

Across the United States, natural and human-caused disasters have led to increasing levels of death, injuries, property damage, and interruption of business and government services. The time, money, and efforts to recover from these disasters exhaust resources, diverting attention from important public programs and school district goals. With several statewide or county-specific gubernatorial and presidential disaster declarations in recent history, Clovis Unified School District recognized the impact of disasters on the school community and concluded that proactive efforts needed to be taken to reduce the impact of natural hazards.

Accordingly, the CUSD Pre-Disaster Mitigation Planning Committee (PDMPC) is preparing a Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan. This project will not only guide CUSD towards greater disaster resistance, but is part of on-going efforts to create a more sustainable community.

*Hazard mitigation* is a phrase that describes actions taken to prevent or reduce the long-term risks to life and property from hazards. Pre-disaster mitigation actions are taken in advance of a hazard event and are essential to breaking the typical disaster cycle of damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage. With careful selection, mitigation actions can be long-term, cost effective means of reducing the risk of loss. The hazard mitigation planning process consists of:

- Public involvement through a series of meetings;
- Identification of hazards that could affect the District;
- Assessment of the District's vulnerability to these hazards in terms of the number of structures and people affected;
- Identification of mitigation actions that can reduce the risk from these hazards; and
- Development of an implementation strategies to reduce the effect of these hazards
- Development of educational and informational materials to assist the district in preparing for these hazards

Anyone that wishes to participate in the planning process please go to <http://www.clovisusd.k12.ca.us/pdmpc/> . For additional information please contact:  
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