HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

Jefferson County Drainage District No. 6 (JCDD6 or the District) is updating its Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). This plan helps to create a safer community for residents, businesses, and visitors. The HMP allows District staff, elected officials, and members of the public to understand the threats from natural hazards in our community. The plan will also recommend specific actions to proactively decrease these threats before disasters occur.

WHY HAVE A HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN?

The HMP will help JCDD6 better plan for future emergencies. Usually, after a disaster occurs, communities take steps to recover from the emergency and rebuild. An HMP is a way for the District to better prepare in advance for these disasters so less damage occurs, and recovery is easier. Our community can use HMP strategies to reduce instances of property damage, injury, and loss of life from disasters. Besides protecting the area, this approach can save money. Studies estimate that every dollar spent on mitigation saves an average of six dollars on response and recovery costs.

Besides helping to protect the JCDD6 planning area, the HMP will make the District eligible for grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the State that can be used to further improve safety and preparedness in the community.

WHAT IS IN OUR HMP?

The Jefferson County Drainage District No. 6 HMP includes five main sections:

- A summary of the natural hazards that pose a risk to our community.
- A summary of the planning process.
- An assessment of the natural threats to JCDD6, which will describe how our community is vulnerable to future disasters.
- A hazard mitigation strategy, which will lay out specific actions for the District to study, implement, or explore over the next five years.
- A section on maintaining the plan, which will help ensure that our HMP is kept up to date.

WHAT HAZARDS WILL OUR HMP HELP PROTECT AGAINST?

The District plans to include the following natural hazards in our HMP:

- Dam Failure
- Expansive Soils
- Flooding
- Hurricane and Tropical Storm
- Thunderstorms – High Wind
- Tornado

HOW IS OUR HMP BEING PREPARED?

The District has assembled a Mitigation Planning Committee (MPC), which includes representatives from JCDD6 Departments and is supported by key stakeholders and technical consultants. Together, these participants form the project team responsible for guiding the overall development of our HMP.

WHEN WILL OUR HMP BE DONE?

The project team plans to release a Public Review Draft HMP in January 2027. After members of the public provide comments and feedback, the District will revise the plan and send it to the Texas Department of Emergency Management and FEMA for review and approval. Once approved by these agencies, Jefferson County Drainage District No. 6 Board will adopt the final HMP.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

You can get involved in preparing our HMP in different ways:

- The District will have public engagement opportunities to share information about our HMP and obtain community feedback. Stay tuned for these opportunities.
- The District will release an online survey to members of the public in the Winter of 2026, asking for information about past experience with natural hazards and how our HMP can be the most useful. Take our survey when it comes out and encourage your friends and family to do the same.
- The District will release a draft of the completed HMP for public review. Please review and provide comments on this document, either at in-person meetings or in writing.

WHAT CAN I DO NOW TO BE BETTER PREPARED FOR DISASTERS?

- Assemble an emergency kit for your home. In a disaster, you may have to rely on supplies in your emergency kit for at least three days. Be sure to include supplies for any pets and anyone in your home with special needs. Learn more at https://www.ready.gov/kit.
- Have a disaster plan for your household, including how people should contact each other if a disaster occurs and where you should meet.
- Learn about your neighbors and how to help them. In a disaster, emergency responders may not be able to reach your neighborhood for a while. Know if your neighbors have any special needs and check on them as soon as possible.
- Make sure your homeowner's or renter's insurance covers you from disasters such as earthquakes and floods. If these disasters occur, having good insurance coverage will help you recover more easily.
- Volunteer with an emergency response or community service organization that does work on disaster education and preparation.
- Speak to your employer about creating a disaster recovery, workforce communication, and/or business continuity plan. If they already have one or more of these plans in place, make sure you and your co-workers know it.