

## Frequently Asked Questions Sauk-Suiattle Tribe Hazard Mitigation Plan

### **Question: What is the Disaster mitigation Act of 2000?**

**Answer:** *The federal Disaster Mitigation Act (DMA) of 2000 (Public Law 106-390), commonly known as the 2000 Stafford Act amendments, was approved by Congress on October 10, 2000. This act required state and local governments to develop hazard mitigation plans as a condition for federal grant assistance. Among other things, this legislation reinforces the importance of pre-disaster infrastructure mitigation planning to reduce disaster losses nationwide. Prior to 2000, federal legislation provided funding for disaster relief, recovery, and some hazard mitigation planning. The DMA improves upon the planning process by emphasizing the importance of communities planning for disasters before they occur. Under the DMA requirement, any local government wishing to pursue funding available under the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs must have an approved hazard mitigation plan in order to be eligible to apply for these funds.*

### **Question: What is meant by "mitigation"?**

**Answer:** *Hazard mitigation is any sustained action taken to permanently eliminate or reduce long-term risks to human life and property from natural hazards. Sustained action means an action that is long term in its impact. This is an essential component of emergency management, along with preparedness, response and recovery. Disasters can have significant impacts on communities. They can destroy or damage life, property and infrastructure, local economies, and the environment.*

### **Question: Who is involved?**

**Answer:** *The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 has stated that any "local government" can be involved if they elect to do so. They identify "local government" as "any Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, or Alaska Native village or organization; any county, municipality, city, town, public authority, school district, special district, intrastate district, regional or interstate government entity, or agency, or instrumentality of a local government; and any rural community, unincorporated town or village, or other public entity."*

### **Question: What is the Planning Team?**

**Answer:** *A Planning Team is made up of selected stakeholder representatives from within the planning area that will oversee this plan update process. The Planning Team will meet throughout this process and provide information and guidance for this project. The team will determine the goals and objectives for the plan, the public involvement strategy, and review the risk assessment.*

### **Question: What hazards does it address?**

**Answer:** *The Hazard Mitigation plan will review and address similar natural hazards of concern as those that are being addressed in the Sauk-Suiattle Tribe's 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan. The hazards which have been identified for this edition include:*

- *Earthquake*
- *Flood*
- *Landslide*
- *Severe Weather*
- *Volcano*
- *Wildfire*

**Question: Will Climate Change be addressed in the Mitigation Plan?**

**Answer:** Yes, but climate change will not be viewed as a stand-alone hazard in this plan. There will be detailed discussion of the potential impact of climate change on all hazards of concern.

**Question: How does the mitigation plan affect my community?**

**Answer:** By participating in this planning effort and adopting the updated plan, the Tribe will be eligible to pursue funding under many of the FEMA hazard mitigation grant programs. These programs provide millions of dollars worth of grant funding annually for risk reduction measures identified in these plans.

**Question: Why should I get involved?**

**Answer:** The law specifies that this be an “open public process” where the public is given the opportunity to provide comments on all phases of the plan’s development. For purposes of a Tribal plan, the Tribe has the option of defining what it constitutes as ‘public’. As a Tribal Member or citizen of the Tribe, you have the potential to be most severely impacted because of natural hazards. When these events occur, homes are damaged, functionality of critical facilities is interrupted, services are interrupted, and the economy is impacted; all having a direct impact on the Reservation and the Tribal Members. The principal goal of this plan is to reduce risk. It is not possible to identify and implement risk reduction strategies without the support of the property and business owners targeted by these strategies. Therefore, there must be public support for these initiatives in order for there to be any successful implementation of the recommendations of this plan.

**Question: What can I do to support this process?**

**Answer:** Participate! When you see a notice for a public meeting, make an attempt to attend. If you receive notice of the mitigation plan survey or have access to a computer to take the survey on-line, please complete it. Review the Tribe’s website periodically to obtain an update on the process. And most importantly, spread the word! Tell your friends, family, and neighbors about this process. This plan is very important to the health and welfare of the citizens of the Sauk-Suiattle Reservation. If you don’t understand something, or want to provide input, contact Dana Roberts, Sauk-Suiattle Police Department, who is serving as Project Manager for the Tribe for this plan update, or Beverly O’Dea, Consultant for more information.

Once the draft plan is assembled and is ready for public review and comment, it will be posted to the Hazard Mitigation Plan website. There will be announcements on the Tribe’s website and on Facebook, as well as at various public forums. The plan will be available for review and comment for 15 days. We welcome your input!

**Question: Who can I contact with questions?**

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