensive hazard mitigation effort that includes prevention, response, and recovery:

- Most commonly used guides by states and local governments.
- Lists the steps in the planning process and provides tips and guidance to each level of government on developing or updating hazard mitigation plans to meet the requirements of 44 CFR 201.6.
- A jurisdiction with an approved FEMA plan that complies with this guidance will be positioned for approval for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs in the event of a disaster.

To develop a focused, immediate response to disaster:

- Primary FEMA tool that states and local governments use to develop emergency operations plans (EOPs).
- Includes very detailed plans that lay out exactly what happens in the immediate response to a disaster.
- Helpful document to look at if you need a reference tool to understand any component of your jurisdiction’s disaster plan.

To understand the legal basis of the plans:

Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as Amended, FEMA, April 2013.
- Describes the federal assistance programs for losses due to a disaster, focusing heavily on recovery efforts.
- Defines regulations that encourage states and localities to develop comprehensive disaster preparedness plans, to prepare for better intergovernmental coordination in the face of a disaster, and to use insurance coverage.

An overview of Federal Resources:

Directory of Disaster Response and Recovery Resources, HUD, Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs, June 2009.
- Supports Continuums of Care in the development of disaster preparedness plans, understanding the disaster process, enhancing capacity for disaster response and recovery, and encouraging coordination between organizations involved in a disaster response.