

**Breaking the Disaster Cycle:
Future Directions in Natural Hazard Mitigation**

***Developing New Federal Hazard Mitigation
Policy; the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000***

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Developing New Federal Hazard Mitigation Policy

➤ Objectives:

- 2.1 Understand the issues that motivated the search for a new federal hazard mitigation policy.
- 2.2 Review the efforts by Congress to create a new pre-disaster hazard mitigation model, policy, and program.
- 2.3 Critique the various mitigation proposals in terms of impacts on stakeholders in the intergovernmental hazard mitigation policy system.

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➤ Objectives:

2.4 Discuss the impact of major natural disasters on efforts to reshape federal mitigation policy.

2.5 Understand the pre-disaster mitigation concepts underlying the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000.

2.6 Review the Act's provisions.

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➤ Objectives:

2.7 Examine the FEMA regulations implementing the new disaster act.

2.8 Discuss the new requirements and incentives for state and local mitigation planning.

2.9 Evaluate the potential impacts of the new act and regulations on reducing vulnerability to various types of natural hazards.

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➤ **Objective 2.1**

- Issues that motivated search for new federal hazard mitigation policy:
 - Emergency management system gaps
 - Shared responsibility versus expensive federal bailouts
 - Pre - versus post-disaster funding
 - Expansion of hazard insurance
 - Repetitive damage cycle
 - Weak state mitigation plans
 - Inadequate state and local mitigation capability
 - Unsustainable communities

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The Mississippi River basin endures repetitive damage cycles.

Source: FEMA

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➤ **Figure 2.1. Major Disaster Studies and Plans**

1992 - Floodplain Management in the United States: An Assessment Report.

Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force.

1993 - Coping with Catastrophe: Building an Emergency Management System to Meet People's Needs in Natural and Manmade Disasters.

National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA).

Federal Emergency Management Agency.

National Performance Review.

Source: Godschalk et al. 1999; Platt 1999

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➤ **Figure 2.1. Major Disaster Studies and Plans**

1994 - Study by House Bipartisan Task Force on Disasters.

Sharing the Challenge: Floodplain Management into the 21st century
(Galloway report)

Unified National Program for Floodplain Management.
Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force.

Audit of FEMA's Mitigation Programs. FEMA Inspector General.

1995 - *National Mitigation Strategy.* FEMA.
Report by Senate Task Force on Funding Disaster Relief.

1996 - *Natural Disaster Reduction: A Plan for the Nation.*
National Science and Technology Council.

Source: Godschalk et al. 1999; Platt 1999

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➤ **Figure 2.2 Mitigation Issues and Problems**

- Emergency management system gaps
- Shared responsibility vs. expensive federal bailouts
- Pre-vs. post-disaster funding
- Expansion of hazard insurance
- Repetitive damage cycle
- Weak state mitigation plans
- Inadequate state & local mitigation capability
- Unsustainable communities

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➤ **Figure 2.3 Stafford Act Implementation Initiatives:**

- 1993 FEMA Mitigation Directorate established
Hazard Mitigation and Relocation Assistance Act
- 1994 NFIP Reform Act
- 1995 FEMA National Mitigation Strategy: *Partnerships for Building Safer Communities*
- 1997 FEMA Project Impact program
FEMA Strategic Plan: *Partnerships for a Safer Future*
- 1999 FEMA *National Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan*

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➤ Objective 2.2

- Review the efforts by Congress to create a new pre-disaster hazard mitigation model, policy, and program:
 - FEMA Mitigation Directorate in 1993
 - Hazard Mitigation and Relocation Assistance Act of 1993
 - NFIP Reform Act of 1994
 - 1995 FEMA National Mitigation Strategy
 - Project Impact program

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➤ Objective 2.3

- Critique the various mitigation proposals in terms of impacts on stakeholders in the intergovernmental hazard mitigation policy system:
 - FEMA
 - State emergency management agencies
 - Local emergency management agencies

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➤ Objective 2.4

- Discuss the impact of major natural disasters on efforts to reshape federal mitigation policy:
 - Hurricanes
 - Earthquakes
 - Fires
 - Floods

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Source: (FEMA)

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Figure 2.4 Figure 2.4. Policy Responses to Disasters.

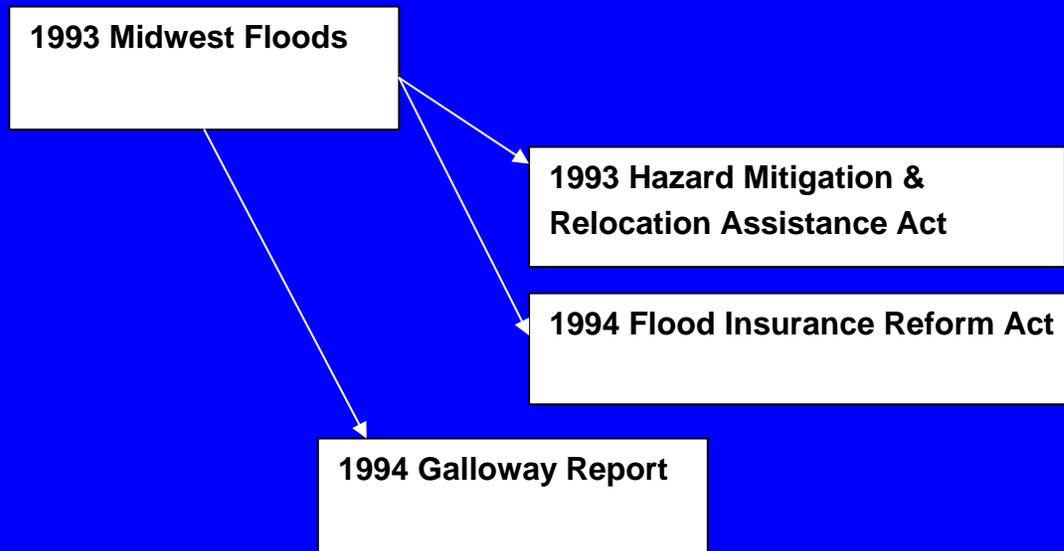
Source: Platt 1999



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Figure 2.4 Figure 2.4. Policy Responses to Disasters.

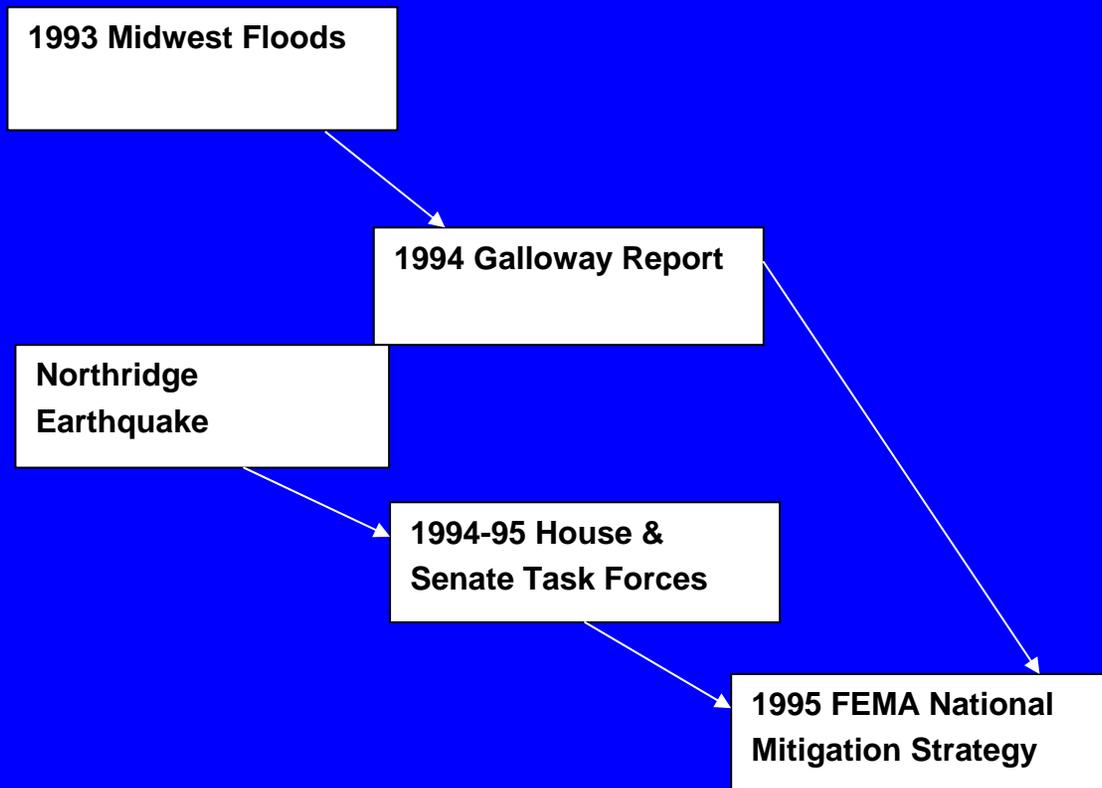
Source: Platt 1999



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Figure 2.4 Figure 2.4. Policy Responses to Disasters.

Source: Platt 1999



The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000

➤ Objective 2.5

- Understand the pre-disaster mitigation concepts underlying the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000:
 - Conceptual change: post-disaster to pre-disaster

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000

➤ Objective 2.6

- Review the Act's provisions:
 - Establish a pre-disaster hazard mitigation program
 - Provide for incentive funding for pre-disaster mitigation
 - Require state and local mitigation plans

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000

➤ Objective 2.7

- Examine the FEMA regulations implementing the new disaster act:
 - Flood Mitigation Assistance Program
 - Community Rating System
 - Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program
 - Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000

➤ **Figure 2.5. FEMA Rule Implementing the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000:**

Defines two tiered approach to mitigation planning:

- Standard State Mitigation Plans
 - HMGP funding based on 15% of total disaster assistance
- Enhanced State Mitigation Plans
 - HMGP funding based on 20% of total disaster assistance
 - Must show that State:
 - ✓ has comprehensive mitigation program
 - ✓ effectively uses mitigation funding
 - ✓ is capable of managing increased funding
 - Plans must be approved before disaster declaration to be eligible for increased funding

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000

➤ Objective 2.8

- Discuss the new requirements and incentives for state and local mitigation planning:
 - Funds for pre-disaster mitigation planning and actions
 - Additional funds for enhanced plans
 - Increased focus on mitigation planning

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000

➤ Objective 2.9

- Evaluate the potential impacts of the new act and regulations on reducing vulnerability to various types of natural hazards:
 - Two role playing exercises:
 - ✓ North Carolina
 - ✓ California

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000



Hurricane damage, Nags Head, NC (Source: FEMA)

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000



Wildfire damage, Southern CA (Source: FEMA)