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1 Introduction

This chapter introduces the Kansas Hazard Mitigation Plan; its purpose and organization, provides evidence of plan adoption, and includes assurances regarding compliance with federal statutes and regulations as they pertain to federal mitigation grant funding and the state statutes that authorize mitigation programs and organizations in Kansas.

Kansas has experienced a wide variety of disasters throughout the years. Many events have severely impacted the State's people, property, economy, and environment. According to the National Weather Service, Kansas is ranked number one in the number of tornadoes in 2012 followed by Texas, Alabama, and Mississippi.

Kansas is vulnerable to a wide variety of natural, technological, and societal hazards. Therefore, the government of Kansas has made a commitment to develop and implement a statewide mitigation program to eliminate or minimize its vulnerabilities to hazards. As defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), mitigation is "any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property from a hazard event." The statewide program is intended to encompass actions by the State of Kansas as well as its local governments. Only through a comprehensive, coordinated effort at all levels can the communities of Kansas become resilient to the effects of future disasters.

To head up this effort, the Kansas Hazard Mitigation Team (KHMT), a cooperative group of representatives of state agencies and other interested parties involved in mitigation, was established in the 1990s to develop and coordinate implementation of a statewide hazard mitigation program. Additional details of the KHMT, including agencies represented is provided in Chapter 2.

1.1. Purpose

The purpose of the Kansas Hazard Mitigation Plan is to guide hazard mitigation to better protect the people and property of the State. It demonstrates the State's commitment to reducing risks from hazards and serves as a tool to help decision makers direct mitigation activities and resources. The planning process is continual. The KHMT reviews the plan annually and updates it every three years or as needed based on changes in regulations, priorities, disaster events, and funding availability.

This 2013 update to the Kansas Hazard Mitigation Plan details the hazards to which Kansas is most vulnerable and the State's commitment to mitigating them. It was developed by the KHMT pursuant to the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-390) and the implementing regulations set forth by the Interim Final Rule published in the *Federal Register* on January, 2008 (44 CFR §201.4). While the act emphasized the need for mitigation plans and more coordinated mitigation planning and implementation efforts, the regulations established the requirements that state hazard mitigation plans must meet in order for a state to be eligible

for certain federal disaster assistance and hazard mitigation funding under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Act (P.L. 93-288).

Specifically, the purpose of the Kansas Hazard Mitigation Plan and the associated planning process is to:

- Create a statewide vision for a disaster resilient future and define the State's goals for hazard mitigation programming;
- Provide an effective mechanism to promote interagency coordination of Kansas' state agency programs related to hazard mitigation;
- Ensure that all the hazards threatening Kansas are identified, evaluated, and addressed with a priority reflecting the risk they pose to the State;
- Comply with federal requirements as they pertain to mitigation in a coordinated and integrated manner;
- Provide an effective mechanism to plan, budget, monitor, and evaluate mitigation efforts;
- Educate state and local officials, as well as the public, regarding the hazards threatening Kansas and methods to mitigate them; and
- Establish and define programs and policies to improve mitigation planning and programming at the local level.

1.2. Organization

This plan is organized around FEMA's mitigation planning process and is divided into six chapters:

Chapter 1 Introduction includes the State's adoption of the plan and assurances that the State will comply with all applicable federal statutes and regulations.

Chapter 2 Planning Process explains the planning process, including how the plan was prepared, who was involved, and how it was integrated with other related planning efforts.

Chapter 3 Risk Assessment features the risk assessment, which identifies the type and location of hazards that can affect Kansas, analyzes the State's vulnerability to the hazards identified, and serves as the factual basis for the mitigation strategy.

Chapter 4 Mitigation Strategy provides the State's mitigation blueprint. Specifically, it includes goals and objectives, state and local capabilities, mitigation activities, and funding sources.

Chapter 5 Coordination of Local Mitigation Planning describes the State's role in funding, developing, coordinating, and approving local mitigation plans, and how the State prioritizes funding for local mitigation plans and projects.

Chapter 6 Plan Maintenance Process presents the method the KHMT uses to monitor, evaluate, and update the plan. It also outlines how the State reviews progress on achieving the goals of the mitigation strategy.

1.3. Adoption by the State

Requirement 201.4(c)(6): The plan must be formally adopted by the State prior to submittal to [FEMA] for final review and approval.

The Adjutant General, Director of the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, adopted the 2013 update of the Kansas Hazard Mitigation Plan for implementation on October 14, 2013 and declared the document to be officially adopted by the State.

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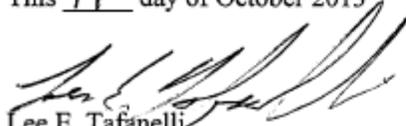
October 11, 2013

Kansas Hazard Mitigation Plan Adoption and Assurances

As the Adjutant General, Director of the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, I hereby approve and adopt the updated 2013 State of Kansas Hazard Mitigation Plan. I commend all parties involved in its preparation for their commitment and dedication to protecting the lives and property of the State of Kansas. This plan outlines the state's strategy towards reducing losses to natural and manmade disasters throughout the state.

As the Adjutant General, I confirm that the State of Kansas will comply with all federal statutes and regulations with respect to grants for which it receives. Further, the State will amend the Kansas Hazard Mitigation Plan as necessary to reflect changes in state or federal statutes and regulations.

This 14th day of October 2013



Lee E. Tafanelli
Major General, Kansas National Guard
The Adjutant General

This plan incorporates the associated federal/state hazard mitigation program, including the applicable sections of the DMA 2000 and is in compliance with the mitigation standards for accreditation outlined in the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP). The

Adjutant General's letter of adoption along with a copy of the plan was sent to FEMA Region VII on October 16, 2013.

1.4. Compliance with Federal Laws and Regulations

Requirement 201.4(c)(7): The plan must include assurances that the State will comply with all applicable Federal statutes and regulations in effect with respect to the periods for which it receives grant funding, in compliance with 13.11(c). The State will amend its plan whenever necessary to reflect changes in State or Federal laws and statutes as required in 44 CFR 13.11(d).

This plan is prepared to comply with the requirements of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1988 (as amended by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000); all aspects of 44 CFR pertaining to hazard mitigation planning and other activities; interim final rules and final rules pertaining to hazard mitigation planning and grants; all pertinent presidential directives associated with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and FEMA; all Office of Management and Budget circulars; and other federal government documents, guidelines, and rules.

The State of Kansas agrees to comply with all federal statutes and regulations in effect with respect to mitigation grants it receives, in compliance with 44 CFR 13.11(c). Revisions to the plan will be made whenever necessary to reflect changes in state or federal laws and statutes as required in 44 CFR 13.11(d). As stated in Section 1.1 Purpose, the KHMT reviews the plan annually and updates it every three years or as required, or as a change in priorities, disaster events, or funding availability. Amendments will be made as necessary to address changes in federal and state statutes, regulations, and policies.

1.5. Authorities

The Kansas Hazard Mitigation Plan is an integral component of state-level programs for management of disasters and their impacts. As such, the strategy relies on the authorities given to the programs and organizations herein incorporated for implementation of its strategies and assignments. Further, the plan is intended to be consistent with and supportive of the policies, plans, and implementation procedures that govern mitigation-related state agency programs. In the event of any inconsistency, state agency policies and programs supersede the provisions of this plan. The State's mitigation strategy relies upon and is intended to be consistent with the following Kansas statutes:

- **Chapter 12, Article 7:** Allowing cities and municipalities to designate flood zones and restrict the use of land within these zones;
- **Chapter 24, Article 12:** Establishing watershed districts;
- **Chapter 31, Article 1:** Establishing the state fire marshal's office;
- **Chapter 48, Article 9:** Promulgating the Kansas Emergency Management Act, establishing the Division of Emergency Management under the direction of the Adjutant General, and requiring counties to establish and maintain a disaster agency responsible for emergency management and to prepare a county emergency response plan;

- **Chapter 65, Article 57:** Promulgating the Kansas Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, and establishing the state emergency response commission (Commission for Emergency Preparedness and Response);
- **Chapter 66, Article 18:** Promulgating regulations for utility damage prevention (the Kansas Underground Utility Damage Prevention Act);
- **Chapter 68, Articles 9 & 15:** Controlling the damming of watercourses; and
- **Chapter 74, Article 26:** Establishing the Kansas Water Office and Kansas Water Authority and requiring the development of a state plan for water resource management.