

THE SITUATION REPORT

The Official Newsletter of Greenville County Emergency Management

GREENVILLE COUNTY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (GCERT)

by Caleb Johnson

The Greenville County Emergency Response Team (GCERT) is housed under Greenville County Emergency Management (GCEM) and serves Greenville County and the rest of South Carolina by responding to hazmat, technical rescue, missing persons, dive, and trench rescue calls. ERT supplies much of the specialized equipment needed to respond to extraordinary situations and relies on almost 300 personnel from multiple agencies and disciplines across Greenville County such as fire, EMS, law enforcement, and animal control. In 2020, ERT logged approximately 24,000 hours of response and training. Notable events that were responded to were the tornadoes in the Laurel and Hardy area of Marietta and in Seneca and the COVID-19 testing site at the Greenville Convention Center and Gantt Fire Department. For more information or to register for ERT, visit our website [here](#).

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WHAT IS HAZARD MITIGATION?

by Mackenzie Forgacs

Hazard mitigation is an active process of preparing for a disaster in a way that develops solutions to future problems before they can even occur. Although hazard mitigation and preparedness efforts are often intertwined, the two phases of emergency management are different. While preparedness efforts involve ways to avoid a crisis that may occur, hazard mitigation involves ways to change the course of the crisis itself. In other words, preparedness is building a canoe while waiting for a flood to hit your home. Mitigation is building your house in a way that ensures you will never need a canoe.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), hazard mitigation is "any sustainable action that reduces or eliminates long-term risk to people and property from future disasters". Examples of hazard mitigation include retrofitting a building to withstand earthquakes, removing a home from a floodplain, and enacting zoning laws to ensure that vulnerable buildings (such as hospitals and schools) cannot be built in high-risk areas.

Hazard mitigation assistance helps communities by:

Providing funding for eligible mitigation measures that reduce disaster loss.

Reducing the vulnerability of communities to disasters and their effects.

Promoting individual and community safety and their ability to adapt to changing conditions.

Promoting community resilience after a disaster.

Lessening response and recovery resource requirements after a disaster.

Resulting in safer communities that are less reliant on external financial assistance.

HAZARD MITIGATION IN ACTION

by Mackenzie Forgacs



After flooding caused damage to this house, it was elevated to avoid rising flood waters during future events.



Because this house was built within a floodplain, the owners continued to struggle with the cost of repairs. The land was ultimately purchased by the County it was located in and restored to its natural state to avoid future damages.

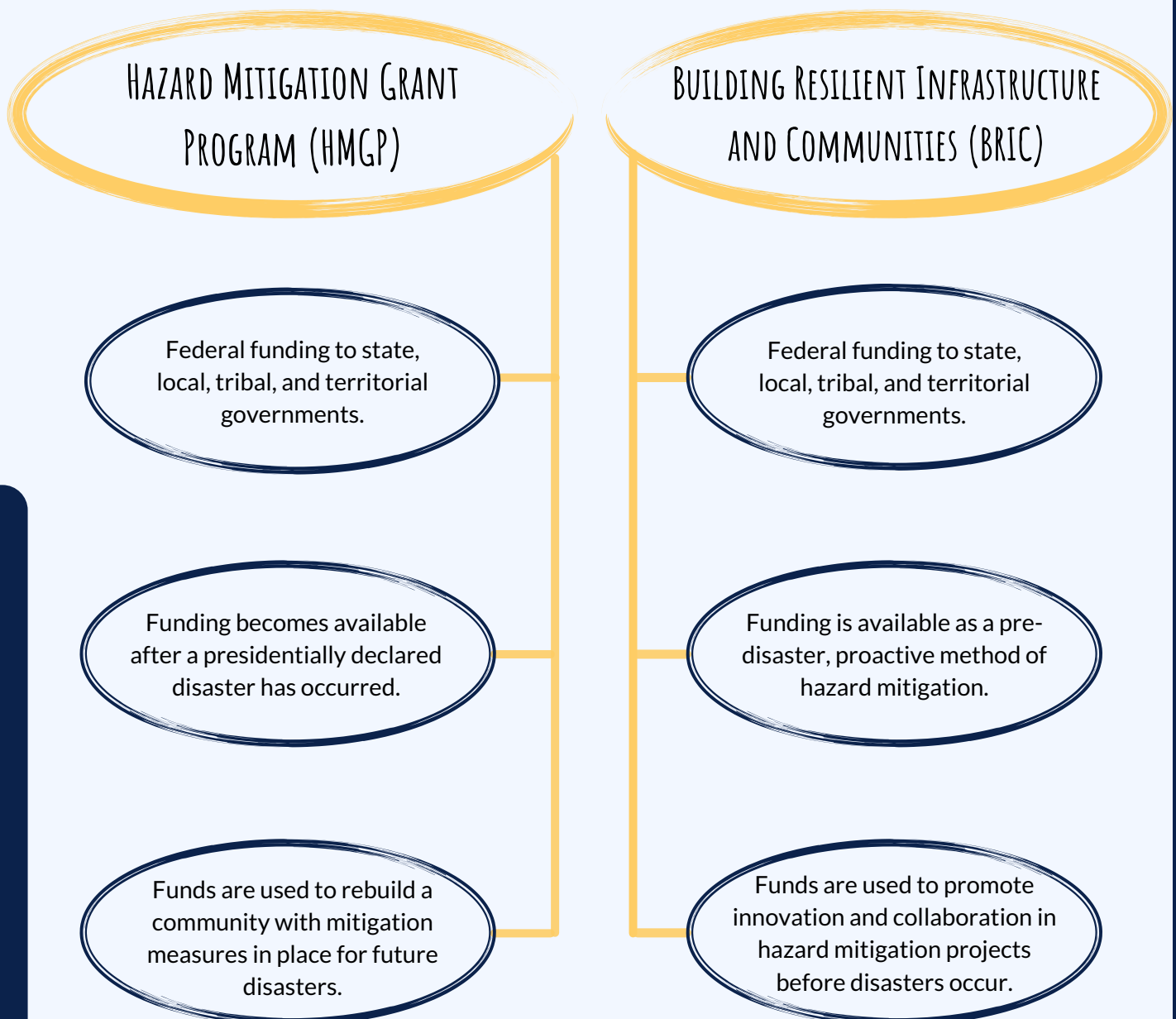


HAZARD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE GRANTS

by Mackenzie Forgacs

Like anything, hazard mitigation programs come with a cost. In an effort to help with those costs and encourage mitigation activities, FEMA offers Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants to both state and local government agencies. These grants can be offered for a wide variety of mitigation activities, including flood mitigation and wildfire mitigation.

Two of the most common Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants are the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program. Further information on all of the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants can be found [here](#).



GREENVILLE COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION

by Mackenzie Forgacs

Did you know that Greenville County has their own Hazard Mitigation Program? Within this program, Greenville County public officials work to identify the many hazards that face our community today. Once hazards are identified, public officials work with citizens to reduce their risk of damages from the identified threats.

One of the most common hazards facing Greenville County is that of floods. The Greenville County Floodplain Management Program has been recognized by FEMA for their best practices in hazard mitigation. Some of these practices include offering discounts to individuals for qualifying flood insurance and working with voluntary citizens in property acquisition to restore floodplains to their natural state. More information about floodplain management can be found by clicking on the logo below.



CODERED EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

by Caleb Johnson

CodeRED is an emergency notification system that Greenville County uses to notify personnel and even citizens of emergencies, hazardous conditions, and inclement weather.

In addition, CodeRED is used to notify partners regarding EOC notifications and other emergencies. As with most things, CodeRED is only as useful as the information that is put into the system. Recently, we attempted to update the information in CodeRED. If you believe you are registered for CodeRED and did not see an email, please check your spam folder and mark us as an approved sender. If you did not receive an email from CodeRED, please email Caleb Johnson at cjohnson@greenvillecounty.org to be added to the list.

UPCOMING EVENTS

by Mackenzie Forgacs

May 6 - Active Threat Reunification Training.
Register [here](#).

May 8 - GCEM will be at the "Kids Tent" at the
Travelers Rest Farmers Market

May 8 - CERT Spring 2021 Class Final Exercise

May 11 - 2021 Hurricane Coordination Workshop
for Search and Rescue

May 11 - ICS 300: Intermediate ICS

May 22 - ICS 400: Advanced ICS

May 24 - G1919: ICS/EOC Interface Workshop

May 27 - Paris Mountain Wildfire Mitigation Public
Meeting at Duncan Chapel Fire Dept. Station 2:
-935 Foothills Road Greenville, SC 29617
-6:00pm - 8:00pm

July 13 - G205: Recovery from Disaster: Local
Community Role

July 26 - L146/L105: Basic Academy Week 3
(HSEEP & Public Information and Warning)

**Need to register for a
training? Visit the South
Carolina Emergency
Management Division
Training Registration
System.**

