



C I T Y O F  
**RENO**  
Memorandum

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**DATE:** May 30, 2025  
**TO:** Mayor and City Council  
**THROUGH:** Jackie Bryant, City Manager  
**FROM:** David Cochran, Fire Chief  
**DEPT:** Reno Fire Department  
**SUBJECT:** Key Changes In the 2025 Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

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At the June 4, 2025 meeting, the Council will be asked to adopt a resolution approving the 2025 Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan (RHMP). This memo provides a summary of the key updates included in the 2025 RHMP. The updated plan reflects a comprehensive, year-long regional effort involving Washoe County; the Cities of Sparks and Reno; Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD); North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District; and the Truckee River Flood Management Authority (TRFMA).

The RHMP is a federally required plan, updated every five years, to assess community-specific hazards and identify mitigation strategies. The current RHMP will expire on June 23, 2025. The updated 2025 Plan has been approved by the State of Nevada, Washoe County, the City of Sparks, TMFPD, and TRFMA, and is currently under FEMA review.

**Key Changes and Enhancements in the 2025 Update:**

1. New Content and Emphasis Areas:

- **Urban Avalanches:** The 2025 RHMP expands its hazard analysis to add Sand Harbor Bay to the already established urban avalanche risks in Crystal Bay and Incline Village, an area that was newly assessed in a 2023 countywide avalanche analysis. Several mitigation actions in the Plan are informed directly by the findings of this study.
- **Climate Change Impacts:** Increased attention is given to hazards driven by climate variability, such as flooding from changing precipitation patterns and wildfires influenced by development in hazard-prone areas.

- **Specific Mitigation Actions:** The plan includes more targeted mitigation strategies such as updating flood maps, enhancing dam emergency plans, and hardening critical utility infrastructure.
- **Grant Funding:** The 2025 RHMP emphasizes the utilization of FEMA- and State-approved funding sources and grant programs, identifying projects eligible for financial assistance. This alignment strengthens the region's ability to secure funding for implementation of mitigation actions.

## 2. Hazard Profiles & Risk Assessments:

- The 2025 Plan builds on the 2020 Plan's 13 hazards and expands analysis to include new risks, development trends, and jurisdictional vulnerabilities.
- It aligns with FEMA's most recent Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide and incorporates broader datasets, climate-informed projections, and new resources and tools that were not available during development of the 2020 Plan.

## 3. Capability Assessments:

- **2020 Plan:** Covered County's capabilities, including legal, financial, and staffing resources. Capabilities were discussed but less structured.
- **2025 Plan:** Expanded assessment with detailed tables and inclusion of Climate Adaptation Plan, updated CWPPs, and institutional efforts to understand planning tools like zoning and building code correlation.

## 4. Mitigation Strategy:

- The 2025 Plan advances from general goals to specific, measurable mitigation actions by hazard and jurisdiction with relevant funding opportunities.
- It includes a retrospective evaluation of 2020 actions—indicating which were completed, dropped, or modified.

## 5. Plan Implementation & Monitoring:

- Both the 2020 and 2025 Plans utilize annual reviews, FEMA tracking, and project reporting.
- The 2025 Plan expands public engagement using tools such as an ArcGIS StoryMap and a digital survey with over 600 participants.
- Establishes project tracking by WCEM Program Coordinator using tools such as a SharePoint dashboard. This system will be used to monitor action items and track prioritized timelines, with integrated maps to support visual project oversight.

## 6. Integration into Other Planning Mechanisms:

- The 2025 Plan places greater emphasis on integration into master plans, strategic and capital improvement plans, and community wildfire protection efforts.

- This marks a shift from theoretical discussion in the 2020 Plan to concrete policy and planning implementation.

Summary of Key Differences Between 2020 and 2025 RHMPs:

Area	2020 Plan	2025 Plan
Hazard Scope	13 hazards + cascading impacts	More detailed; expanded urban avalanche risks; broadened sections to be more inclusive
Data Use	Geospatial + stakeholder input	Expanded datasets; climate-informed assessments
Mitigation Actions	General and region-wide	Specific, hazard- and location-based actions; funding source identification
Public Engagement	Meetings and website	Digital StoryMap, over 600 surveys, community events
Plan Integration	Encouraged	Actively implemented into plans and codes