

**State of New Jersey
Executive Order #115**

Governor James J. Florio

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WHEREAS, various natural hazards have caused physical and financial impact in New Jersey and will continue to do so and these impacts have resulted in unexpected costs to county and local governments as well as degradation of the State's health, safety, environment, infrastructure and economy; and

WHEREAS, the opportunities to significantly mitigate the impacts of coastal storms, hurricanes, floods, wildfires, earthquakes, and other natural hazards are identifiable and should be executed as funding is available; and

WHEREAS, there exist the skills, expertise, and talent within the Executive Branch departments and independent authorities to examine and make recommendations to reduce the vulnerability of New Jersey's citizens and property; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 12 (1970-Cahill) and Executive Order No. 39 (1954-Meyner) directs State agencies to fully participate in the emergency management system; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Emergency Management in the Department of Law and Public Safety is charged with the responsibility to administer the State's comprehensive emergency management programs; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Advisory Council on Emergency Services is empowered to authorize expenditures from the Governor's Emergency Services Fund, upon approval of the Governor, to provide relief from an emergency; and

WHEREAS, a need exists to provide formal recognition, authority and responsibility to this organizational structure;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JAMES J. FLORIO, Governor of the State of New Jersey, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and by the Statutes of this State, do hereby ORDER and DIRECT:

1. An interagency State Hazard Mitigation Team (SHMT) is established. A representative of the Office of the Governor will chair the Team and the State Hazard Mitigation Officer appointed by the Governor for the most recent Presidential Disaster Declaration, pursuant to federal law, shall serve as Deputy Chair.
2. In addition to the Chair and Deputy Chair, the team shall consist of the following members or their designees, with the ability to add other participants as appropriate:

A. Department of Community Affairs:

Assistant Director Codes and Standards. Representative, Division of Fire Safety.

B. Department of Education:

Emergency Coordinator.

C. Department of Environmental Protection and Energy:

Supervisor of Land-Use Regulations. State Floodplain Management Coordinator. State Forest Fire Warden.

D. Department of Insurance:

State Ombudsman.

E. Department of Transportation:

Director of Roadway Design.

F. Department of Treasury:

Representative, Office of Statewide Planning. Representative, Office of Management and Budget.

G. Department of Law and Public Safety:

Representative, Office of the Attorney General. Representative, Office of Emergency Management.

All participants shall be prepared to evaluate hazard mitigation initiatives based on current agency policies and programs.

3. The activities of the team shall be coordinated by a Steering Committee consisting of the Chair and the Deputy Chair, Assistant Director of Codes and Standards, Director of Roadway Design, State Floodplain Management Coordinator, Supervisor of Land Use Regulation, the Representative of the Office of the Attorney General, and the Representative of the State Office of Emergency Management.

4. The SHMT shall develop a systematic program to identify hazards, monitor changes in hazard vulnerability and implement measures for reducing potential damage by providing a mechanism for follow-up activities crucial to the successful implementation of team recommendations.

5. The SHMT shall develop and maintain a comprehensive plan for the reduction of natural hazards. The team shall review and update this document as deemed necessary.

6. The SHMT shall work to increase the public's awareness of the risk associated with known hazards and promote preparedness among residents of the State.

7. The SHMT shall meet at the call of the Chair, but not less frequently than twice a year.

8. The SHMT shall serve as an advisory group to the Governor's Advisory Council on Emergency Services (GACES) and shall prepare post-disaster hazard mitigation recommendations for all applications for assistance.

9. GACES shall review and approve such recommendations based on their expected effectiveness in reducing the threat to the health, safety and property of the citizens of New Jersey.

10. The SHMT shall investigate and recommend cost-effective hazard mitigation opportunities to the Office of Emergency Management and to the Governor's Advisory Council on Emergency Services as part of any disaster recovery effort.

11. The SHMT shall prepare and submit to the Office of Emergency Management an annual work program which shall contain a budgetary needs statement. The team shall provide to the State Director an annual status report covering progress achieved through team activities.

12. This Order shall take effect immediately.

GIVEN, under my hand and seal this
14th day of January in the Year of Our
Lord, One Thousand Nine Hundred and
Ninety Four, and of the Independence
of the United States, the Two Hundred
and Eighteenth.

/s/ Jim Florio
Governor

Attest:

/s/ Chief Counsel to the Governor