

# Executive Summary

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We cannot control when or where a tornado or other natural hazard will strike, but we can save lives and reduce property damage by understanding the risks and taking action to address those risks. In the process, we can increase resilience in our community, environment, and economy. Participating jurisdictions in the Tarrant County Hazard Mitigation Action Plan (HazMAP) are dedicated to the protection of local citizens and their property, and to the improvement of the quality of life for all residents.

Mitigation has been defined as “sustained action to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to human life and property from natural, human-caused, and technological hazards.” It is fundamentally a loss-prevention function characterized by planned, long-term alteration of the built environment to ensure resilience against natural and human-caused hazards. This loss-prevention function has been illustrated by the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Council study of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) mitigation projects, which shows that for every dollar invested in mitigation, six dollars of disaster losses were avoided.

Mitigation should form the foundation of every emergency management agency’s plans and procedures. Emergency management agencies should adopt mitigation practices to reduce, minimize, or eliminate hazards in their community. The Tarrant County Hazard Mitigation Action Plan identifies the hazards faced by participating jurisdictions, vulnerabilities to these hazards, and mitigation strategies for the future. The plan fulfills the requirements of the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act as administered by the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

This HazMAP is the result of two years of study, data collection, analysis, and community feedback. Representatives and citizens from participating jurisdictions attended public meetings to discuss the hazards their communities face and the vulnerabilities those hazards present. Representatives from each participating jurisdiction reviewed drafts of the HazMAP and added input to the mitigation strategies presented in the plan. Tarrant County citizens were also active participants in the development of the plan. Citizens attended public meetings that were advertised online, on bulletin boards, and in newsletters to share their concerns about hazards faced in the community and how to mitigate the effects of these hazards.

All participants involved in this plan understand the benefits of developing and implementing mitigation plans and strategies. Elected officials, public safety organizations, planners, and many others have worked together to develop and implement this HazMAP, displaying that they have the vision to implement mitigation practices and therefore reduce the loss of life and property in their communities.

The planning area for this plan is for Tarrant County, Texas (marked in red on the Texas map) and includes the following jurisdictions:

- City of Arlington
- City of Azle
- City of Bedford
- City of Blue Mound
- City of Colleyville
- City of Crowley
- City of Dalworthington Gardens\*
- Town of Edgecliff Village\*
- City of Euless
- City of Everman\*
- City of Forest Hill
- City of Fort Worth
- City of Grapevine
- City of Haltom City
- City of Haslet
- City of Hurst
- City of Keller
- City of Kennedale
- City of Lake Worth
- Town of Lakeside
- City of Mansfield\*
- North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG)
- City of North Richland Hills
- Town of Pantego\*
- City of Richland Hills
- City of River Oaks\*
- City of Saginaw
- City of Southlake
- Unincorporated Tarrant County
- University of North Texas Health and Science Center\*
- City of Watauga
- Town of Westlake
- City of Westworth Village



*\*Jurisdictions that did not participate in the 2015 Tarrant County HazMAP.*