



# Multihazard Mitigation Council



**E**ach year, natural disasters injure and kill people in communities across the nation. Natural disasters cause tremendous damage to property. They disrupt families, businesses and government operations. They also cause government agencies to incur significant expenses for disaster assistance and emergency services. The Multihazard Mitigation Council (MMC) works to reduce the total consequences and costs associated with natural and man-caused hazards to buildings and infrastructure by serving as a focal point for the dissemination and promotion of credible information and counsel on major policy issues involving all-hazard disaster resilience and risk mitigation.

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MMC has worked to reduce losses from hazard events since it was established in 1997 as a voluntary advisory body of the National Institute of Building Sciences.

In 2005, MMC completed an independent study for Congress funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The resulting report, *Natural Hazard Mitigation Saves: An Independent Study to Assess the Future Savings from Mitigation Activities*, documents the study's conclusion—that every dollar spent on mitigation saves four dollars in avoided future losses. Since its release, government agencies, private sector entities and the media have widely cited the report.

In the decade since the *Natural Hazard Mitigation Saves* study was published, the building community mitigation landscape has changed. It is in this context that the Institute reconstituted the MMC with a new mission and broader membership base. Currently, the new MMC is promoting major initiatives on resilience incentives and planning to develop an update to the earlier *Mitigation Saves* study. The MMC is a focal point for the dissemination of credible information and counsel on these and other major policy issues involving multihazard disaster resilience. It promotes increased all-hazard (man-caused and natural) disaster resilience in homes and commercial buildings as part of a whole-building strategy that incorporates sustain-

ability, security and use of geographic information systems (GIS) and other technological tools. This expansive approach is directed to homeowners, businesses, schools, communities, public- and private-sector building portfolio managers and many others.

The MMC prepares publications, including white papers on disaster resilience policy; maintains a clearinghouse of loss reduction strategies that integrate with sustainability and security goals; and contributes to the *Journal of the National Institute of Building Sciences*.

Membership in the updated MMC is voluntary and open to public- and private-sector architects, engineers, contractors and risk-assessment practitioners, as well as trade and professional associations, materials interests and others from communities across the United States. The Council provides a forum for disaster professionals to exchange valuable information on emerging trends in building technology and federal policy, as well as to address building systems and software applications that play a critical role in disaster resilience and sustainability.

Today, the MMC remains focused on decreasing the nation's losses from natural and man-caused disaster events while also promoting community preparedness, sustainability and resilience, and working to achieve other national goals related to such priorities as energy efficiency. ■



**Staff Contact:** Philip Schneider, Program Director

**Email:** [pschneider@nibs.org](mailto:pschneider@nibs.org)

**Website:** [www.nibs.org/mmc](http://www.nibs.org/mmc)

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