

**SECTION 8: PLAN TOOLS**

**8.1 Acronyms**

A/P	Mitigation Action/Project
ADEM	Arizona Division of Emergency Management
ADEQ	Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
ADWR	Arizona Department of Water Resources
AGFD	Arizona Game and Fish Department
ARS	Arizona Revised Statutes
ASCE	American Society of Civil Engineers
ASERC	Arizona State Emergency Response Commission
ASLD	Arizona State Land Department
ASU	Arizona State University
AZDEQ	Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
AZGS	Arizona Geological Survey
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CAP	Central Arizona Project
CAP	Community Assistance Program
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CRS	Community Rating System
CWPP	Community Wildfire Protection Plan
DEMA	Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs
DFIRM	Digital Flood Insurance Rate
DMA 2000	Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000
DOT	Department of Transportation
EHS	Extremely Hazardous Substance
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPCRA	Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act
FCDMC	Flood Control District of Maricopa County
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FMA	Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program
GIS	Geographic Information System
HAZMAT	Hazardous Material
HAZUS-99	Hazards United States 1999
HAZUS-MH	Hazards United States Multi-Hazard
IFCI	International Fire Code Institute
LEPC	Local Emergency Planning Committee
MCDEM	Maricopa County Department of Emergency Management
MCDOT	Maricopa County Department of Transportation
MJHMP	Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan
MMI	Modified Mercalli Intensity
NCDC	National Climate Data Center
NDMC	National Drought Mitigation Center
NESDIS	National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
NFPA	National Fire Protection Association
NHC	National Hurricane Center
NIBS	National Institute of Building Services
NID	National Inventory of Dams
NIST	National Institute of Standards and Technology
NSF	National Science Foundation
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NRC	National Response Center
NWS	National Weather Service

PSDI .....	Palmer Drought Severity Index
RL .....	Repetitive Loss
SARA .....	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act
SRLP .....	Severe Repetitive Loss Properties
SRL .....	Severe Repetitive Loss
SRP .....	Salt River Project
UBC .....	Uniform Building Code
USACE .....	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USDA .....	United States Department of Agriculture
USFS .....	United States Forest Service
USGS .....	United States Geological Survey
VA .....	Vulnerability Analysis
WUI .....	Wildland Urban Interface

## 8.2 Definitions

The following terms and definitions are provided for reference and are taken from the 2007 State Plan with a few minor modifications.

### ARIZONA HAZARDS

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#### **Dam Failure**

A dam failure is a catastrophic type of failure characterized by the sudden, rapid and uncontrolled release of impounded water. Dam failures are typically due to either overtopping or piping and can result from a variety of causes including natural events such as floods, landslides or earthquakes, deterioration of foundation or compositional materials, penetration by vegetative roots or animal burrows, fissures or improper design and construction. Such a failure presents a significant potential for a disaster as significant loss of life and property would be expected in addition to the possible loss of power and water resources.

#### **Drought**

A drought is a deficiency of precipitation over an extended period of time, resulting in water shortage for some activity, group or environmental sector. "Severe" to "extreme" drought conditions endanger livestock and crops, significantly reduce surface and ground water supplies, increase the potential risk for wildland fires, increase the potential for dust storms, and cause significant economic loss. Humid areas are more vulnerable than arid areas. Drought may not be constant or predictable and does not begin or end on any schedule. Short term droughts are less impacting due to the reliance on irrigation and groundwater in arid environments.

#### **Earthquake**

An earthquake is a naturally-induced shaking of the ground, caused by the fracture and sliding of rock within the Earth's crust. The magnitude is determined by the dimensions of the rupturing fracture (fault) and the amount of displacement that takes place. The larger the fault surface and displacement, the greater the energy. In addition to deforming the rock near the fault, this energy produces the shaking and a variety of seismic waves that radiate throughout the Earth. Earthquake magnitude is measured using the Richter Scale and earthquake intensity is measured using the Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale.

#### **Fissure**

Earth fissures are tension cracks that open as the result of subsidence due to severe overdrafts (i.e., pumping) of groundwater, and occur about the margins of alluvial basins, near exposed or shallow buried bedrock, or over zones of differential land subsidence. As the ground slowly settles, cracks form at depth and propagate towards the surface, hundreds of feet above. Individual fissures range in length from hundreds of feet to several miles, and from less than an inch to several feet wide. Rainstorms can erode fissure walls rapidly causing them to widen and lengthen suddenly and dangerously, forming gullies five to 15- feet wide and tens of feet deep.

**Flooding**

Flooding is an overflowing of water onto normally dry land and is one of the most significant and costly of natural disasters. Flooding tends to occur in Arizona during anomalous years of prolonged, regional rainfall (typical of an El Nino year), and is typified by increased humidity and high summer temperatures.

Flash flooding is caused excessive rain falling in a small area in a short time and is a critical hazard in Arizona. Flash floods are usually associated with summer monsoon thunderstorms or the remnants of a tropical storm. Several factors contribute to flash flooding: rainfall intensity and duration, topography, soil conditions, and ground cover. Most flash flooding is caused by slow-moving thunderstorms or thunderstorms repeatedly moving over the same area and can occur within a few minutes or hours of excessive rainfall, or a quick release from a dam or levee failure. Thunderstorms produce flash flooding, often far from the actual storm and at night when natural warnings may not be noticed.

**Landslide / Mudslide**

Landslides like avalanches are massive downward and outward movements of slope-forming materials. The term landslide is restricted to movement of rock and soil and includes a broad range of velocities. Slow movements, although rarely a threat to life, can destroy buildings or break buried utility lines. A landslide occurs when a portion of a hill slope becomes too weak to support its own weight. The weakness is generally initiated when rainfall or some other source of water increases the water content of the slope, reducing the shear strength of the materials. A mud slide is a type of landslide referred to as a flow. Flows are landslides that behave like fluids: mud flows involve wet mud and debris.

**Levee Failure / Breach**

Levee failures are typically due to either overtopping or erosive piping and can result from a variety of causes including natural events such as floods, hurricane/tropical storms, or earthquakes, deterioration of foundation or compositional materials, penetration by vegetative roots or animal burrows, fissures, or improper design, construction and maintenance. A levee breach is the opening formed by the erosion of levee material and can form suddenly or gradually depending on the hydraulic conditions at the time of failure and the type of material comprising the levee.

**Severe Wind**

Thunderstorms are characterized as violent storms that typically are associated with high winds, dust storms, heavy rainfall, hail, lightning strikes, and/or tornadoes. The unpredictability of thunderstorms, particularly their formation and rapid movement to new locations heightens the possibility of floods. Thunderstorms, dust/sand storms and the like are most prevalent in Arizona during the monsoon season, which is a seasonal shift in the winds that causes an increase in humidity capable of fueling thunderstorms. The monsoon season in Arizona typically is from late-June or early-July through mid-September.

Tornadoes are violently rotating columns of air extending from a thunderstorm to the ground. The most violent tornadoes are capable of tremendous destruction with wind speeds in excess of 250 mph. Damage paths can exceed a mile wide and 50 miles long. The damage from tornadoes is due to high winds. The Fujita Scale of Tornado Intensity measures tornado / high wind intensity and damage.

Tropical Storms are storms in which the maximum sustained surface wind ranges from 39-73 mph. Tropical storms are associated with heavy rain and high winds. High intensity rainfall in short periods is typical. A tropical storm is classified as a hurricane when its sustained winds reach or exceed 74 mph. These storms are medium to large in size and are capable of producing dangerous winds, torrential rains, and flooding, all of which may result in tremendous property damage and loss of life, primarily in coastal populated areas. The effects are typically most dangerous before a hurricane makes landfall, when most damage occurs. However, Arizona has experienced a number of tropical storms that caused extensive flooding and wind damage.

**Subsidence**

Land subsidence in Arizona is primarily attributed to substantial groundwater withdrawal from aquifers in sedimentary basins. As the water is removed, the sedimentary layers consolidate resulting in a general lowering of the corresponding ground surface. Subsidence frequently results in regional bowl-shaped depressions, with loss of elevation greatest in the center and decreasing towards the perimeter. Subsidence can measurably change or reverse basin gradients causing expensive localized flooding and adverse impacts or even rupture to long-baseline infrastructure such as canals, sewer systems, gas lines and roads. Earth fissures are the most spectacular and destructive manifestation of subsidence-related phenomena.

**Wildfire**

Wildfire is a rapid, persistent chemical reaction that releases heat and light, especially the exothermic combination of a combustible substance with oxygen. Wildfires present a significant potential for disaster in the southwest, a region of relatively high temperatures, low humidity, low precipitation, and during the spring moderately strong daytime winds. Combine these severe burning conditions with people or lightning and the stage is set for the occurrence of large, destructive wildfires.

**Winter Storm**

Winter storms bring heavy snowfall and frequently have freezing rain and sleet. Sleet is defined as pellets of ice composed of frozen or mostly frozen raindrops or refrozen partially melted snowflakes. These pellets of ice usually bounce after hitting the ground or other hard surfaces. Freezing rain begins as snow at higher altitudes and melts completely on its way down while passing through a layer of air above freezing temperature, then encounters a layer below freezing at lower level to become supercooled, freezing upon impact of any object it then encounters. Because freezing rain hits the ground as a rain droplet, it conforms to the shape of the ground, making one thick layer of ice. Snow is generally formed directly from the freezing of airborne water vapor into ice crystals that often agglomerates into snowflakes. Average annual snowfall in Arizona varies with geographic location and elevation, and can range from trace amounts to hundreds of inches. Severe snow storms can affect transportation, emergency services, utilities, agriculture and basic necessities supply to isolated communities. In extreme cases, snowloads can cause significant structural damage to under-designed buildings.

**GENERAL PLAN TERMS**

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**Asset**

Any natural or human-caused feature that has value, including, but not limited to people; buildings; infrastructure like bridges, roads, and sewer and water systems; lifelines like electricity and communication resources; or environmental, cultural, or recreational features like parks, dunes, wetlands, or landmarks.

**Building**

A structure that is walled and roofed, principally above ground and permanently affixed to a site. The term includes a manufactured home on a permanent foundation on which the wheels and axles carry no weight.

**Critical Facilities and Infrastructure**

Systems or facilities whose incapacity or destruction would have a debilitating impact on the defense or economic security of the nation. The Critical Infrastructure Assurance Office (CIAO) defines eight categories of critical infrastructure, as follows:

**Telecommunications infrastructure:** Telephone, data services, and Internet communications, which have become essential to continuity of business, industry, government, and military operations.

**Electrical power systems:** Generation stations and transmission and distribution networks that create and supply electricity to end-users.

**Gas and oil facilities:** Production and holding facilities for natural gas, crude and refined petroleum, and petroleum-derived fuels, as well as the refining and processing facilities for these fuels.

**Banking and finance institutions:** Banks, financial service companies, payment systems, investment companies, and securities/commodities exchanges.

**Transportation networks:** Highways, railroads, ports and inland waterways, pipelines, and airports and airways that facilitate the efficient movement of goods and people.

**Water supply systems:** Sources of water; reservoirs and holding facilities; aqueducts and other transport systems; filtration, cleaning, and treatment systems; pipelines; cooling systems; and other delivery mechanisms that provide for domestic and industrial applications, including systems for dealing with water runoff, wastewater, and firefighting.

**Government services:** Capabilities at the federal, state, and local levels of government required to meet the needs for essential services to the public.

**Emergency services:** Medical, police, fire, and rescue systems.

**Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA2K)**

A law signed by the President on October 30, 2000 that encourages and rewards local and state pre-disaster planning, promotes sustainability as a strategy for disaster resistance, and is intended to integrate state and local planning with the aim of strengthening statewide mitigation planning.

**Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) Directorate**

One of five major Department of Homeland Security Directorates which builds upon the formerly independent Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). EPR is responsible for preparing for natural and human-caused disasters through a comprehensive, risk-based emergency management program of preparedness, prevention, response, and recovery. This work incorporates the concept of disaster-resistant communities, including providing federal support for local governments that promote structures and communities that reduce the chances of being hit by disasters.

**Emergency Response Plan**

A document that contains information on the actions that may be taken by a governmental jurisdiction to protect people and property before, during, and after a disaster.

**Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**

Formerly independent agency created in 1978 to provide a single point of accountability for all Federal activities related to disaster mitigation and emergency preparedness, response and recovery. As of March 2003, FEMA is a part of the Department of Homeland Security's Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) Directorate.

**Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM)**

Map of a community, prepared by FEMA that shows the special flood hazard areas and the risk premium zones applicable to the community.

**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 – its probability – of happening in any given year. The reliability of this information varies depending on the kind of hazard being considered.

**Geographic Information Systems (GIS)**

A computer software application that relates physical features on the earth to a database to be used for mapping and analysis.

**Hazard**

A source of potential danger or adverse condition. Hazards include both natural and human-caused events. A natural event is a hazard when it has the potential to harm people or property and may include events such as floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, tsunami, coastal storms, landslides, and wildfires that strike populated areas. Human-caused hazard events originate from human activity and may include technological hazards and terrorism. Technological hazards arise from human activities and are assumed to be accidental and/or have unintended consequences (e.g., manufacture, storage and use of hazardous materials). While no single definition of terrorism exists, the Code of Federal Regulations defines terrorism as "...unlawful use of force and violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives."

**Hazard Event**

A specific occurrence of a particular type of hazard.

**Hazard Identification**

The process of identifying hazards that threaten an area.

**Hazard Mitigation**

Cost effective measures taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk associated with hazards and their effects.

**Hazard Profile**

A description of the physical characteristics of hazards and a determination of various descriptors including magnitude, duration, frequency, probability, and extent.

**HAZUS**

A GIS-based nationally standardized earthquake, flood and high wind event loss estimation tool developed by FEMA.

**Mitigate**

To cause to become less harsh or hostile; to make less severe or painful. Mitigation activities are actions taken to eliminate or reduce the probability of the event, or reduce its severity of consequences, either prior to or following a disaster/emergency.

**Mitigation Plan**

A systematic evaluation of the nature and extent of vulnerability to the effects of natural hazards typically present in a defined geographic area, including a description of actions to minimize future vulnerability to hazards.

**100-Hundred Year Floodplain**

Also referred to as the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) and Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). An area within a floodplain having a 1% or greater chance of flood occurrence in any given year.

**Planning**

The act or process of making or carrying out plans; the establishment of goals, policies, and procedures for a social or economic unit.

**Probability**

A statistical measure of the likelihood that a hazard event will occur.

**Promulgation**

To make public and put into action the Hazard Mitigation Plan via formal adoption and/or approval by the governing body of the respective community or jurisdiction (i.e. – Town or City Council, County Board of Directors, etc.).

**Q3 Data**

The Q3 Flood Data product is a digital representation of certain features of FEMA's Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) product, intended for use with desktop mapping and Geographic Information Systems technology. The digital Q3 Flood Data are created by scanning the effective FIRM paper maps and digitizing selected features and lines. The digital Q3 Flood Data are designed to serve FEMA's needs for disaster response activities, National Flood Insurance Program activities, risk assessment, and floodplain management.

**Repetitive Loss Property**

A property that is currently insured for which two or more National Flood Insurance Program losses (occurring more than ten days apart) of at least \$1,000 each have been paid within any 10 year period since 1978.

**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 a high, moderate, or low likelihood of sustaining damage beyond 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.

**Substantial Damage**

Damage of any origin sustained by a structure in a Special Flood Hazard Area whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its before-damaged condition would equal or exceeds 50% of the market value of the structure before the damage.

**Vulnerability**

Describes how exposed or susceptible to damage an asset is. Vulnerability depends on an asset's construction, contents, and the economic value of its functions. Like indirect damages, the vulnerability of one element of the community is often related to the vulnerability of another. For example, many businesses depend on uninterrupted electrical power—if an electric substation is flooded, it will affect not only the substation itself, but a number of businesses as well. Often, indirect effects can be much more widespread and damaging than direct effects.

**Vulnerability Analysis**

The extent of injury and damage that may result from a hazard event of a given intensity in a given area. The vulnerability analysis should address impacts of hazard events on the existing and future built environment.

**Vulnerable Populations**

Any segment of the population that is more vulnerable to the effects of hazards because of things such as lack of mobility, sensitivity to environmental factors, or physical abilities. These populations can include, but are not limited to, senior citizens and school children.

**Goals**

General guidelines that explain what you want to achieve. Goals are usually broad statements with long-term perspective.

**Objectives**

Defined strategies or implementation steps intended to attain the identified goals. Objectives are specific, measurable, and have a defined time horizon.

**Actions/Projects**

Specific actions or projects that help achieve goals and objectives.

**Implementation Strategy**

A comprehensive strategy that describes how the mitigation actions will be implemented.

**GENERAL HAZARD TERMS**

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**Fujita Scale of Tornado Intensity**

Rates tornadoes with numeric values from F0 to F5 based on tornado winds speed and damage sustained. An F0 indicates minimal damage such as broken tree limbs or signs, while an F5 indicates severe damage sustained.

**Liquefaction**

The phenomenon that occurs when ground shaking (earthquake) causes loose soils to lose strength and act like viscous fluid. Liquefaction causes two types of ground failure: lateral spread and loss of bearing strength.

**Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale**

The Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale is commonly used in the United States by seismologists seeking information on the severity of earthquake effects. Intensity ratings are expressed as Roman numerals between I at the low end and XII at the high end. The Intensity Scale differs from the Richter Magnitude Scale in that the effects of any one earthquake vary greatly from place to place, so there may be many Intensity values (e.g.: IV, VII) measured from one earthquake. Each earthquake, on the other hand, should have just one Magnitude, although the several methods of estimating it will yield slightly different values (e.g.: 6.1, 6.3).

**Monsoon**

A monsoon is any wind that reverses its direction seasonally. In the Southwestern U.S., for most of the year the winds blow from the west/northwest. Arizona is located on the fringe of the Mexican Monsoon which during the summer months turns the winds to a more south/southeast direction and brings moisture from the Pacific Ocean, Gulf of California, and Gulf of Mexico. This moisture often leads to thunderstorms in the higher mountains and Mogollon Rim, with air cooled from these storms often moving from the high country to the deserts, leading to further thunderstorm activity in the desert. A common misuse of the term monsoon is to refer to individual thunderstorms as monsoons.

**Richter Magnitude Scale**

A logarithmic scale devised by seismologist C.F. Richter in 1935 to express the total amount of energy released by an earthquake. While the scale has no upper limit, values are typically between 1 and 9, and each increase of 1 represents a 32-fold increase in released energy.