



Maricopa County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2020-21

The Elements of Surprise

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A Look in the Rear View Mirror

The 2015 Hazard Mitigation Plan Process

- Small Response Team - Fire Department Led
- Harvesting Data from Un-aggregated Information
- Few formal plans, assessments, or *incidents
- Lack of context - minimal city-wide training in incident management and emergency response
- Outside of utilities, and wildland fire prevention/mitigation, no threat and hazard identification and/or risk assessments performed within the city and only a few staff members were exposed to the process

A Look in the Rear View Mirror

2015-2020 (The City gets context and plans for the future)

2016 - The City sets long term goals: Emergency Operations Plan, hiring an Emergency Manager and engaging in THIRA.

2017 – City Facilities including Surprise Stadium suffer significant wind damage from a microburst - *incident with response, recovery and mitigation

2017 – City's first Emergency Operations Plan is initiated

2018 – Surprise hires its first Emergency Manager

2019 – Focused on our #1 Risk, National Weather Service certifies Surprise as a Storm Ready City

A Look in the Rear View Mirror

2015-2020 (Knowledge and Experience Grows)

- 2018 – Collaborative group does a threat vulnerability assessment on Surprise Stadium
- 2018 – Planning begins on THIRA for Critical Infrastructure Sites (Water, IT, Facilities)
- 2019 – NIMS Training is provided to all departments
- 2020 – Plans begin for COOP's for all departments (Data about the city and its assets is aggregated)
- 2020 – City stands-up an Incident Management Team to support the City's response to business and community members as COVID pandemic arrives in the US *incident
- 2020 – Amid the COVID response, the City begins the 2020 County Hazard Mitigation Plan Process

In the Moment

2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan

5-years after the 2015 plan, all departments have:

- Participated in assessments, event planning, and Incident Management
- Documented their essential functions, staff and facilities
- Aggregated data regarding facilities, infrastructure, interdependencies, and redundancies
- Exercised response to planned and unplanned incidents
- While the team identifies “climate change” as a man made hazard (not considered for this plan) they recognize that climate change impacts our wildfire considerations, AND the impact heat has on our city response in the context of human services.

Looking Ahead

Viewing the 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan Through a New Lens

Surprise continues to:

- Assess hazards and risks both broadly and specific to critical infrastructure
- Utilize the plan to investigate opportunities for mitigation
- Train and expand Incident Management capacity
- Leverage the community and business engagement momentum from our COVID Response to support overall community resilience.
- Explore the impacts of heat in more formal ways to include consideration of a Climate Action Plan (addressing heat beyond immediate human services needs)



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QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

Thank You

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