



FEMA

FEB 07 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR: FEMA Regional Administrators
Regions I-X

ATTENTION: Regional Mitigation Division Directors
Federal Coordinating Officers

FROM: Sandra K. Knight, PhD, PE 
Deputy Associate Administrator for Mitigation

SUBJECT: Waiver of Two Provisions of Mitigation Interim Policy MRR-2-09-1,
Hazard Mitigation Assistance for Safe Rooms

The purpose of this memorandum is to waive elements of sections VII. D. and VII. E. of the subject policy and to clarify certain other guidance and practices. This waiver will allow cost associated with land acquisition to be an eligible project cost and eliminates the requirement for FEMA to review draft operations and maintenance plans prior to project approval. This memo also clarifies eligible costs associated with fire suppression sprinklers and HVAC systems.

This memorandum applies to Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) projects with disasters declared on or after April 30, 2009, the issuance date of Mitigation Interim Policy MRR-2-09-1, and all disasters for which the application period was open on April 30, 2009. This memorandum also applies to Pre-disaster Mitigation (PDM) projects for which the application period opened after April 30, 2009.

MRR-2-09-1, Section VII. D.

Section VII D of the currently effective policy states that the costs associated with the acquisition of land is ineligible. This memorandum waives this section to allow costs associated with the acquisition of land for community safe rooms as an eligible project cost. If an applicant already owns the land upon which the safe room will be built, the value of the land for a new safe room can be used as the non-federal match for the grant.

MRR-2-09-1, Section VII. E.

This section of the current policy requires FEMA to review and approve a copy of the applicant's operations and maintenance plan before the applicant begins the retrofit or construction of the project. This memorandum waives this section of the policy. To be considered for funding,

community and non-residential safe room project applications must include a statement of assurance acknowledging that the safe room will be operated and maintained in a manner that will achieve the proposed hazard mitigation. FEMA will review the final operations and maintenance plan during project closeout.

Clarification to Guidance and Practices

Current guidance is silent on the eligibility of fire suppression sprinklers and HVAC systems in safe rooms. Cost associated with fire suppression sprinklers and HVAC systems for the safe room area are allowable.

This memorandum does not change or modify any other statutory, regulatory, or administrative requirements of the HMGP or PDM. This memorandum will expire when Mitigation Interim Policy MRR-2-09-1 is updated. If you have any questions, please contact James Walke, Director, Risk Reduction Division at (202) 646-2751.