



**American Planning Association
Planners Advocacy Week
Planning for Security, Safety and Hazard Mitigation**

APA supports security and emergency management planning that is integrated with overall community development objectives, in order to achieve a balanced approach. Security and emergency management planning should be comprehensive and should not rely solely on physical security measures building by building. Planning for security should include intelligence and information gathering along with assessments of state and local government administration, operations, infrastructure, transportation, and land use management. Security responses and solutions should be applied at an appropriate scale: site, neighborhood, community, or region.

Measures to promote physical security should not be left solely to the discretion of the security community. The challenge for planning and security is to develop a process and regulations that realistically integrate both processes and bodies of knowledge. In matters related to security policy and plans, APA supports closer coordination of local and regional planners with emergency managers and first responders including policy, fire, and emergency medical staff.

APA supports the development of a national strategy that sets minimum standards for the protection of all citizens while concentrating funds and energy on areas at highest risk, for the purpose of allocating scarce resources among competing funding priorities. In partnership with federal agencies, state and local governments must play a direct role in the development of an appropriate risk-assessment strategy. Additional public funding is also needed for the further development and implementation of new technologies for security and mitigation planning, including remote sensing, visioning, scenario planning, and GIS technologies.

The potentially devastating impacts of natural disasters on people and property can and should be curtailed through hazard mitigation planning. APA supports federal policies that create incentives and provide assistance for the development of local and state mitigation plans and related processes such as infrastructure mapping and risk assessments. Federal mitigation planning assistance should be provided both before and after disasters strike. APA supports restoring federal post-disaster mitigation assistance to 15 percent while maintaining a new pre-disaster program. APA supports continued research and data collection related to hazard mitigation, including the modernization of flood maps, and urges communities to include mitigation planning as a component of local comprehensive plans.