

# Hazard Mitigation Plan

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May 2020

Territory of American Samoa



**Reduce the risk of all natural hazards (identified and unidentified) to the Territory, thus, alleviating loss of life and property to insure the well-being of the people of American Samoa.**

# HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

## TERRITORY OF AMERICAN SAMOA

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### MAY 2020

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## Acknowledgements

### **American Samoa Hazard Mitigation Council**

- GAR/Chairperson, Governor's Office
- Legislative Branch (Senate) Representative, Appointed by President of Senate
- Legislative Branch (House) Representative, Appointed by Speaker of the House
- Secretary, Samoan Affairs
- Director, Department of Commerce
- Director, Department of Port Administration
- Director, Department of Public Works
- Director, American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency
- Representative, American Samoa Historic Preservation Office
- CEO, American Samoa Power Authority
- CEO, American Samoa Telecommunication Authority
- Chairperson, Chambers of Commerce
- Acting Director, American Samoa Department of Homeland Security

### **Planning Team**

- Lima Fiatoa, State Hazard Mitigation Officer, Office of Disaster Assistance and Petroleum Management

## Record of Changes

The Hazard Mitigation Council will review this plan on an annual basis and following any major disasters. All updates and revisions to the plan will be tracked and recorded in the following table. This process will ensure the most recent version of the plan is disseminated and implemented by the Territory.

*Table 1. Summary of changes.*

Date of Change	Entered By	Summary of Changes

## Adoption Agreement



LOLO M. MOLIGA  
GOVERNOR

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LEMANU P. MAUGA  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

### EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. ----2020

#### **AN ORDER ADOPTING THE AMERICAN SAMOA REVISION AND UPDATE OF THE TERRITORY MULTI-HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN.**

##### **Section 1. Authority**

This Executive Order is issued under the authority granted to the Governor in Article IV, Section 6 and 7 of the Revised Constitution of American Samoa, and Sections 4.0111 and 26.0105, American Samoa Code Annotated.

##### **Section 2. Preamble**

WHEREAS, American Samoa has suffered substantial losses of life and property from natural disasters. The flash flood of 2003, Hurricane Heta in 2004, Hurricane Olaf in 2005, the Tsunami in December 2009, the Severe Storm and Flooding in 2014, Tropical Storm Gita in 2018, constant heavy rain during hurricane season, and severe landslides have caused considerable human suffering and damage to homes, businesses and government buildings, and infrastructure. Population growth and development continue to increase the vulnerability of American Samoa to natural disasters and unless steps are taken to reduce the risk, disaster losses will continue to increase in the future; and

WHEREAS, American Samoa has taken steps to mitigate the risk of disaster losses. Strides in building codes and standards, land use procedures and protective outreach mitigation awareness programs have been considerable factors in alleviating the impact of disasters. New constructions face stringent regulations, in Special Hazard Flood Areas (SHFA) prone to flooding, tsunamis, high surf, landslides and other hazards; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress adopted the Disaster Mitigation Act (DMA) of 2000, commonly known as the 2000 Stafford Act, amended on October 10, 2000. On October 30, 2000, the President signed the bill into law, creating Public Law 106-390. The purpose of the DMA is to amend the Stafford Act, which establish a national program for Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM). The PDM provides funds for mitigation planning and mitigation projects to communities. The law also requires local and Tribal governments to develop and submit mitigation plans to FEMA for approval in order to qualify for future funding. The law also stipulates Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds for planning purposes, and increases HMGP, from 7.5% to 20% for states meeting enhanced planning criteria. The Plan outlines the requirement for the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) for flood planning and small projects; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, the American Samoa Hazard Mitigation Council was established to assist the Territorial Emergency Management Coordination Office (TEMCO) in the development of the American Samoa Hazard Mitigation Plan. TEMCO was assisted also by the Pacific Disaster Center/East-West Center and the University of Hawaii's Social Research Institute to facilitate development of a draft plan. The Mitigation Council and its sub-committees met several times to review building codes and standards, land use regulations, and infrastructure standards and flooding. The Mitigation Council also met to formulate and identify mitigation projects and prioritize the projects accordingly. The product of this combined effort is contained in the American Samoa Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

WHEREAS, in 2007 the American Samoa Hazard Mitigation Plan matured to the state three-year updated plan requirement the updated plan was mandated by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000.

WHEREAS, in 2011 and 2015, the American Samoa Hazard Mitigation Plan was revised, updated, and adopted by Executive Order; and

WHEREAS, in 2020 the American Samoa Hazard Mitigation Plan was required to be updated. This is the updated plan mandated by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000.

### **Section 3. Order**

The American Samoa Revision and Update of the Territory Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, dated June 8, 2020 is hereby adopted pursuant to ASCA Title 26, Chapter 01, the Stafford Act, and 44 CFR 201.4(c) (6).

### **Section 4. Effective Date**

This Order shall take effect immediately.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_ 8<sup>th</sup> of June \_\_\_\_\_, 2020



**Honorable Lemanu Peleti Mauga**  
Lt. Governor of American Samoa  
Governor's Authorized Representative

Distribution: Per standard list.

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