

**Table 7.0: Prioritized Mitigation Initiatives (with Potential Funding Sources)**

<b>High Priority Initiatives (score = 300-390)</b>			
<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Explanation</b>	<b>Responsible Agency</b>	<b>Potential Funding (non-local source)<sup>1</sup></b>
1. Increase intergovernmental coordination in the area of stormwater management.	Stormwater does not follow jurisdictional boundaries. Land use activities in the City can effect drainage characteristics outside municipal boundaries and, to a lesser extent, vice versa. In the past, stormwater management opportunities have been constrained by fiscal concerns and the impacts of significant amounts of pre-code development. These factors necessitate strong intergovernmental coordination for stormwater management efforts to be effective. Conditions have improved, but there remains a need to continue pursuing a path of intergovernmental coordination, short of consolidating City and County stormwater operations. Opportunities for improving coordination exist in the planning, construction and maintenance of stormwater facilities, and the management of land uses in a manner that minimizes runoff impacts to downstream neighbors.	City and County Public Works	Not Applicable
2. Improve the disaster resistance of existing site built housing stock.	Build upon current CDBG, HOME and SHIP programs, to improve the disaster resistance of existing site built housing stock.	Tallahassee Neighborhood and Community Services, Leon County Housing and Human Services	CDBG Program, SHIP, HOME, HMGP, and FMAP (DCA); Repair and Restoration of Disaster Damaged Historic Properties (FEMA); National Flood Mitigation Fund (FEMA); Em. Advance Measures for Flood Prev. (Army Corps)

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3. Advocate that FEMA modify its policies to accommodate local floodplain management program requirements so as to avoid the frequent necessity for duplicate, and sometime conflicting, modeling for NFIP purposes.	FEMA is very reluctant to fund and manage software review activities at a level necessary to facilitate needed coordination and cooperation with multi-objective local stormwater management programs. Tallahassee and Leon County have advanced stormwater regulations and require sophisticated digital modeling. FEMA is very slow to review (let alone consider approval of) new modeling software or even more current versions of previously approved software. As a result, local communities frequently are faced with having to do advanced modeling for design and local permitting and then duplicate modeling with the limited suite of FEMA-approved software for NFIP purposes. Not only is this a waste of taxpayer dollars, but frequently it results in conflicting flood stage data.	City of Tallahassee and Leon County Public Works	Not Applicable
4. Promote disaster resistant neighborhoods.	Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross has developed the Disaster Resistant Neighborhood Program. The program is designed to mitigate the impact of various disasters by educating residential and commercial property owners on personal actions they can take to reduce the affects of a disaster (such as removing dead limbs, putting up shutters/plywood, creating a safe room in your house/business, etc.). The City and County should adopt this program and advertise to all residents, providing technical assistance where needed.	City of Tallahassee and Leon County Emergency Management	Not Applicable

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5. Improve floodplain boundary identification and implementation of the FEMA map amendment process.	Efforts would focus on correcting inaccuracies in FEMA flood hazard boundaries. These boundaries are used for insurance purposes and frequently increase rates for residents that are clearly not in the floodplain. Other citizens use this information to guide property purchases and find out they are susceptible to flooding despite lying outside the hazard areas of a FIRM. This initiative would require the hiring of sufficient personnel to identify and prepare map amendments and expand the existing floodplain database to include best available information, such as permitting models, for incorporation into a GIS. Besides providing better data that could reduce insurance rates and improve decisions regarding property purchases, this information could guide acquisition efforts.	City of Tallahassee and Leon County Growth Management and Public Works	EMPA Trust Fund (DCA); Small Watershed Program (USDA); Emergency Advance Measures for Flood Prevention (Army Corps); Resource Conservation and Development Program (USDA); Soil and Water Conservation Program (USDA); National Flood Mitigation Fund (FEMA)
6. Explore methods to eliminate additional development in the 25-year floodplain.	This initiative aims at keeping new buildings from the highest risk area of the floodplain, and might include an acquisition effort targeting undeveloped lots.	City of Tallahassee and Leon County Growth Management, Tallahassee-Leon County Planning	Not Applicable

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7. Identify shuttering/hardening needs for Tallahassee Memorial Hospital (TMH) and Tallahassee Community Hospital (TCH)	Both hospitals are highly susceptible to wind damage from a tropical storm/hurricane. Currently neither hospital has storm shutters in place. As the primary hospitals serving Tallahassee/Leon County and the region, local emergency management personnel should work with both hospitals to identify shutter options, including costs. In addition, efforts should be undertaken to identify and harden essential support facilities (such as generators) at each hospital.	City of Tallahassee and Leon County Emergency Management.	EMPA Trust Fund (DCA); HMGP (DCA); CDBG (DCA)
8. Strengthen the land development code dealing with finished floor elevation, particularly in flood hazard areas where detailed flood stage data is unavailable.	Some areas of Leon County do not have detailed flood stage data to assistance in determining appropriate finished floor elevations. The code could be strengthened by providing specific alternatives that would be an acceptable means of establishing base flood elevations. Acceptable methods include requiring each building floor and all mechanical items to be 2 feet higher than the low point of the road or saddle point along the downstream flow path or a flood elevation substantiated through modeling.	City of Tallahassee and Leon County Growth Management	Not Applicable
9. Expand the County's housing inspection program.	Building code violations on existing buildings remain undetected until a complaint initiates an inspection. Expanding the inspection program would increase the opportunity to identify code compliance problems. This would require identification of a \$100,000 minimum annual recurring funding source.	Leon County Growth Management	Not Applicable

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10. Improve current efforts to remove dead, dying or diseased trees or branches next to roadways and power lines.	Debris from storm events poses a hazard to overhead power lines and roads. While it is current City and County practice to remove trees or branches before they cause problems, these efforts could be improved and expanded to reduce this hazard.	City of Tallahassee and Leon County Public Works, City Electric Utilities and Talquin Electric, City of Tallahassee Urban Forester	Not Applicable
11. City of Tallahassee and Leon County flood-related capital improvement projects.	A total of 52 stormwater projects have been identified as necessary to provide relief to existing flood problems. A complete listing of prioritized projects follows this table of mitigation initiatives.	City of Tallahassee and Leon County Public Works	CDBG (DCA); HMGP (DCA); Emergency Bank Protection (Army Corps); STP (ISTEA); Sustainable Development Challenge Grants (EPA); National Flood Mitigation Fund (FEMA); Soil and Water Conservation (USDA); Resource Conservation and Development (USDA); Small Watershed Program (USDA)

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12. Identify equipment needs for responding to a weapons of mass destruction threat, a hazardous materials release or similar disaster.	The possibility of an incident involving a weapon of mass destruction or a hazardous materials release exists within Leon County. County EM is preparing a response plan and now needs to identify the equipment needed to respond to effectively to an incident. In addition, the City and County need to identify potential funding sources to acquire the highly specialized, and often expensive, equipment.	City of Tallahassee and Leon County Emergency Management	FEMA and other federal agency grants
13. Require flood hazard disclosure in the deed for the sale or transfer of improved or unimproved property in the floodplain.	This would help ensure that potential buyers were well informed as to their risk to flooding.	City of Tallahassee/Leon County Planning; City and County Attorney	Not Applicable
14. Acquire parcels in the 100-year floodplain.	This initiative builds on past City/County floodplain acquisition efforts and would be enhanced by improved information developed through initiative #5. Acquisitions would target improved parcels with the most vulnerable structures.	City of Tallahassee/Leon County Planning and GIS	Not Applicable
15. Evaluate requirements and feasibility for the County's participation in the NFIP Community Rating System.	Participation in the CRS allows communities to reduce their flood insurance premiums as compensation for flood protection efforts undertaken above NFIP requirements. Communities are assigned a ranking in a 10 tier classification system based on actions taken to reduce flooding. Each additional improvement in one's class ranking allows a 5 percent reduction in premiums.	Leon County Emergency Management	Not Applicable

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<b>Medium Priority Initiatives (score 210-299)</b>			
<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Explanation</b>	<b>Responsible Agency</b>	<b>Potential Funding (non-local source)<sup>1</sup></b>
16. Establish audible warning systems at the dam.	In the event of a leak/breakdown at the dam, there is no local warning system for persons living below the dam on either the Leon or Liberty County side of the river. An audible warning system would provide residents with advance warning. Of course, the alarm would have to be accompanied with a public education program explaining what the alarm meant and how residents should respond.	City of Tallahassee and Leon County Emergency Management	HMGP (DCA); National Flood Mitigation Fund (FEMA)
17. Explore the feasibility of adding a full build-out component to the Leon County Master Stormwater Management Plan	The master stormwater management plan does not take into account stormwater and flooding impacts given future build-out conditions for the entire County. This information could be used to revise existing floodplain regulations so that they reflect projected built-out conditions.	Leon County Growth Management, Tallahassee-Leon County Planning	EMPA Trust Fund (DCA); Small Watershed Program (USDA); Emergency Advance Measures for Flood Prevention (Army Corps); Resource Conservation and Development Program (USDA); Soil and Water Conservation Program (USDA); National Flood Mitigation Fund (FEMA)

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18. Retrofit shelters to correct known deficiencies.	<p>Recently completed state-sponsored audit found many shelters throughout the state, including some in Tallahassee/Leon County to be deficient in design. However, methodological changes during the audit has led the state to decide to survey Leon County shelters again in early 2000. The results of this re-survey will help identify the most important retrofit needs for area shelters. This initiative proposes to use the audit results to create a prioritized retrofit schedule. The retrofit needs of the following 4 out of 10 Red Cross operated shelters should be a top priority since they are always opened during any disaster situation requiring evacuation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Forest Heights Baptist Church (1200 W. Tharpe St.)</li> <li>2. Senior Citizens Center (1700 N. Monroe St.)</li> <li>3. Bellevue Middle School (2214 Belle Vue Way)</li> <li>4. Oak Ridge Elem. School (4350 Shelfer Rd.)</li> </ol>	City of Tallahassee and Leon County Emergency Management	EMPA Trust Fund (DCA); HMGP (DCA); CDBG (DCA)
19. Consider addressing the economic impact of different disaster scenarios, as information becomes available.	DCA, as part of their disaster modeling, is trying to develop an economic impact model, which may be available next year. Some data is already available through the TAOS model.	City of Tallahassee/Leon County GIS, City County Offices of Management and Budget	Not Applicable
20. Replacement of overhead electrical distribution lines with underground lines along Woodward Street.	Power lines downed during a disaster have the potential to impede access to the new Florida State University Public Safety Facility/EOC.	Florida State University and City Utilities	Not Applicable

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21. Identify decontamination training needs for TMH and TCH personnel.	The growing hazardous materials threat, through either an accidental or planned release, requires that hospital personnel in various decontamination procedures (threat recognition, material identification, actual decontamination, etc.) to help ensure they are prepared to deal with contaminated patients and other emergency service providers.	City of Tallahassee and Leon County Emergency Management	Hazardous Materials Training Program (FEMA); Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Grants Program (EPA)
22. Identify needs for improving the disaster resistance of critical facilities.	Critical facilities provide essential services in the event of an emergency, but may be housed in structures that require improvements to weather the impacts of a disaster. Improvements may include, but not be limited to, the installation of storm shutters, or gas generators.	City of Tallahassee and Leon County Emergency Management	EMPA Trust Fund (DCA); HMGP (DCA); CDBG (DCA)
23. Identify, develop and implement training courses for emergency responders.	In the event of a natural disaster, hazardous material release, or other catastrophic incident, numerous emergency responders, often with widely different roles, will be required to work as a single, integrated unit. Key to this effort is training. The City and County need to continually identify the different training needs for numerous responders, including, but not limited to dispatchers, initial responders, field responders, and incident commanders. Included as part of this is a continuous training program, involving classroom training, tabletop exercises and field exercises. The effort should also address the development and implement public awareness training programs.	City of Tallahassee and Leon County Emergency Management	Hazardous Materials Training Program (FEMA); Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Grants Program (EPA)

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24. Host an annual or semi-annual disaster fair.	The City and County should host an annual or semi-annual disaster fair focusing on the community's vulnerability to various disasters and possible mitigation techniques. The fair could be hosted annually as a stand-alone event, and integrated into other community events throughout the year.	City of Tallahassee and Leon County Emergency Management	Not Applicable
25. Develop a program to promote a community-wide debate comparing community vulnerability with available resources.	It is important that members of the community understand that pre- and post-disaster response resources are limited and that, most often, the responsibility for disaster planning rest with the individual.	City of Tallahassee and Leon County Emergency Management	Not Applicable
26. Develop program to deploy flood-warning devices at critical facilities and/or locations.	Many areas throughout the County are subject to flooding during heavy rains, particularly low-lying roads. To assist motorists and residents, the City and County should acquire flood-warning devices that would be deployed at vulnerable locations during or in advance of a flood. The program would require the City and County to evaluate and prioritize each vulnerable structure and/or locations for inclusion into a warning system. Eventually the City and County would transition into an automated warning system.	City of Tallahassee and Leon County Emergency Management	HMGP (DCA); National Flood Mitigation Fund (FEMA)
27. Develop a regional hazardous materials response capability.	Tallahassee Fire Department has the only hazardous materials response unit in the region (between Alachua and Escambia Counties, and to a lesser extent, Bay County). Currently, the Fire Department will respond to hazardous materials incidents outside of the County. In the event of multiple incidents, the Fire Department's ability to respond would be severely taxed. The development of a regional hazardous materials response capability would necessitate the expansion of personnel, equipment, and training, as well as the development of local agreements.	City of Tallahassee and Leon County Emergency Management	Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Grants Program (EPA); Disposal of Federal Surplus Property (GSA); Hazardous Materials Training Program (FEMA)

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<b>Low Priority Initiatives (120-209)</b>			
<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Explanation</b>	<b>Responsible Agency</b>	<b>Potential Funding (non-local source)<sup>1</sup></b>
28. Develop automated telephone warning/notice system tied to chemical releases at fixed facilities.	There are currently 100 fixed, hazardous materials facilities in Leon County. In the event of a release of a chemical, residents in the affected areas would most likely receive an initial indication of the release from television or radio announcements. Emergency responder personnel would also go into affected areas and warn residents, but this would take some time. An automated warning system would notify affected households via telephone. The area of notification would be based on the chemical released and the anticipated pathway of the chemical.	City of Tallahassee and Leon County Emergency Management	Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Grants Program (EPA)
29. Identify populations at risk under different scenarios.	Determine the impact on housing, medical, evacuation, shelters, etc., for different populations such as those attending special events, student populations, and the elderly.	City of Tallahassee and Leon County Emergency Management and City of Tallahassee/Leon County Planning	EMPA Trust Fund (DCA)
30. Develop and implement program(s) to promote better understanding between hospital and local emergency service provider personnel regarding hospital emergency plans and local emergency plans/capabilities.	Healthcare facilities and local government emergency management/response personnel are guided by their own disaster response procedures and capacities. However, personnel are not entirely familiar with the plans and capabilities of other agencies/organizations. This presents opportunity for conflicts and inefficiencies during a disaster event.	City of Tallahassee and Leon County Emergency Management	Not Applicable

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31. Encourage the establishment of community-based emergency shelters.	Subdivisions, mobile home parks, etc. that have storm shelters incorporated into their designs would provide additional sheltering capacity and eliminate the need to evacuate residents. These buildings could double as community centers.	City of Tallahassee and Leon County Emergency Management	Not Applicable
32. Compile a more comprehensive hazardous materials database.	Examine ways to organize data collected from the Materials Data Safety Sheets into a current and comprehensive database along with other data sources.	City of Tallahassee and Leon County Emergency Management	Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Grants Program (EPA); Hazardous Materials Training Program (FEMA)
33. Build a single, community-wide emergency operations center.	Both the City and County maintain a separate emergency operations center (EOC). By building a single, consolidated EOC, integrating all emergency support functions, the City and County will be better prepared for pre- and post-disaster operations.	City of Tallahassee and Leon County Emergency Management	EMPA Trust Fund (DCA)
34. Establish a community emergency medical needs working group.	Currently, City and County officials and hospital administrators may not fully understand each other's capabilities and requirements in the event of a major disaster. A working group would attempt to identify needs, facilitate communication and correct deficiencies among all stakeholders.	City of Tallahassee and Leon County Emergency Management.	Not Applicable

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35. Establish an exercise design team.	Integral to effective training for emergency responders is effective, realistic training. The integrated City/County design team would determine exercise content, oversee exercise implementation, and conduct post-exercise evaluations to determine effectiveness and consider improvements. FEMA provides training in exercise design. Members of the exercise design team would have to attend the FEMA course.	City of Tallahassee and Leon County Emergency Management	Not Applicable
36. Develop and implement policy requiring health care providers (hospitals, adult congregate care living facilities, nursing homes, etc.) to provide necessary staff support at special needs shelters.	Health care providers have a responsibility to support special needs shelters that can house patients/residents in the event of a disaster. In practice, very few health care providers provide the required support. Instead, the responsibility falls on state, local and volunteer health services personnel.	Leon County Emergency Management	Not Applicable
37. Establish an Emergency Services Working Group.	In order to be effective, the Local Mitigation Strategy, must be a living document, constantly evaluated and updated to reflect changes in hazard vulnerability and mitigation. The Emergency Services Working Group would meet as a sub-group to the Local Mitigation Strategy Steering Committee. The working group would be responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of existing emergency services-related mitigation initiatives and to identify and recommend new initiatives to the steering committee.	City of Tallahassee and Leon County Emergency Management	Not Applicable

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38. Identify and deploy typical resource needs prior to a disaster occurring.	Post-disaster resource needs (potable water, food, bedding, etc.) can often be estimated well before a disaster strikes. Identifying and deploying the anticipated resources at a central location prior to a disaster will better prepare the City/County prepared for post-recovery operations.	City of Tallahassee and Leon County Emergency Management	Not Applicable
39. Place an audible warning system at the wastewater treatment plant and potable water sites.	The wastewater treatment plant and potable water sites contain hazardous chemicals, most notably chlorine. In the event of a release, the audible alarm would notify nearby residents and could serve as a warning for the possible evacuation of the area. The warning system would have to be integrated with a public information component so residents would understand what the alarm meant and how to respond.	City of Tallahassee and Leon County Emergency Management	HMGP (DCA); National Flood Mitigation Fund (FEMA)
40. Develop and disseminate a public awareness safety strategy.	This strategy would address creating a safe room within the home, general home protection procedures, etc.	City of Tallahassee and Leon County Emergency Management.	EMPA Trust Fund (DCA)
41. Identify major land-based transportation corridors and establish safe zones around those corridors based on the exposure pathway for different chemicals.	This would also include identification of all structures, facilities and special need populations in the corridors. Provide ready access to this information to hazardous material response personnel, preferably from deployed resources (such as a GIS capability on the hazardous response vehicle).	City of Tallahassee and Leon County Emergency Management	Hazardous Materials training Program (FEMA); Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Program (EPA)

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42. Deploy low-power public radio station covering all of Leon County.	The station would facilitate the dissemination of disaster related information to the public regarding evacuation procedures, storm forecasts, shelters, etc.	City of Tallahassee and Leon County Emergency Management	Not Applicable
43. Establish community emergency response teams.	This would be part of a program of creating disaster resistant neighborhoods modeled after the Neighborhood Watch Program. The overall goal is to make neighborhoods more self-sufficient in terms of coping with a disaster.	City of Tallahassee and Leon County Emergency Management	Not Applicable
44. Establish regional mitigation teams.	Mitigation requires a regional effort to be truly effective. The City and County should explore interest in developing regional mitigation teams that would develop and assess regional initiatives related to transportation, hazardous materials response, medical, police and fire needs, etc..	City of Tallahassee and Leon County Emergency Management	Not Applicable
45. Create an emergency management coordinating group.	There is a need to increase coordination among large employers (state government, hospitals, universities, etc.) so that local emergency planners can understand their expectations and anticipate their action in the event of a disaster.	City of Tallahassee and Leon County Emergency Management	Not Applicable

Note: 1. Funding sources are given only for initiatives requiring outside financial assistance. Initiatives for which local funds would be most appropriate were designated “not applicable.” In addition, identified funding sources are not an all-inclusive listing. Responsible agencies are encouraged to use these sources as a starting point and to supplement additional research for locating mitigation funds. See Appendix F, Volume III for a full explanation of potential funding sources.