

**Briefing Paper-- October 2008  
Teton County  
Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Update**

**What is a multi-hazard mitigation plan (MHMP)?**

The county's existing MHMP is being updated to make sure the county, its unincorporated communities, and Jackson Hole remain disaster-resistant and less vulnerable to property damage and loss of life from a natural disaster. The plan update is being funded primarily through a grant from the Wyoming Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. By successfully revising the plan, the county will continue to be eligible to compete for project funds. The county will also be eligible for post-disaster assistance from the state and/or the Federal Emergency Management Agency, in the event of a major disaster. Adoption of the plan is voluntary, but both jurisdictions—the county and the town of Jackson—will need to adopt the plan if they wish to qualify for the funding and assistance described above.

**What is in the plan?**

The plan will contain assessments of natural hazards, vulnerability to each hazard, and an updated list of past disasters. Potential losses from disasters will be estimated. Accomplishments from the original plan will be listed, and goals and projects identified by town and county residents and local governments will be added as appropriate.

**How will the plan be prepared?**

The original plan was prepared in 2004. To remain current, the state and FEMA require that the plan be updated every five years. The county has contracted with Beck Consulting of Red Lodge Montana to update the plan. Working with the town of Jackson and Teton County over the next eight months, Beck Consulting will update the hazard history, convene and work with a planning committee, hold public meetings to gather input, and develop any needed additional goals and projects. A draft plan will be made available for public review and any comments received will be incorporated. The plan will then be sent to the state and FEMA for technical review. Finally, Jackson and Teton County will have the opportunity to adopt the plan.

**How do we offer input?**

Input is encouraged any time during the process until adoption by the governing bodies in the summer of 2009. Input from the public and knowledgeable individuals will help make the plan the highest quality possible. Public meetings will be designed to offer opportunity for input and all meetings will be noticed and open to the public. The Jackson Hole News and Guide will be provided the meeting times, locations, and periodic updates. Comments can be submitted by phone, in writing, or by e-mail to Rich Ochs, Teton Co. Emergency Management, at 307 732-8594, [rochs@tetonwyo.org](mailto:rochs@tetonwyo.org), P.O. Box 4458, Jackson, 83001, or Barb Beck at 406 446-3628, [barbbeck@cablemt.net](mailto:barbbeck@cablemt.net), P.O. Box 870 Red Lodge, MT. 59068. For current information on the project, please visit the Emergency Management home page at [www.tetonwyo.org](http://www.tetonwyo.org).