

Unit 5: Local Capabilities and Challenges



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Objectives

After completing this unit, you will be able to:

- Identify the six community planning tools that can assist in disaster recovery.
- Describe the challenges and opportunities related to short and long term housing issues.
- Explain the roles of local agencies for functions including planning, and community development, housing, public works, and building inspection.



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Planning and Community Development



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The Role of Community Planning

- Analyze existing community development problems and issues.
- Identify options and solutions.
- Develop a vision for the community's future.



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Six Planning Tools



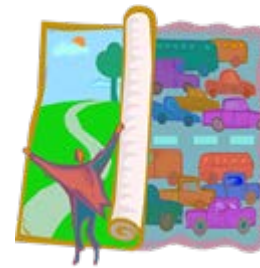
- General Plan and Elements
- Zoning Ordinance
- Subdivision Regulations
- Capital Improvements Programming
- Transfer of Development Rights
- Mapping



General Plan and Elements

The Land Use or General Plan and Elements sets goals for these uses:

- Land Use
- Transportation
- Safety
- Public Utilities
- Open Space



Zoning Ordinance

A zoning ordinance identifies allowable land uses within the community.



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Subdivision Regulations

Subdivision is the process by which land is divided into smaller parcels.



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Capital Improvements Programming

Capital improvements can help direct future growth or rebuilding.



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Transfer of Development Rights

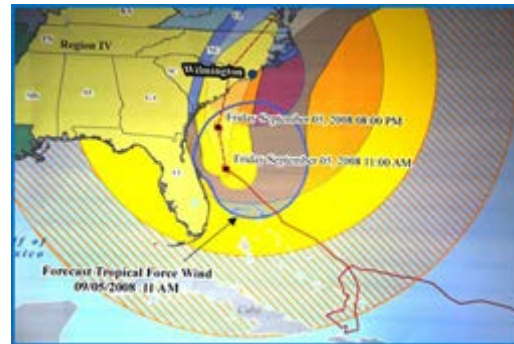
Transfer of Development rights may provide options during disaster recovery.



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Mapping

The Planning Department's Geographic Information System (GIS) and mapping resources are valuable tools for recovery planning.



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Housing



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Issues and Challenges

Why does a community with significant housing damage need to be concerned about temporary housing, and replacement housing for its citizens?



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Short- and Long-Term Options

- Temporary housing
- Replacement housing



Temporary Housing

People whose homes are not habitable, safe, sanitary, or secure will need temporary housing.



Temporary Housing Resources (1 of 2)

When there is NOT a Presidential Disaster Declaration, contact:

- Your State's multi-family housing association.
- Local nonprofit housing providers and developers.
- State Housing Finance Agency (HFA) or Economic Development Agency (EDA).
- The American Red Cross.
- Your Unmet Needs Committee.



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Temporary Housing Resources (2 of 2)

When a Presidential Disaster Declaration is made, FEMA will activate the National Disaster Housing Strategy, which includes:

- Providing repair and replacement assistance.
- Cataloging vacant rental units.
- Providing manufactured and alternative interim housing (as a last resort).



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Short- and Long-Term Temporary Housing

- Short-Term
 - Onsite travel trailers (manufactured) units
 - Alternative housing (tents)
- Long-Term
 - Mobile homes



New Site Development Considerations

- Size of the development: determine whether there should be multiple sites.
- Proximity to: transportation, shopping, churches, jobs, schools, etc.
- Large developments may need play areas, gathering places, onsite services (VOAD, Recovery Center).
- Site approval and preparation may be a lengthy process.



Replacement Housing

Avoid the rush to replace lost housing.



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Improvements



- Disaster recovery can be an opportunity.
- Recovery funds can be used to improve the community rather than put it back the way it was.



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Community Revitalization



The goal of housing recovery is two-fold:

- Help survivors repair or replace housing.
- Revitalize the community's housing stock and tax base.



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Potential Resources

Potential housing recovery resources include:

- Financial options
- Housing recovery assistance



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Financial Options

Financial resources available to repair and replace housing:

- Insurance
- Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Assistance Loans
- State and/or Federal Disaster Assistance
- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) Resources and Services



Non-FEMA Government Assistance

- SBA
- Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development (RD) housing programs



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Public Funds

In long-term housing recovery, the role of public funds is to fill gaps, to return survivors to pre-disaster housing conditions, and to address health and safety deficiencies.



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Other Resources

Nonprofit housing providers assist with:

- Housing counseling
- Volunteer coordination
- Job site supervision and guidance
- New home and home rehabilitation construction management
- Financial aid



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Providers Identified

Identifying local nonprofit housing providers:

- Community Action Agencies/Programs (CAP)
- Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS)
- Community Development Organizations
- Community-Based Organizations (CBO)



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Activity 5.1: Case Study - APA

Briefing - Housing

Purpose: Examine issues relating to affordable housing during recovery.

Instructions:
Individually read the 5 page briefing, discuss as a class.



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Public Works



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Critical Issues for Public Works

- Transportation systems and facilities
- Drainage and flood control systems
- Water and sewer utility systems
- Solid waste – collection/continuity
- Solid waste – debris removal/disposal
- Recovery and mitigation support services



Four General Areas of Activity

- Transportation and Lifelines
- Utilities
- Debris Management
- Support Activities



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Transportation Systems

- Roads
- Bridges
- Traffic Control



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Other Transportation Systems

Transportation facilities

- Airports
- Seaports
- Rail systems
- Mass transit systems
- Tunnels



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Lifelines



- Electrical power
- Telecommunication
- Cable
- Internet
- Natural Gas



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Important Issues to Consider

- Primary re-start locations
 - Prioritize for community needs
 - Coordinate the work and priorities
- Publicize the plan
 - Communicate with stakeholders
 - Establish clear expectations



Drainage & Flood Control Systems

- Identify critical areas in your community.
- Determine what areas and structures are most vulnerable.
- Prioritize cleaning and repair based on risk assessment.
- Identify process for damage assessment of these systems and structures.
- If multiple jurisdictions, who will coordinate?



Sanitary Sewer Systems

- Ownership and control
- Status of key components
- Isolation points
- Availability of spare parts and equipment



Potable Water Systems

- Ownership and control
- Status of key components isolation points
- Availability of spare parts and equipment



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Solid Waste – Collection/Continuity

- Who will carry out normal collection operations?
- Are there drawbacks to one contractor doing both routine and debris operations?
- Will the traditional disposal sites change their billing or operational policies and procedures?
- Will commercial collection needs increase during the recovery period due to increased business and restocking?



Solid Waste – Debris

Removal/Disposal

- Determine community's role.
- Determine Temporary Debris Storage and Reduction sites (TDSR) and permit requirements.
- Publicize plans and requirements.
- Understand Federal requirements for reimbursement of debris-related costs.



Debris Management

- Once debris is moved to TDSR, reduction is an efficient method to reduce material disposal costs.
 - Recycle: metal, glass, plastics, paper, white goods
 - For other combustibles:
 - Air curtain burner
 - Grinders/chippers
 - Composting
- Authority to demolish structures.



Hazardous Material Collection

- How will hazardous materials be collected?
- Determine protocols for collection (OSHA/EPA).
- How and to whom will spills or leaks be communicated?
- Communicate the need to separate from other debris.
- Determine final disposal plan.



Technical Support – Recovery

Provide support to other recovery team members for:

- Damage assessment.
- Engineering, fleet, facilities, and resources.
- Liaison with utilities and agencies.



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Technical Support – Mitigation

- Determine how mitigation can be incorporated into recovery.
- Evaluate/identify areas of future risk.
- Identify mitigation techniques.
- Determine financing options.



Continuity

In most cases, there are services that must be provided despite the recovery process.

- Identify areas and services that have priority.
- Determine how to staff both recovery and continuity operations.
- Plan how and when to transition forces from one to the other.



Transition

Determining when to transition from recovery to normal is often a difficult thing to do:

- Who determines when this transition will take place?
- How will employees be transitioned?
- What operations will be transitioned first?
- Are there new priorities or policies?
- How will these new policies be communicated to the staff? .



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Activity 5.2: Case Study - APA

Briefing - Infrastructure

Purpose: Examine issues relating to infrastructure during recovery.

Instructions: Individually read the 5 page briefing, discuss as a class.



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Building Inspection



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Building Inspection

Building inspection services may be needed for:

- Damage Assessment
- Re-Entry and Access Policies
- Temporary Protection vs. Reconstruction
- Contractor Licensing and Approvals
- Code Issues
- Mitigation Activities
- Demolition of Structures
- Building-Related Debris Management



Damage Assessment

- Establishes a picture of scope and impact.
- Supports application for declaration and funding.
- Requires trained staff and a damage assessment procedure.
- Requires cooperation with other agencies and private sector.
- Makes use of technology where possible.



Trained Staff

- Reporting methods and structure
- Procedures and report format
- Uniform marking code
- Lines of responsibility and communication



Rapid Damage Assessment

- Conducted immediately post event.
- Provides general information to officials... How big how bad?
- Provides rough estimates and limits of damage.
- Can be accomplished through either single resources, task force, or strike team concepts.



Detailed Damage Assessment

- May overlap in timeline with rapid damage assessment.
- Provides more extensive information.
- Inspections involve more physical presence.
- Costs are based upon more detailed estimates than rapid damage assessment.
- Helps determine actual losses
- Assists with mitigation and recovery planning.



Re-Entry and Access Policy

- Critical part of emergency planning.
- Potential conflict between officials, citizens, and businesses.
- Necessary for public safety and security.
- Should establish who, when, where, and how long.
- Access routes and perimeter security.
- Planning can avoid conflicts between debris/public recovery and private recovery.



Temporary Repairs vs. Reconstruction



- Does temporary work require permits?
- What is the threshold between temporary and permanent repairs?
- How will requests for exemption of code and ordinance requirements be managed?



Contractor Licensing and Approvals

- Plan for the inevitable influx of contractors.
- Licensing vs. approved lists.
- Publicizing your process and protections to the public.



Code Adequacies

The best time to review codes for currency and adequacy is **BEFORE** the disaster.



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Mitigation Activities

- Information from assessments can be key component of mitigation reviews.
- Public support is often higher after an event.
- Coordination with community planning department.



Demolition of Private & Public Properties

- Always a contentious issue.
- Authority to approve demolitions.
- Criteria to be applied:
 - Extent of damage (\$ vs. %)
 - Public safety vs. community safety
 - Proper notification of property owners



Unit Summary

Are you now able to:

- Identify the six community planning tools that can assist in disaster recovery?
- Describe the challenges and opportunities related to short and long term housing issues?
- Explain the roles of local agencies for functions including planning, and community development, housing, public works, and building inspection?



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