

Contact: Joan Racki

**UNIVERSITY OF IOWA PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PLAN**

**Action Requested:** Receive a report on the University of Iowa's Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan

**Executive Summary:** The University has provided the following report on its pre-disaster mitigation plan.

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**Background – Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan:** The University of Iowa has prepared a Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan (PDMP). The purpose of the PDMP is to identify natural hazards that may impact the University of Iowa, identify actions and activities to reduce losses from those hazards, and to establish a coordinated response to implement the plan, taking advantage of a wide range of resources.

A FEMA-approved Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan is required for the University to be eligible for any of the following federal grant opportunities:

- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
- Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM)
- Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL)
- Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)
- Repetitive Flood Claims (RFC)

Natural and man-made hazards addressed in the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan include drought, earthquakes, energy disruption, expansive soil, extreme heat, flash flood, grass/timber/wildfire, landslide, levee failure, river flood, sinkhole, severe winter storm, structural failure, structural fire, thunderstorm and lightning, and tornado or windstorm. It is intended to be very inclusive.

This document is intended to be the primary conduit for campus natural disaster planning activities. In the time span of fifteen years, the University of Iowa campus has experienced one 100 year flood (1993), an F2 tornado (2006), several ice storms, and a flood in 2008 that surpassed all previously recorded flood levels. Following the record flooding of 2008, it became apparent that the University of Iowa needed to pursue all possible opportunities for pre-disaster mitigation preparedness.

At the time of the flood, the University already had several emergency preparedness plans available for reference and guidance. These plans were relied upon in creating the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan and include:

- The Critical Incident Management Plan
- The Flood Emergency Response Plan
- The Pandemic Influenza Response Plan

This Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan differs from previous preparedness plans in that it is meant to serve as a guide for future planning activities, rather than to be utilized during an actual

emergency. Its purpose is to lessen the impact that a natural disaster would have on the University of Iowa campus for risk to human life, disruption to mission related activities of the institution and damage to physical infrastructure. One of its critical features is an assessment of the likelihood and relative damage from the various events considered.

As required by FEMA, the University will be hold a public meeting on the Plan on August 25 on the UI campus to review the Plan and the overall mitigation planning process with all interested community members.

The full report may be accessed online at:

[http://www.uiowa.edu/riskmanage/disaster\\_mitigation\\_plan.pdf](http://www.uiowa.edu/riskmanage/disaster_mitigation_plan.pdf)

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Applications: The State of Iowa will receive FEMA funding under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) as part of Presidential disaster declaration resulting from tornadoes and catastrophic flooding that occurred during the summer of 2008.

The State has opened up HMGP funds availability to include projects that will reduce or eliminate losses from future natural disasters, including but not limited to:

- Construction of tornado safe rooms (multi-functional community or school safe room projects are highly encouraged)
- Structural and non-structural retrofitting of existing public buildings, facilities, or utilities to protect against wind, ice, or flood hazards
- Minor structural hazard control or protection projects such as storm water management (e.g., culverts, floodgates, retention basins)
- Localized flood control projects, such as floodwall systems, that are designed specifically to protect critical facilities and do not constitute a section of a larger flood control system

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires a FEMA approved Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan prior to FEMA awarding Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds.

The University of Iowa submitted three "Notice of Interest" applications to Iowa Homeland Security in May, 2009, an initial step in seeking funding via the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. After initial review by Iowa Homeland Security, the University was invited to submit full applications. The University is the process of gathering materials for these applications which are due by November 1, 2009. This program has a 25% match requirement. The three applications being considered are for:

- Flood Wall – Art Building West
- "Safe Rooms" – new Hancher/Voxman/Clapp
- "Safe Rooms" – new Museum of Art