

The **2025 Harris County Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP)** update is currently underway to help communities across the county reduce their vulnerability to natural and manmade hazards. The primary purpose of the plan is to establish sound mitigation practices and ensure compliance with federal guidelines, which is essential for receiving and participating in emergency funding at the county, state, and federal levels.

Since the last approved plan in 2020, the City of Hilshire Village and other participating jurisdictions have made progress by completing various mitigation projects. These improvements were identified through worksheets submitted by each participating entity during the planning process. To date, more than 70 organizations—including cities, special districts, and nonprofit partners—are actively involved in the 2025 update.

The HMP update is not just a technical process; it also involves public engagement. A public comment period will be held, and community workshops are being planned across the county. Once locations and times are finalized, announcements will be made so residents can participate and provide input.

This process helps the City identify its strengths and weaknesses in preparing for and responding to all types of emergencies. It also guides the City in developing its own tailored strategies and long-term resilience plans. Through continued participation in the county-wide MHMP, Hilshire Village remains committed to strengthening its emergency preparedness and maintaining access to vital mitigation funding.

The final Hazard Mitigation Plan Steering Committee meeting was held on June 4, which I attended on behalf of the City to help finalize the content of the plan and ensure our local priorities are represented. Final comments on each city's individual plan are due by Wednesday, June 18.

In addition to the regional plan, the Village Fire Department has provided the updated **2025 Mayor's Emergency Management Guide**. Updated annually, this outlines procedures to be followed when an actual emergency occurs. A copy of this guide is maintained by both the Mayor and the City Secretary for immediate reference during emergency events.

Together, the 2025 Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Mayor's Emergency Management Guide represent two key components of the five stages of emergency preparedness: mitigation and response. In addition to these tools, the City of Hilshire Village maintains mutual aid and interlocal agreements with regional partners to support continuity of operations during a disaster. The City is also actively seeking new sources of support, training opportunities, and partnerships to enhance preparedness.

Mitigation

Goal: Prevent or reduce the impact of disasters before they occur.

Examples:

- Enforcing building codes
- Floodplain mapping
- Elevating homes in flood-prone areas
- Vegetation management to reduce wildfire risk.

Focus: Long-term risk reduction and minimizing future damage.

Preparedness

Goal: Plan and prepare for how to respond when a disaster occurs.

Examples:

- Emergency response plans
- Training & Exercises for first responders and public
- Stockpiling supplies
- Community outreach and education

Focus: Readiness to act when a disaster strikes.

Response

Goal: Provide immediate assistance to save lives, reduce health impacts, and meet basic needs.

Examples:

- Emergency medical care
- Search & rescue operations
- Shelter & mass care
- Public information & warnings

Focus: Immediate reaction to the event.

Recovery

Goal: Restore the community to pre-disaster conditions (or better).

Examples:

- Rebuilding infrastructure
- Providing long-term housing assistance
- Mental health support
- Economic recovery efforts

Focus: Long-term rebuilding and return to normalcy.

Prevention

Goal: Actively stop disasters—especially human-caused ones—from occurring in the first place.

Examples:

- Law enforcement surveillance
- Cybersecurity infrastructure and firewalls
- Hazardous materials regulation
- Land-use planning
- Infrastructure inspections

Focus: Eliminating hazards or threats before they can turn into emergencies.