

Port of New Orleans Hazard Mitigation Plan

Jemison & Partners, Inc. prepared the Port of New Orleans Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP), which was adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans in 2010. Jemison & Partners, Inc. assisted the port in applying for sub-grantee status, which allowed for an HMP that would consider the unique conditions of marine facilities and the heavy equipment necessary to handle cargo.

The HMP was funded by a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and PONO self-generated funds. The port's HMP is an all-hazards plan, identifying 16 natural and man-made hazards that threaten the port. The purpose of the HMP is to reduce or eliminate long-term risk posed by hazards to life and property at the port.

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 2011, the PONO HMP was recognized by the American Planning Association Louisiana Chapter for its *Outstanding Planning Award*. One hundred percent (100%) of the work was performed in Louisiana.

The Port of New Orleans Hazard Mitigation Plan was recognized in 2011 by the APA LA including the *Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Port of New Orleans* with an outstanding planning award.

Additionally, Jemison & Partners, Inc. prepares FEMA-required updates of the Port of New Orleans (PONO) HMP annually. The work involves analysis of the hazards that threatened the PONO in the previous year, and assessment of the status of mitigation action plan projects and addition of new projects as necessary. Regional mitigation projects are also reviewed as they impact the PONO. Jemison & Partners, Inc. has completed PONO HMP Updates in 2010, 2011 and 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016.