



## Disaster Risk Reduction and the Local Mitigation Strategy Task Force

Mitigation is the act of reducing adverse impacts of a potential hazard. Nassau’s Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) is to minimize vulnerabilities and improve the community’s disaster resilience. Planning and action beforehand can provide a huge return on investment through lives saved, injuries prevented, reduced costs for structure repairs, and faster return to “business as usual” for everyone post-disaster.

The LMS Task Force is made up of subject-matter experts from county and municipal government, public works agencies, public safety and first response agencies, transportation, roads and bridges departments, environmental specialists, corporate stakeholders, and interested citizens. The LMS Task Force meets at least quarterly at the Emergency Operations Center to review threats, discuss their likelihood of occurrence and damage potential, and propose cost-effective projects that will make infrastructure less susceptible and decrease the need for emergency public assistance in the event of a disaster. Many of the mitigation initiatives can also improve Nassau County’s scores in the Community Rating System (CRS), which recognizes floodplain management activities that exceed national requirements, and would result in reduced flood insurance premiums for local homeowners.

NCEM encourages public-private partnerships to execute these activities and facilitates applications for funding support as grant opportunities become available. Improved drainage systems and retention ponds to reduce recurrent neighborhood flooding, remodeling or construction to harden structures to withstand high winds, and whole-building generators to increase emergency shelter capacity are all potential projects with broad public benefits, but *only those reviewed and considered a priority by the LMS Task Force are eligible for grant funding and implementation.*

**Get involved** in local emergency preparedness and hazard mitigation – learn more!

Communicate with **NassauEM** and #NassauFLEM on social media – message us – ask questions, send us your ideas, or report storm damage.



*Make a plan, get a kit, stay informed; join ARES amateur radio emergency service HAMS, take a Storm Spotter course at the EOC, volunteer with Citizen Corps, get CERT Community Emergency Response Training, and **participate** in LMS Task Force meetings!*