

**PUBLIC MEETING #1**

**Hazard Mitigation Plan Development**

**Town of Chester, MA**

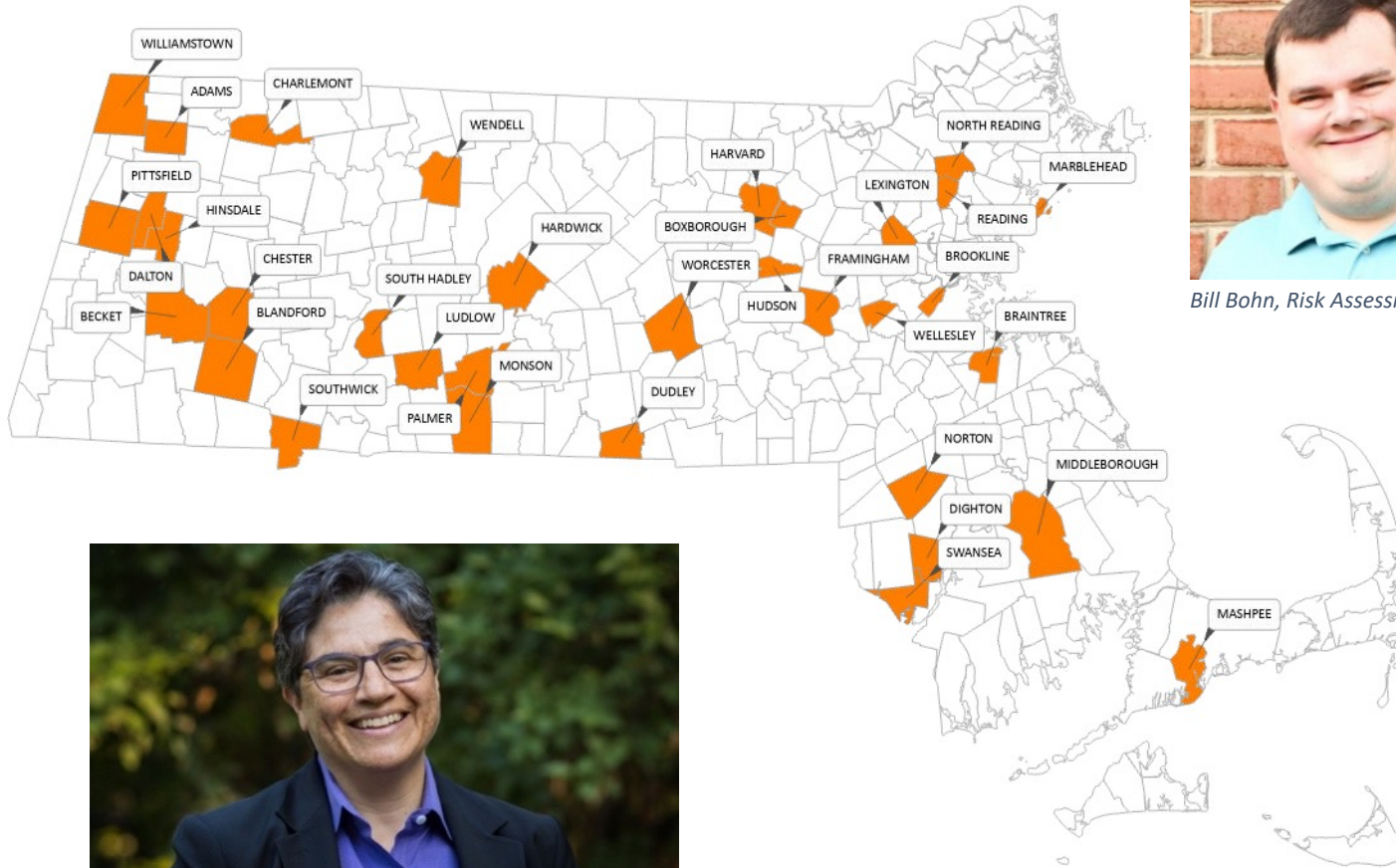
July 16, 2024

In-Person & Zoom

# PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA

- Introductions
- What is Hazard Mitigation? What is in a Hazard Mitigation Plan?
- Identify Natural Hazards
- Identify Critical Facilities
- Brainstorm Possible Mitigation Actions
- Next Steps

# HISTORY OF SUCCESS IN MASSACHUSETTS



*Bill Bohn, Risk Assessment Lead*



*Darrin Punchard, Capacity & Implementation Lead*



*Jamie Caplan, Project Manager*



*Ola Smialek, Planning Assistant*

# HAZARD MITIGATION

- Hazard Mitigation is defined as **any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to life and property from hazard events.**
- Actions to **minimize risk** to people, property and the environment.
- Focus on **natural hazards.**

**SMART INVESTING  
MITIGATION SAVES**

**EVERY \$1  
SPENT ON  
MITIGATION,  
SAVES \$6  
ON FUTURE  
DISASTER  
LOSSES**

Natural Hazard Mitigation Saves: 2017 Interim Report  
[nibs.org/mitigationsaves](http://nibs.org/mitigationsaves)

National Institute of BUILDING SCIENCES

FEMA

The infographic features a dark blue circle on the left containing the text 'EVERY \$1 SPENT ON MITIGATION, SAVES \$6 ON FUTURE DISASTER LOSSES'. An orange arrow curves from the top of the circle to the right, pointing towards a stack of white papers with green outlines. The top paper has a green dollar sign icon. To the right of the stack is a green circle with a white plus sign. At the bottom, there are logos for the National Institute of Building Sciences and FEMA, along with the text 'Natural Hazard Mitigation Saves: 2017 Interim Report' and the website 'nibs.org/mitigationsaves'.

# MITIGATION PLAN CONTENTS

Community Profiles

Hazard Information and Risk Assessment

Community Capabilities

Mitigation Strategy

Plan Implementation and Maintenance

# BENEFITS OF HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING



Identify cost-effective actions to reduce risk



Focus resources on greatest vulnerabilities



Build partnerships



Increase awareness of hazards and risk



Communicate priorities



Align with other Town objectives



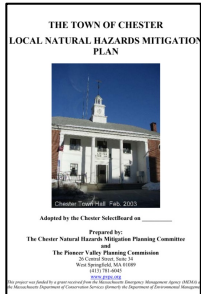
Save lives and money!

# TIMELINE

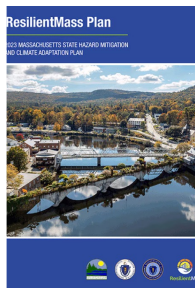
|  | March            | April                    | May                            | June                     | July         | August                       | September                      | October                         |
|--|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Convene LHMP Committee</b>                      | Kick-off Meeting | HMPC Meeting             | HMPC Meeting                   | Public Meeting           | HMPC Meeting | HMPC Meeting                 | Public Meeting                 |                                 |
| <b>Update Hazard Profiles</b>                      |                  |                          | Draft Risk Assessment          | Finalize Risk Assessment |              |                              |                                |                                 |
| <b>Update Critical Facility Inventory</b>          |                  | GIS and Data Gathering   |                                |                          |              |                              |                                |                                 |
| <b>Update Mitigation Goals</b>                     |                  |                          | Capability Assessment Meetings |                          |              |                              |                                |                                 |
| <b>Update Actions</b>                              |                  | Previous Actions Meeting |                                | New Actions Meeting      |              | Final Mitigation Action List | Prioritize Mitigation Actions  |                                 |
| <b>Plan Review, Evaluation, and Implementation</b> |                  |                          |                                |                          |              |                              | Complete Draft for HMPC Review |                                 |
| <b>Public Review of Draft</b>                      |                  |                          |                                |                          |              |                              |                                | Complete Plan For Public Review |
| <b>Review and Approval</b>                         |                  |                          |                                |                          |              |                              |                                | Submit Plan to MEMA             |



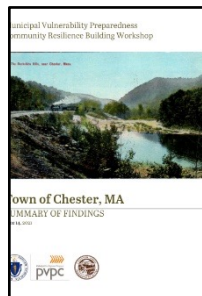
# HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN DEVELOPMENT



## Chester Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2016



## State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan 2023



## Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan (MVP) 2021

## What Other Plans Exist?

- Economic Development Plan
- Housing Plan
- Local Emergency Operations Plan
- Master Plan
- Open Space & Recreation Plan
- Stormwater Management
- Transit Plan
- Hazard Specific Plans?
  - Drought, Wildfire
- Zoning Ordinances
- Subdivision Ordinances
- Floodplain Ordinance



# HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING COMMITTEE (HMPC)

Provide supporting data or information.

Assist with outreach and stakeholder engagement.

Assist in the identification and prioritization of mitigation actions.

Review and comment on the draft plan.

# HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING COMMITTEE (HMPC)

| First Name     | Last Name   | Title  | Affiliation                              |
|----------------|-------------|--|--|
| Bailey         | Jones       | Service Director                                     | Hilltown Community Ambulance Association |
| Bob            | Daley       | Water Department                                     | Town of Chester                          |
| Charles (Chip) | Dazelle     | Highway Superintendent/Emergency Management Director | Town of Chester                          |
| Craig          | Gauthier    | Board of Selectmen                                   | Town of Chester                          |
| Diane          | Hall        |  |  |
| Don            | Humason Jr. | Town Administrator                                   | Town of Chester                          |
| Ed             | Quinn       | Facilities Director                                  | Gateway Regional School District         |
| Jade           | Rice        | Chief Financial Officer                              | Hilltown Community Ambulance Association |
| Jennifer       | Dubiel      | Chief of Police                                      | Town of Chester                          |
| Liz            | Massa       | Board of Health                                      | Town of Chester                          |
| Lora           | Wade        | Conservation Commission                              | Town of Chester                          |
| Muriel         | Hall        | Planning Board                                       | Town of Chester                          |
| Nate           | Bolduc      | Fire Chief   | Town of Chester                          |
| Richard (Andy) | Sutton      | Board of Selectmen                                   | Town of Chester                          |

# NATURAL HAZARDS

**Extreme  
Temperatures**

**Drought**

**Earthquakes**

**Flooding**

**Hurricanes  
and Tropical  
Storms**

**Invasive  
Species**

**Landslides**

**Severe  
Weather**

**Severe  
Winter  
Storms**

**Tornadoes**

**Wildfires or  
Brush Fires**

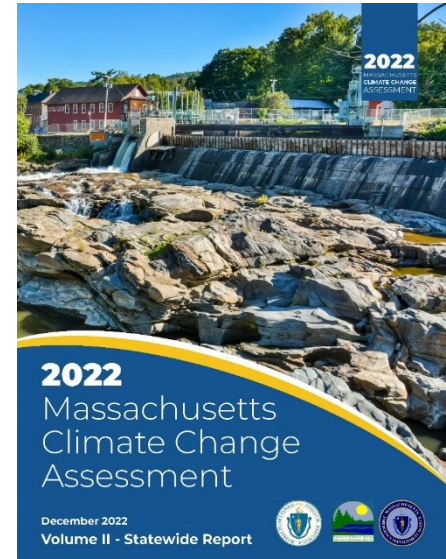
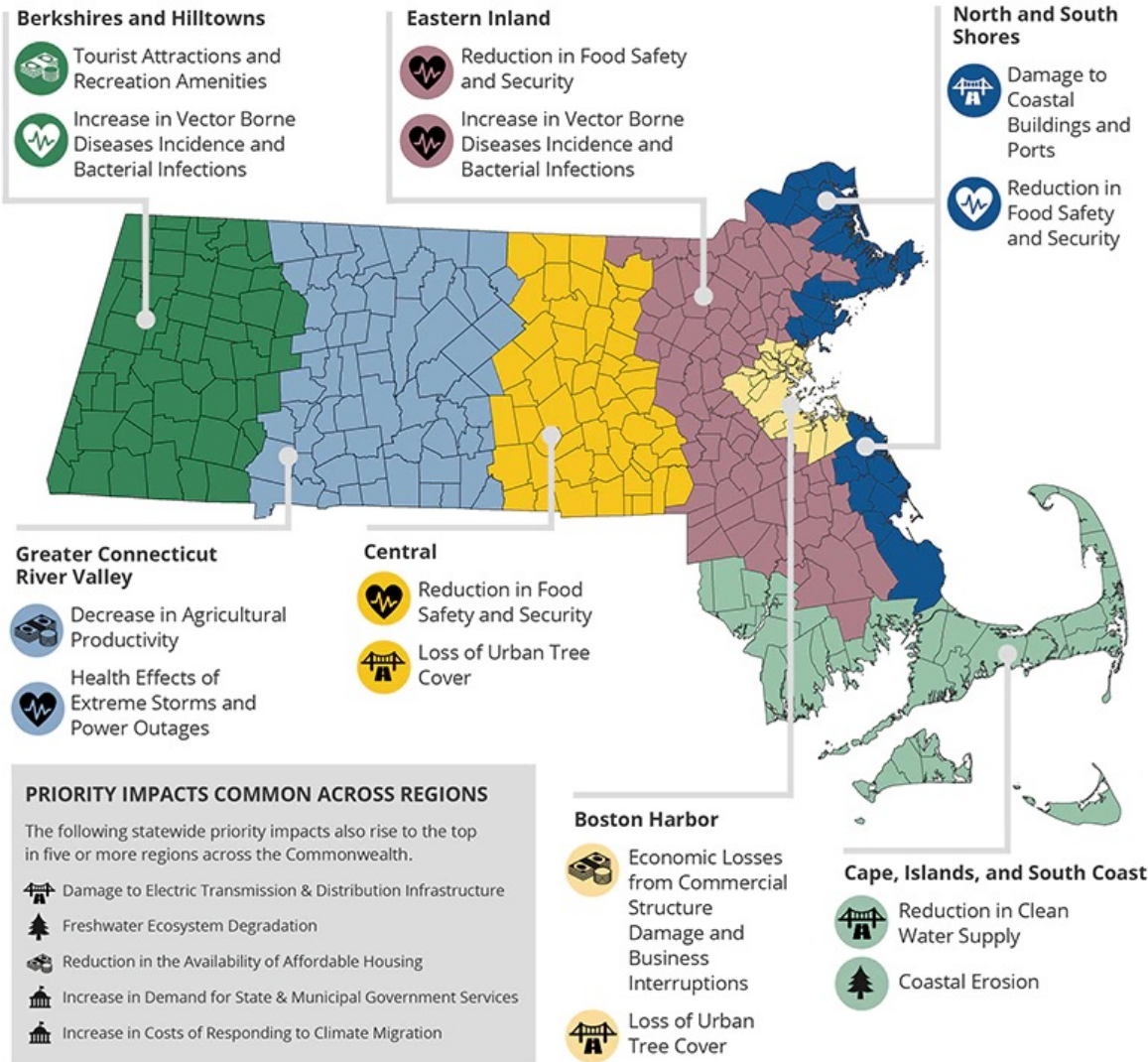
# HAZARD PROFILES

- Description
- Location
- Previous Occurrences
- Extent
- Probability of Future Events
- Vulnerability Assessment

**VULNERABILITY** is a description of which assets, including structures, systems, populations and other assets as defined by the community, within locations identified to be hazard prone, are at risk from the effects of the identified hazard(s).

**IMPACTS** are the consequences or effects of each hazard on the participant's assets identified in the vulnerability assessment. For example, impacts could be described by referencing historical disaster damages with an estimate of potential future losses (such as percentage of damage vs. total exposure).

# CLIMATE CHANGE



- **Unique impacts in region are a decrease in agricultural productivity and health effects of extreme storms and power outages.**
- **Priority impacts are in the gray box.**

# CRITICAL FACILITIES

- The term “**critical facilities**” is often used to describe **structures necessary for a community to respond and recover in emergency situations.**

Fire Stations, Police Stations,  
Rescue Squads, & Emergency  
Operation Centers

Custodial Facilities (Jails & Other  
Detention Centers, Long-Term Care  
Facilities, Hospitals, & Other Health  
Care Facilities)

Schools, Emergency Shelters

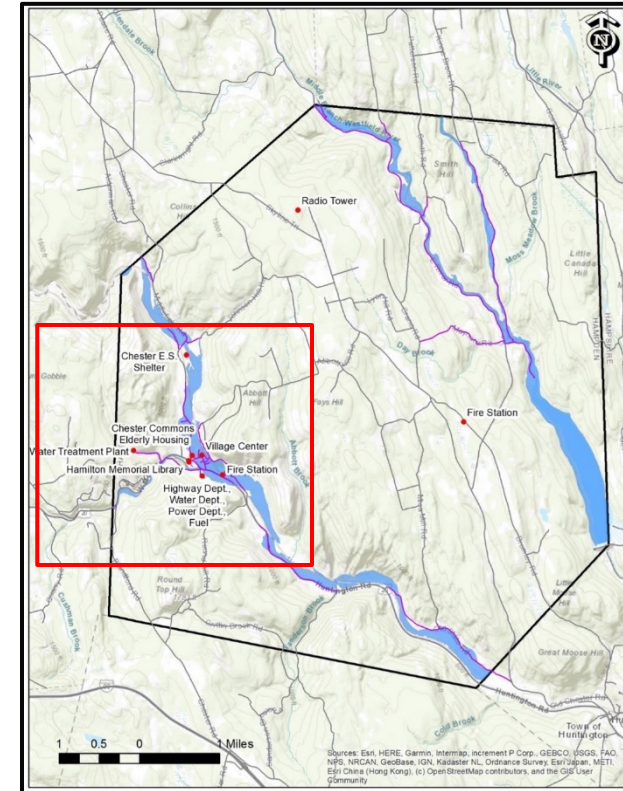
Utilities (Water Supply,  
Wastewater Treatment Facilities, &  
Power)

Communications Facilities



# CRITICAL FACILITIES

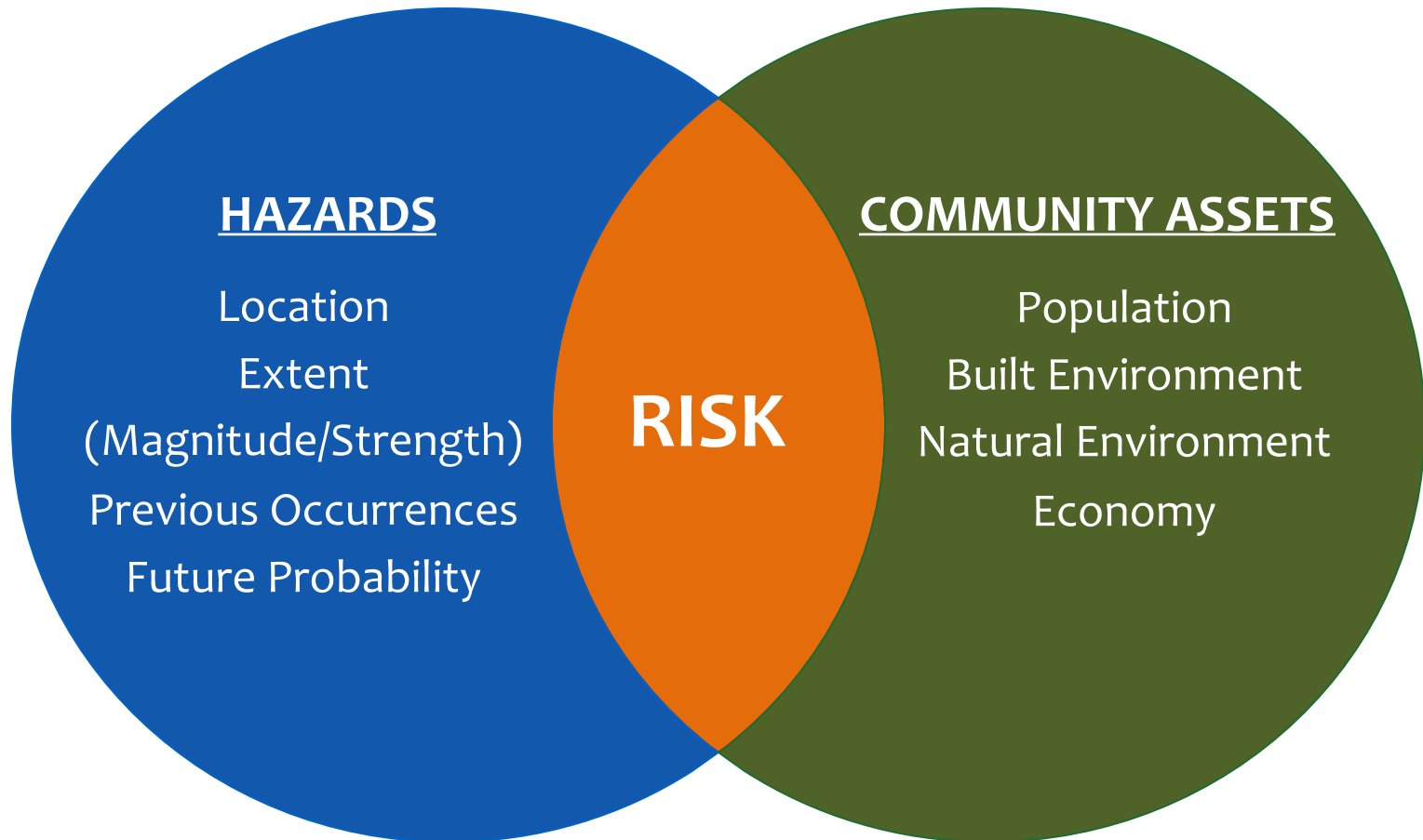
- Town Hall/Emergency Operations Center
- Fire Station
- Police Station
- Shelters
- Highway Garage, Water Department, Power Facility
- Water Treatment Plant
- Elementary School
- Senior Center (Town Hall)
- Elderly Housing
- Library
- Village Center





# WHAT IS RISK?

- The potential for **damage, loss, or other impacts** created by the interaction of **natural hazards** with **community assets**.



# MITIGATION PLAN GOALS

## SAVE LIVES and PROPERTY

- Reduce risk to people and property from natural hazards and climate change.

## Infrastructure

- Mitigate risk to critical facilities and infrastructure from natural hazards and climate change.

## Capacity

- Expand the Town's capacity to mitigate risk by adopting a culture of hazard mitigation through regulations, planning, and regional collaboration.

## Natural Resources

- Implement actions that minimize risk from climate change and natural hazards to preserve or restore the functions of natural systems.

## Education

- Educate all stakeholders about the value of hazard mitigation and how to implement it in their work, businesses, and homes.

# MITIGATION ACTIONS

- Mitigation actions are a **measure, project, plan or activity** proposed to **reduce current and future vulnerabilities** described in the risk assessment.



# A RANGE OF MITIGATION ACTIONS



## Local Plans and Regulations

- Government authorities, policies, or codes that shape how land and buildings are developed and maintained.



## Structure and Infrastructure

- Projects modifying existing infrastructure to remove it from a hazard area, or building new structures in ways that reduce the impacts of hazards.



## Natural Systems Protection

- Actions that reduce damage and losses, and that preserve or restore the functions of natural systems.



## Education and Awareness Programs

- Sustained programs to teach the public and decision makers about hazard risks and community mitigation programs.

# NEXT STEPS



**PUBLIC MEETING**  
**SEPTEMBER 2024**



**PLAN REVIEW**  
**OCTOBER 2024**

# PERSONAL PREPAREDNESS



## 12 WAYS TO PREPARE

|   |  |  |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/><br><br><b>Sign up for Alerts and Warnings</b> | <input type="checkbox"/><br><br><b>Make a Plan</b>          | <input type="checkbox"/><br><br><b>Save for a Rainy Day</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/><br><br><b>Practice Emergency Drills</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/><br><br><b>Test Family Communication Plan</b> | <input type="checkbox"/><br><br><b>Safeguard Documents</b>          |
| <input type="checkbox"/><br><br><b>Plan with Neighbors</b>             | <input type="checkbox"/><br><br><b>Make Your Home Safer</b> | <input type="checkbox"/><br><br><b>Know Evacuation Routes</b> | <input type="checkbox"/><br><br><b>Assemble or Update Supplies</b> | <input type="checkbox"/><br><br><b>Get Involved in Your Community</b> | <input type="checkbox"/><br><br><b>Document and Insure Property</b> |

[WWW.READY.GOV](http://WWW.READY.GOV)

# THANK YOU

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