



Natural Hazard Mitigation Association

Q & A - NHMA

Questions & Answers on the Natural Hazard Mitigation Association

Q - What is NHMA?

A - NHMA stands for the Natural Hazard Mitigation Association, a relatively new group that links together grassroots practitioners and supporters for reducing disaster losses through hazard mitigation.

Q - When and why was NHMA created?

A - NHMA was formed in 2008 because there was a need for a multi-hazard mitigation support group. We support and applaud the many fine organizations working to reduce losses, but NHMA is needed because there were no groups working across the broad spectrum of hazards and management methods. Working together, we can help reduce the death, destruction, and disruption of disasters by supporting and strengthening hazard mitigation.

Q - Who are the members?

A - Members of this non-profit association include practitioners and supporters throughout the USA and beyond. NHMA represents the interests of communities, governments, the research community, the insurance industry, and the fields of engineering, emergency response, water resources, planning and many other mitigation-related fields.

Q - Who are the leaders?

A - NHMA's leadership includes practitioners in loss mitigation for wind, earthquakes, flood, hurricanes, and other hazards. Officers are:

- President Edward A. Thomas Esq., Boston-based attorney. Retired from FEMA and former regional director for the Federal Insurance Administration, Ed has worked 200 disasters over 35 years and is a part-time employee of Michael Baker Jr. Inc.
- First Vice President Jo Ann Howard, also an attorney who heads H2O Partners in Austin and is a former administrator of the Federal Insurance Administration.
- Other officers include: Second Vice President Ann Patton, Tulsa; Treasurer Dick Krajewski, Houma, LA; Secretary Terri Turner, Augusta, GA; and Executive Director Alessandra Jerolleman, Covington, LA. Past President Jane Rovins directs the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) Programme and International Programme Office based in Beijing, China.
- The NHMA Advisory Committee is chaired by Bill Hooke, American Meteorology Society, and includes Leslie Chapman-Henderson, FLASH and International Code Council; Ernst Kiesling, Texas Tech University and National Storm Shelter Association; Shirley Laska and Kris Peterson, CHART and University of New Orleans; and Kathleen Tierney, Natural Hazards Center, University of Colorado at Boulder.

Q - What is NHMA's mission?

A - The mission of NHMA is to be a catalyst for societal change by elevating the value of hazard mitigation so that natural hazards do not cause disasters, suffering, and misery for people, property, the environment, and taxpayers. We promote education, policies, and activities that mitigate current and future losses, costs, and human suffering unnecessarily caused by unwise development practices without regard to natural hazards.

Q - What are NHMA goals?

A - NHMA goals include:

- Ingrain hazard mitigation as a part of community cultures.
- Develop effective mitigation programs that benefit the community as a whole.
- Create a forum for professionals working in hazard mitigation to share their ideas and experiences.
- Elevate the societal value of hazard mitigation as a profession and as an ancillary to other professions.
- Serve as a trusted source of training and technical information to those working in the field.
- Function as a professional and respected voice to those working in the field of hazard mitigation.
- Achieve greater awareness of the social and environmental component of hazard mitigation decisions.

Q - Where can I get more information, and how can I join?

A - To join NHMA, to become an institutional partner, or for more information, please visit us on the web at: www.NHMA.info.