

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH

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YOUR RISKS

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This **Hazard Mitigation Guide** is designed to raise awareness and empower residents and businesses with mitigation tips and resources to minimize the impact of hazards on people, property, and the environment. By sharing this information, we aim to minimize risks, reduce recovery costs, save lives, and contribute to making our community stronger, safer, and smarter in the future. We encourage community partners to distribute this guide widely. **Together, let's build a more resilient community.**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FLOODING MITIGATION.....	4
TORNADOES AND HIGH WINDS MITIGATION	6
HURRICANE MITIGATION	8
WILDFIRE MITIGATION	10
EXTREME HEAT MITIGATION	12
WINTER WEATHER MITIGATION	14
CYBERSECURITY MITIGATION	16
HAZARDOUS MATERIAL MITIGATION	18
PANDEMIC MITIGATION.....	20
SEVERE WEATHER.....	22



FLOODING MITIGATION



CREATING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Flooding is one of the most common natural disasters. Implementing flood mitigation strategies can help reduce property damage, protect families, improve recovery efforts, and build a more resilient community for the future.

MITIGATION MATTERS

Reducing risks starts with you. Consider these strategies to reduce your flood risks:

Consult a licensed architect or engineer to determine your home's most feasible retrofitting options to reduce flooding risks.

Common retrofitting techniques include:

- Elevating homes to bring the lowest floor above base flood elevation.
- Implementing wet floodproofing improvements to reduce damage when water enters the home.
- Dry floodproofing or sealing your home to prevent floodwaters from entering.

For more information about retrofitting residential buildings, see FEMA's Homeowner's Guide to Retrofitting by visiting [fema.gov](https://www.fema.gov).

Secure a separate flood insurance policy, as standard homeowner policies often do not cover flood damage. For detailed information and options, explore www.floodsmart.gov.

Confer with a licensed professional for tailored flood prevention solutions if your home has a driveway that descends below street level, potentially risking flooding.

Ensure proper indoor and outdoor fuel tank anchoring to prevent dislodging during floods, posing significant environmental and safety hazards.



TORNADOES AND HIGH WINDS MITIGATION



CREATING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Tornadoes and high winds can cause significant damage to buildings, properties, vehicles, and infrastructure and disrupt utilities, critical services, and local economies. Enacting proactive mitigation measures like fortifying your home can reduce your risks and lessen the impact when a tornado strikes.

MITIGATION MATTERS

Reducing risks starts with you. Consider these strategies to reduce your risks from tornadoes and high winds:

Implement routine building maintenance:

- Keep roofs in good condition.
- Secure crown molding and aluminum panels.
- Repair or replace cracked bricks.
- Fix all cracks.

Replace glass that does not meet current building codes or is not rated for high winds (i.e., 30 pounds per square foot [psf] for buildings less than 100 feet high).

Adopt tornado-resistant construction to reinforce structures - replace your roof covering with the highest-rated material possible.

Fasten the roof to the walls with hurricane straps or metal rafter ties to provide added uplift resistance.

Ensure the electrical system in your home or business is properly grounded for effective operation of surge protectors.

Install a whole-house surge protector to decrease the damage from lightning strikes.



HURRICANE MITIGATION



CREATING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Southeast Louisiana is no stranger to hurricanes. By reinforcing and embracing proactive measures, we can ensure our community weathers these storms and emerges stronger each time.

MITIGATION MATTERS

Reducing risks starts with you. Consider these strategies to reduce your hurricane risks:

Upgrade to a hurricane-resistant standard like the FORTIFIED roof to help withstand hurricane-force winds.

Fit your home with impact-resistant windows and doors or add protective shutters to reduce the risk of breakage and water entry.

Install bracings to enhance the structural integrity of a gable end roof.

Enhance structural stability by securing the roof to the walls using hurricane straps.

Keep trees trimmed and healthy to prevent them from becoming a hazard during storms.

Stay protected with flood insurance. A homeowner's policy typically does not cover protection against loss due to floods.

Install a backup generator in the event of extended power outages.



WILDFIRE MITIGATION



CREATING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

In heat and lower humidity, wildfires can erupt and pose risks to property and life in the blink of an eye. Simple actions can help shield our homes and loved ones from this threat. Your efforts today reduce tomorrow's wildfire risks.

MITIGATION MATTERS

Reducing risks starts with you. Consider these strategies to reduce your wildfire risks:

Use fire-resistant materials to build, renovate, or make repairs resistant.

Keep a 30-foot buffer between your house and nature's kindling to create a safe space around your home.

Create natural breaks in vegetation to act as speed bumps for a spreading fire.

Invest in heat-resistant windows to keep intense heat at bay.

Free your roof and gutters from leaves and twigs; these can spark in dry conditions.

Find out your roof's fire rating – if your roof needs to be replaced, Class A provides the best fire resistance and protection.

Mesh barriers on vents can block floating embers from entering your attic.



EXTREME HEAT MITIGATION



CREATING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Louisiana experiences high heat in the summer, but with a few smart moves, you can reduce your risks during extreme heat.

MITIGATION MATTERS

Reducing risks starts with you. Consider these strategies to reduce your heat risks:

Choose a roof that reflects the sun's rays.

Utilize High-Performance windows to increase a window's insulation and sound-reduction properties.

Employ low emissivity coatings—transparent tin or silver oxide layers deposited on the glass surface to allow light to pass through while blocking heat.

Harness the cooling power of trees by strategically planting them to cast a cool shadow on your home.

Wrap your home in insulation to keep the cool in and the heat out.

Test your home for air tightness.

On a windy day, hold a flame next to your windows, doors, electrical boxes, plumbing fixtures, electrical outlets, ceiling fixtures, attic hatches, and other places where air may leak in from outside – if the smoke stream travels horizontally, you have located an air leak that may need sealing.



WINTER WEATHER MITIGATION



CREATING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Winter weather in Louisiana may not come with heavy snowfall, but cold snaps, ice, and freezing rain can cause unexpected damage and disrupt daily life. Preparing your home and family for winter weather can mitigate risks and keep your loved ones safe and comfortable.

MITIGATION MATTERS

Reducing risks starts with you. Consider these strategies to reduce your winter weather risks:

- Ensure adequate insulation in your attic, pipes, and walls to prevent heat loss and avoid frozen pipes.
- Have your heating system checked and serviced annually to ensure safety and efficiency.
- Clean gutters and downspouts to prevent ice buildup.
- Inspect and repair your roof to withstand the weight of ice or accumulated water.
- Seal doors and windows with weather stripping to keep the cold out and the warmth in.



CYBERSECURITY MITIGATION



CREATING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

As we increasingly rely on internet connectivity, understanding how to mitigate cybersecurity breaches and maintain privacy is more important than ever.

MITIGATION MATTERS

Reducing risks starts with you. Consider these strategies to reduce your cybersecurity risks:

Maintain the security of your devices by applying software updates and patches promptly.

Enhance account security by employing Multi-Factor Authentication, which provides a vital second verification step.

Protect your network with firewalls and safeguard sensitive information with strong passwords and encryption protocols.

Back up your data regularly to secure locations, ensuring you can recover important information if compromised.

DID YOU KNOW:
Multi-factor authentication (MFA)
is a multi-step account login process that requires users to enter more information than just a password. For example, users might be asked to enter a code sent to their email along with the password.



HAZARDOUS MATERIAL MITIGATION



CREATING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Our community's proximity to industrial areas means hazardous materials are part of our landscape. Mitigating related risks can help us keep our homes and families safe.

MITIGATION MATTERS

Reducing risks starts with you. Consider these strategies to reduce your cybersecurity risks:

Check any hazardous materials in your home regularly, like cleaning chemicals or automotive fluids. Invest in mechanisms and structures that provide safe storage for these materials.

Ensure that hazardous materials are well contained and clearly labeled when transporting them, even for short distances.

To learn more, visit brla.gov/893/Household-Hazardous-Materials.

Follow local guidelines for the disposal of hazardous waste. Never pour chemicals down the drain or in the trash. Check with local waste management for disposal events or drop-off locations.



PANDEMIC MITIGATION



CREATING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

It's important to fortify our community against future pandemic threats to public health. Here's how you can play a part in making our community more resilient.

MITIGATION MATTERS

Reducing risks starts with you. Consider these strategies to reduce your pandemic risks:

Participate in yearly vaccinations - they can help protect you and strengthen our community's defense.

Implement daily preventive actions, such as staying home when sick, covering coughs and sneezes, frequent handwashing/sanitizing, and routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces and objects.

Develop plans for remote or hybrid work if you're an employer to minimize exposure during high transmission periods.



SEVERE WEATHER



CREATING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Severe weather, including thunderstorms, high winds, heavy rain, and hail, presents a significant threat to life, property, and the continuity of community activities. You can enhance your community's resilience through dedicated severe weather mitigation strategies.

MITIGATION MATTERS

Reducing risks starts with you. Consider these strategies to reduce your pandemic risks:

Reinforce Your Home: Upgrade your home to withstand severe weather by installing impact-resistant windows and doors, reinforcing roof attachments, and securing loose outdoor items to prevent them from becoming hazardous projectiles.

Proactive Landscaping: Plant native trees and shrubs to serve as natural windbreaks and maintain them to minimize the risk of fallen branches during storms. Additionally, consider removing weak branches that could easily break off during thunderstorms and other severe weather incidents.

Water Runoff Management: Improve your property's drainage system to handle heavy rains effectively, reducing the risk of flooding and water damage.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Mayor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness (MOHSEP): brla.gov/412/Mayors-Office-of-Homeland-Sec-Emergency-

Red Stick Ready: Reduce Your Risks: brla.gov/reduceyourrisks

Red Stick Ready: redstickready.com

Department of Environmental Services: brla.gov/des

City of Baton Rouge Fire Department: brla.gov/911/Fire-Department

FEMA: fema.gov

Louisiana State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness: gohsep.la.gov

Louisiana Housing Corporation: lhc.la.gov

Louisiana Fortify Homes Program: ldi.la.gov/fortifyhomes

Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH): flash.org/

FEMA's Homeowner's Guide to Retrofitting:
fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-08/FEMA_P-312.pdf

Red Stick Ready on Social Media:
@redstickready (Instagram, Facebook, and X)

INSURANCE RESOURCES

National Flood Insurance Program: floodsmart.gov | 1-888-379-9531

FEMA Region II Coastal Analysis and Mapping: region2coastal.com

Louisiana State Office of Finance and Support Services:
doa.la.gov/doa/ofss/

Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety:

disastersafety.org | (813) 286-3400

Insurance Information Institute: iii.org | 212-346-5500

This Hazard Mitigation Booklet was developed by the Mayor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (MOHSEP), committed to promoting mitigation strategies that help improve safety, minimize damage, and reduce future risks to build a more resilient East Baton Rouge Parish.

LEARN MORE ABOUT HAZARD MITIGATION AT

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