

HAZARD MITIGATION AND RESILIENCE

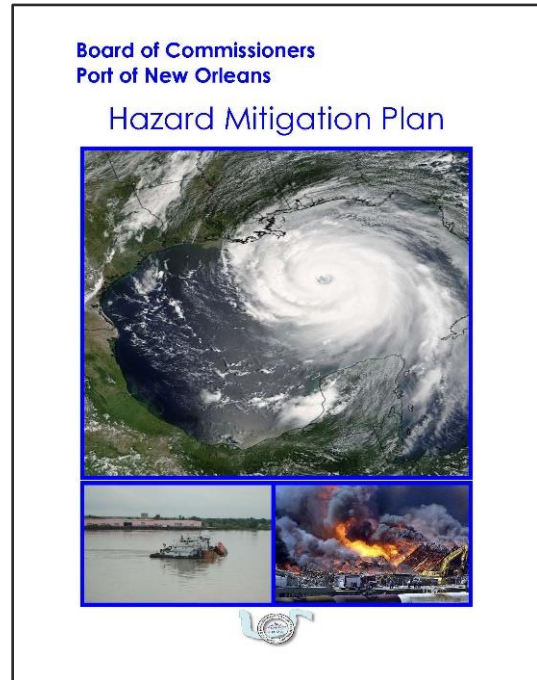
In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the Port of New Orleans prioritized hazard mitigation planning to achieve greater resilience. The port had no formal Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP), and was covered by the City of New Orleans HMP since most its infrastructure is located within Orleans Parish.

In 2006, Jemison and Partners, Inc. applied for sub-grantee status to authorize the Port of New Orleans to secure funding to create its own HMP and thus enable the port to work directly with the Governor's Office of Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security (GOHSEP) in hazard mitigation planning and disaster recovery.

Jemison & Partners, Inc. prepared the Port of New Orleans Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) under a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant. The HMP was completed in 2009 and adopted by in 2010. This was the first HMP designed for the Port of New Orleans.

The PONO HMP is an all-hazards plan, identifying 16 natural and man-made hazards that threaten the port. The purpose of the HMP is increase resilience by reducing or eliminating long-term risk posed by hazards to life and property at the PONO. For the first time in the HMP, hazards were analyzed from the unique perspective of the PONO. Many of the hazards identified therein threaten the entire region and or multiple states, while others pose a greater risk to maritime facilities located on the waterfront or only occur in navigable waterways. The distinctive topography of New Orleans being surrounded by water also added to the risk for some hazards.

The HMP was three years in the making and developed through a five-step planning process, each step building upon the other as follows: identification of a hazard profile of the natural and manmade hazards that have threatened the PONO, and extensive research on the frequency, magnitude and impact of each hazard; a vulnerability assessment that distilled hazards by probability and impact; formulation of a mitigation plan consisting of mitigation projects based on the hazard profile and vulnerability assessment, and prioritized using a combination of capital improvement planning techniques and the FEMA-recommended STAPLEE (Social, Technical, Administrative, Political, Legal, Economic and Environmental) Analysis; public review and adoption; and establishing plan maintenance and procedures for annual review and periodic updates of the HMP.



In compliance with FEMA grant requirements, Jemison & Partners, Inc. has prepared internal annual updates of the HMP through 2016, and submitted the five-year update to FEMA and GOHSEP in 2015. The HMP reports are a valuable resource to document hazard events that impact port infrastructure each year and identify the most prevalent events, as well as the most costly to repair.