



Orleans Parish 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
Public Meeting # 1
Comment and Response Summary

The first public meeting of the City of New Orleans Hazard Mitigation Planning Update took place as a virtual webinar on April 7, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. A total of 96 persons attended the presentation. This document summarizes the comments and questions that were submitted, as well as the responses that were provided during the webinar.

Comments are organized into three general themes: Hazard Mitigation Plan Process and Scope, Feedback on Hazards, and Vulnerable Populations. Questions under these themes are summarized and responses provided by the City of New Orleans are detailed.

Hazard Mitigation Plan Process and Scope

- 1. Does this planning process include bidding out construction work that will be necessary in the execution of the plan?**

City Response: Project bidding is not part of this process. The Hazard Mitigation Plan may identify general projects such as development of drainage infrastructure but does not go into the level of detail where it identifies specific projects.

- 2. Will this plan address the impact of lowered or eliminated environmental regulations on air and water quality?**

City Response: The Hazard Mitigation Plan will not explicitly address changes in environmental regulations. The plan does however take into account changes in the environment (and associated hazards) as a result of climate change, such as flood risk or changes to air quality. Historically, the plan has not included policy advocacy or had action items to address regulatory concerns. However, The City of New Orleans has a [Climate Action Strategy](#) and the Hazard Mitigation Plan can help move those goals forward.

- 3. Will the signatory partners have their own separate mitigation strategies?**

City Response: The Hazard Mitigation Plan will identify joint mitigation strategies, which will be presented as one set of strategies put forward by the plan. However, each action item associated with a strategy will have a lead agency and support agency.

- 4. How is homelessness considered in the planning process?**

City Response: Homelessness is considered in evaluating risk and vulnerability due to exposure to hazards. The City is also working with partners who focus on sustainable and affordable housing and is looking at land use throughout the city during the planning process. The risk vulnerability to hazards for homeless persons is accounted for through these collaborations.



5. How will the right number of people/labor resources in plan development and execution be assured?

City Response: It is the city's and community's responsibility to maintain the Hazard Mitigation plan and adjust as needed and take action when they are able. When actions are identified, identify lead actor and potential funding.

6. What are the steps involved in plan implementation and what steps can members of the public take to see that action steps outlined in the plan are implemented?

City Response: The Hazard Mitigation Plan is maintained on an annual basis. The Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee drafts an annual report to update the status of actions, discuss significant events throughout the year that may change the status or capabilities, and/or describe funding that has been identified. Additionally, the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee meets on a quarterly basis. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Feedback on Hazards

1. Is it necessary to identify the hazards separately as natural and man-made?

City Response: FEMA's primary focus of the Hazard Mitigation Plan is natural hazards. The amount of available data for natural hazards is far greater than accessible data for man-made hazards, therefore the same level of analysis cannot be conducted for each type of hazard. This data organization facilitates FEMA's review, who ultimately approves the plan.

2. Are electric microgrids and rooftop solar energy storage being considered as a safety measure in response to dangerous power outages that result from natural disasters?

City Response: Yes, microgrids, grid resilience, and grid hardening are being considered by the City. The City previously conducted a study on priority areas for microgrids that would have the most impact, including maintaining access to groceries, pharmacies, and other key facilities. This study will be considered as the Hazard Mitigation Plan is prepared.

3. Is public health taken into consideration during hazards?

City Response: Yes, public health is being considered. Members of the City of New Orleans Health Department are a part of the Hazard Mitigation planning team. The planning team is also working with the Tulane University School of Public Health to look at public health aspects of exposure to hazardous environments. This includes impacts to vulnerable populations and strategies to assist vulnerable populations during a hazard event.

Vulnerable Populations

1. Is there an effort to engage and reach out to vulnerable populations?

City Response: The Hazard Mitigation Planning Team drafted a public outreach strategy to reach the most vulnerable and provide opportunity for outreach and feedback. The outreach strategy is now being reviewed in light of the current health crisis. Additionally, the Planning Team intends to be consistent with existing City of New Orleans strategies related to equity, resilience, and climate change. The Hazard



Mitigation Plan will also analyze the location of vulnerable communities, their level of risk, and access to resources with an emphasis on equitable outcomes.

2. Will the timeline be adjusted to allow more time to reach vulnerable communities during the quarantine?

City Response: The City of New Orleans will make every effort to reach vulnerable communities during the planning process. Currently, the City intends to maintain the existing timeline and examine additional opportunities to engage vulnerable populations during the planning process.

Polling Activity Results (hazards with * were listed more than once)

Which, hazards have impacted you or your neighborhood in the last 5 years?

Which hazards do you feel are priority for New Orleans to Mitigate?

Are there any hazards you feel need to be addressed outside of the list presented today?

- Flooding*
- Hurricanes*
- Levee failure*
- Wind
- Power outage
- Cyber security
- Buildings