

**Appendix G**  
**Glossary of Acronyms and Terms**

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AACC	Alabama Association of County Commissioners
AARC	Alabama Association of Regional Councils
ACAMP	Alabama Coastal Area Management Plan
ADCNR	Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
ADECA	Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs
ADEM	Alabama Department of Environmental Management
ADHR	Alabama Department of Human Resources
ADPS	Alabama Department of Public Safety
AEMA	Alabama Emergency Management Agency
AFC	Alabama Forestry Commission
AGIC	Alabama Geographic Information Council
AHC	Alabama Historical Commission
ALDOT	Alabama Department of Transportation
ALM	Alabama League of Municipalities
ARC	American Red Cross
CIAP	Coastal Impact Assistance Program
CPYRWMA	Choctawhatchee, Pea and Yellow Rivers Watershed Management Authority
CRS	Community Rating System
CZMP	Coastal Zone Management Plan
EO 19	Executive Order 19
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FMA	Flood Mitigation Assistance Program
GSA	Geological Survey of Alabama
HMGP	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
IFR	Interim Final Rule
MMP	Map Modernization Program
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NWS	National Weather Service
OWR	Office of Water Resources
PA	Public Assistance
PDM	Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program
RPC	Regional Planning Commission
SHMO	State Hazard Mitigation Officer
SHMT	State Hazard Mitigation Team
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers

Term	Definition
Acquisition of Hazard-Prone Structures	Local governments can acquire lands in high hazards areas through conservation easements, purchase of development rights, or outright purchase of property.
Base Flood Elevation (BFE)	The elevation of the Base Flood in relation to a specified datum, such as the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929. The Base Flood Elevation is used as a standard for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The Base Flood is the flood that has a 1% chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. The Base Flood is also referred to as the 100-Year Flood.
Benefit-cost Analysis (BCA)	Benefit-cost analysis is a systematic, quantitative method of comparing the projected benefits to projected costs of a project or policy. It is used as a measure of cost effectiveness.
Capability Assessment	An assessment that provides a description and analysis of a community or state's current capacity to address the threats associated with hazards. The capability assessment attempts to identify and evaluate existing policies, regulations, programs, and practices that positively or negatively affect the community or state's ability to address specific hazards or threats.
Coastal Zone	The area along the shore where the ocean meets the land as the surface of the land rises above the ocean. This land / water interface includes barrier islands, estuaries, beaches, coastal wetlands, and land areas with direct drainage to the ocean.
CoBRA	Coastal <u>B</u> arrier <u>R</u> esources <u>A</u> ct in 1982. The CoBRA, while not prohibiting privately financed development prohibits most new Federal financial assistance, including flood insurance, within an area designated as part of the Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS).
Community Rating System (CRS)	An incentive-based program for NFIP participating communities that implement flood mitigation programming above the NFIP minimum measures that reduce flood hazard risk. In return for enhanced flood mitigation programming, policy holders in participating communities enjoy discounted flood insurance premiums.
Cost-Effectiveness	One evaluation criteria for federal grant programs. FEMA defines a cost-effective project as one whose long-term benefits exceed its costs. That is, a project should prevent more expected financial loss that it costs initially to fund the effort. Benefit-cost analysis is one way to illustrate that a project is cost-effective.
Critical Facilities	Facilities vital to the health, safety, and welfare of the population and that are especially important following hazard events. Critical facilities include, but are not limited to, shelters, police and fire stations, utility facilities, and hospitals.
Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000)	DMA 2000 (Public Law 106-390) is the latest legislation to improve the planning process. Signed into law on October 30, 2000, this legislation reinforces the importance of mitigation planning and emphasizes planning for disasters before they occur.
Earthquake	A sudden motion or trembling that is caused by a release of strain accumulated within or along the edge of earth's tectonic plates.
Elevation of Structures	Term used in conjunction with floodplain management. Raising structures above the base flood elevation to protect structures located in areas prone to flooding.
Erosion	Wearing away of the land surface by detachment and movement of soil and rock fragments, during a flood or storm or over a period of years, through the action of wind, water, or other geologic processes.
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	Agency created in 1979 to provide a single point of accountability for all federal activities related to disaster mitigation and emergency preparedness, response, and recovery. FEMA is now part of the Department of Homeland Security.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Flood	A general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas from (1) the overflow of inland or tidal waters, (2) the unusual and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters from any source, or (3) mudflows or the sudden collapse of shoreline land.
Flood Elevation	Elevation of the water surface above an established datum, e.g. National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929, North American Vertical Datum of 1988 or Mean Sea Level.
Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM)	Map prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency showing both the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) and the risk premium zones applicable in a given community.
Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program	A program created as part of the National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994. FMA provides funding to assist communities and states in implementing actions that reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to buildings, manufactured homes, and other NFIP insurable structures, with a focus on repetitive loss properties.
Floodplain	Any land area, including watercourse, susceptible to partial or complete inundation by water from any source.
Floodproofing	Actions that prevent or minimize future flood damage. Making the areas below the anticipated flood level watertight (dry flood proofing) or intentionally allowing floodwater to enter the interior to equalize flood pressures are examples of flood proofing (wet flood proofing).
Flood Zone	A geographical area shown on a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) that reflects the severity or type of flooding in the area.
Frequency	A measure of how often events of a particular magnitude are expected to occur. Frequency describes how often a hazard of a specific magnitude, duration, and/or extent typically occurs, on average. Statistically, a hazard with a 100-year recurrence interval is expected to occur once every 100 years on average, and would have a 1% chance of happening in any given year.
Geographic Information System (GIS)	A computer software application that relates physical features on the earth to a database to be used for mapping and analysis.
Goals	General guidelines that express desired results. They are usually broad policy-type statements, long term in nature and represent global visions.
Hazard	A source of potential danger or adverse condition. Hazards include naturally occurring events such as floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, tsunamis, coastal storms, landslides, and wildfires that strike populated areas and have the potential to harm people and property.
Hazard Mitigation	Sustained actions taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk from hazards and their effects.
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)	Authorized under Section 404 of the Roger T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, HMGP is administered by implementing hazard mitigation actions after a major disaster declaration. The purpose of the program is to reduce the loss of life and property due to disasters and to enable mitigation activities to be implemented as a community recovers from a disaster.
Hazard Profile	A description of the physical characteristics of hazards and a determination of various descriptors including magnitude, duration, frequency, probability, and extent.
HAZUS, HAZUS-MH	A GIS-based, nationally standardized, loss estimation tool developed by FEMA. HAZUS-MH is the new multi-hazard version that includes earthquake, wind, hurricane, and flood loss estimate components.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Hurricane	An intense tropical cyclone, formed in the atmosphere over warm ocean seas, in which wind speeds reach 74 miles-per-hour or more and blow in a large spiral around a relatively calm center or “eye”. Hurricane circulation is counter-clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere.
Hydrology	The study of water’s overland flow characteristics. A flood discharge is developed by a hydrologic study.
Infrastructure	Infrastructure includes communication technology such as phone lines or internet access, vital services such as public water supplies and sewer treatment facilities, and transportation systems such as airports, highways, bridges, tunnels, roadbeds, overpasses, railways, bridges, rail yards, depots, waterways, and canals.
Lowest Floor	Under the NFIP, the lowest floor of the lowest enclosed area (including basement) of a structure.
Magnitude	Measures the strength of a hazard event. The magnitude (also referred to as severity) of a given hazard event is usually determined using technical measures specific to the hazard.
Mitigation Plan	The document that articulates results from the systematic process of identifying hazards and evaluating vulnerability, identifying goals, objectives, and actions to reduce or eliminate the effects of identified hazards, and an implementation plan for carrying out the actions.
National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)	A Federal program created by Congress in 1968 that provides federally backed flood insurance in communities that enact minimum floodplain management regulations in 44 CFR 60.3.
National Weather Service (NWS)	Prepares and issues flood, severe weather, and coastal storm warnings and can provide technical assistance to Federal and state entities in preparing weather and flood warning plans.
Nor’easter	An extra-tropical cyclone producing gale-force winds and precipitation in the form of heavy snow and rain.
Objectives	Objectives define strategies or implementation steps to attain identified goals. Unlike goals, objectives are specific and measurable.
Open Space Preservation	Preserving undeveloped areas from development through any number of methods, including low-density zoning, open space zoning, easements, or public or private acquisition. Open space preservation is a technique that can be used to prevent flood damage in flood-prone soils, and can enhance the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains.
Post-Disaster Recovery Planning	The process of planning those steps the jurisdiction will take to implement long-term reconstruction with a primary goal of mitigating its exposure to future hazards. The post-disaster recovery planning process can also involve coordination with other types of plans and agencies, but it is distinct from planning for emergency operations.
Probability	In terms of natural hazards, the likelihood a hazard event will occur in a given time period.
Repetitive Loss Property	A property that is currently insured that has two or more NFIP losses (occurring more than ten days apart) of at least \$1,000 each and has been paid within any 10-year period since 1978.
Replacement Value	The cost of rebuilding a structure. This is usually expressed in terms of cost per square foot, and reflects the present-day cost of labor and materials to construct a building of a particular size, type and quality. This is not the same as market value.

Term	Definition
Risk	The estimated impact that a hazard would have on people, services, facilities and structures in a community; the likelihood of a hazard event resulting in an adverse condition that causes injury or damage. Risk is often expressed in relative terms such as high, moderate or low likelihood of sustaining damage above a particular threshold due to a specific type of hazard event. It also can be expressed in terms of potential monetary losses associated with the intensity of the hazard.
Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)	An area within a floodplain having 1% or greater chance of flood occurrence in any given year (100-year floodplain); represented on Flood Insurance Rate Maps by darkly shaded areas with zone designations that include the letter A or V.
Stakeholders	Individuals or groups, including businesses, private organizations, and citizens, that will be affected in any way by an action or policy.
State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO)	The representative of state government who is the primary point of contact with FEMA, other state and Federal agencies, and local units of government in the planning and implementation of pre- and post disaster mitigation activities.
Storm Surge	Rise in the water surface above normal water levels on the open coast.
Sub-Tropical Depression	A weather system that has some characteristics of a tropical cyclone and some characteristics of an extra tropical cyclone.
Subdivisions and Development Regulations	Regulations and stands governing the division of land for development for sale. Subdivision regulations can control the configuration of parcels, set standards for developer-built infrastructure, and set standards for minimizing runoff, impervious surfaces, and sedimentation during development. They can be used to minimize exposure of buildings and infrastructure to hazards.
Tornado	A violently rotating column of air extending from a thunderstorm to the ground.
Tropical Cyclone	A generic term or a cyclonic, low-pressure system over tropical or subtropical waters.
Tropical Depression	A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of less than 39 mph.
Tropical Storm	A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds greater than 39 mph and less than 74 mph.
Vulnerability Assessment	The study of the extent of injury and damage that may result from a hazard event of a given magnitude in a given areas. Vulnerability assessments typically address impacts of hazard events on the existing and future built environment.
Zoning Ordinances	Designation of allowable land use and intensities for local jurisdiction. Zoning ordinances consist of two components: a zoning text and a zoning map.

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