

## **Revised Objective 11: Hazard Mitigation**

*(Revised to include additional Wildfire Policies)*

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**Objective 11:**            **Hazard Mitigation**

Protect Residents and Property from the Physical and Economic Effects of Natural and Man-Made Disasters.

**Policy 11.1:**            **Sinkholes**

Provide appropriate sized buffers adjacent to the above areas to protect human life and economic investment.

**Policy 11.2:**            **Wildfire Protection Plan**

By 2011 the County shall develop a county-wide, Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

The Wildfire Protection Plan shall contain a Wildland Fire Susceptibility Index Map which will identify areas with greater wildfire risk.

The Wildfire Protection Plan shall include at a minimum, input from the Division of Forestry, Fire Department Officials and Conservation Land Managers.

**Policy 11.3:**            **Wildfire Fuel Management**

The County shall continue to support fuel mitigation activities that reduce the wildfire risk to people and property while creating and maintaining healthy ecosystems.

**Policy 11.4:**            **Public Outreach and Education on Wildfire Risk**

The County shall conduct public outreach and education to inform the public of wildfire risk and provide residents with information on how to take pro-active measures to mitigate wildfire risk to their homes and businesses.

**Policy 11.5:**      **Wildfire Mitigation Design In New Development**

In new development employ appropriate mitigation features when in areas of high wild fire risk.

Mitigation may include adequate defensible wildfire buffers, development of a fuel management plan for conservation areas, firewise friendly landscaping, firewise building materials, strategic placement of water features, water storage facilities, greater fire access routes and turn arounds for firefighting equipment.

**Policy 11.6:**      **Floodway**

Prohibit new development within the floodway of any perennial stream, except water-dependent uses (such as docks).

**Policy 3.6 11.7:**      **Flood Elevation Design Requirements**

Upon adoption, development Development orders and permits for new development or redevelopment shall be issued for construction in floodplain areas only if the development meets the building elevations identified in the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM).

Prior to the issuance of a final development order, the County shall continue to require 100-year storm event data for a project's proposed finished floor elevations (based on the flood elevations identified on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps).

Additionally, the County shall require mitigation of displaced flood waters through project design or through on-site or off-site ponding areas.

**Policy 11.8:**      **Thoroughfare Roads - Above the 100 Year Floodplain**

Require all new thoroughfare roads to be built above the 100 year base flood elevation.

**Policy 11.9:**      **Hazard Mitigation and Capital Improvement Planning**

The County shall continue to give consideration to funding projects and programs which reduce the exposure of Highlands County residents,

visitors, infrastructure, and private investment to natural and man-made hazards.

The County shall continue to seek grants, along with the development of public / private partnerships to address hazard mitigation activities.

The County shall continue to direct investment in infrastructure away from hazardous areas.

**Policy 11.10:**      **Hazard Mitigation of Historic Resources**

By 2015, identify historic resources which are vulnerable to natural and man-made disasters.

Implement appropriate, cost effective mitigation methods to preserve key historical resources.

Recognize the critical role of public outreach and education of residents regarding mitigation techniques to protect and preserve private historic resources.

**Policy 3.11 11.11:**      **Flood and Hurricane Hazard Use Mitigation/Planning**

Within the Planning period the The County will continue to update its Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, which includes shelter assistance assignments and the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan as required.

*Comment:      The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is required to be updated every five years per federal regulations to remain eligible for pre and post federal disaster funds.*

**Policy 3.7 11.12:**      **Disaster Shelters**

The County shall continue to administer and monitor for adjustment to existing land development regulations for disaster shelter, establishing a minimum standard of usable shelter space for each site occupied by a mobile home, a manufactured home (including park models), or a recreational vehicle.

The County shall review and recommend appropriate precautionary measures to ensure public safety during hurricanes or other natural emergencies.

These measures may include specific new provisions for:

- A.      Tie downs to stabilized ground anchors;

- B. Shut off valves/switches for all lateral connections at each of the aforementioned sites; and,
- C. A requirement that shelters be constructed to maintain structural integrity within a 120 mile per hour wind.

Any such requirements shall be made to apply to new development and redevelopment.

**Policy 11.13:**                    **Disaster Shelter Expansion and Coordination**

The County shall continue to seek opportunities to expand the availability of shelter space for all segments of the population with special emphasis on special needs populations.

The County shall continue to coordinate with all appropriate governmental agencies and non-governmental partners to meet demands.

The County shall seek grant funds for the expansion of shelter space.

**Policy 11.14:**                    **Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan**

By 2014, prepare and adopt a Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan to provide guidance on the long term redevelopment of the County in case of a catastrophic disaster.

*Comment: Objective 11 and Policies 11.1 through 11.15 have been added consistent with the recommendations of the Highlands County Local Mitigation Strategy.*