

Safe Growth Audit

Use this worksheet to identify gaps in your community’s growth guidance instruments and improvements that could be made to reduce vulnerability to future development.

Comprehensive Plan	Yes	No
Land Use		
1. Does the future land-use map clearly identify natural hazard areas?		
2. Do the land-use policies discourage development or redevelopment within natural hazard areas?		
3. Does the plan provide adequate space for expected future growth in areas located outside natural hazard areas?		
Transportation		
1. Does the transportation plan limit access to hazard areas?		
2. Is transportation policy used to guide growth to safe locations?		
3. Are movement systems designed to function under disaster conditions (e.g., evacuation)?		

Worksheet 4.2

Safe Growth Audit

Comprehensive Plan (continued)	Yes	No
Environmental Management		
1. Are environmental systems that protect development from hazards identified and mapped?		
2. Do environmental policies maintain and restore protective ecosystems?		
3. Do environmental policies provide incentives to development that is located outside protective ecosystems?		
Public Safety		
1. Are the goals and policies of the comprehensive plan related to those of the FEMA Local Hazard Mitigation Plan?		
2. Is safety explicitly included in the plan's growth and development policies?		
3. Does the monitoring and implementation section of the plan cover safe growth objectives?		

Zoning Ordinance	Yes	No
1. Does the zoning ordinance conform to the comprehensive plan in terms of discouraging development or redevelopment within natural hazard areas?		
2. Does the ordinance contain natural hazard overlay zones that set conditions for land use within such zones?		
3. Do rezoning procedures recognize natural hazard areas as limits on zoning changes that allow greater intensity or density of use?		
4. Does the ordinance prohibit development within, or filling of, wetlands, floodways, and floodplains?		
Subdivision Regulations	Yes	No
1. Do the subdivision regulations restrict the subdivision of land within or adjacent to natural hazard areas?		
2. Do the regulations provide for conservation subdivisions or cluster subdivisions in order to conserve environmental resources?		
3. Do the regulations allow density transfers where hazard areas exist?		

Worksheet 4.2

Safe Growth Audit

Capital Improvement Program and Infrastructure Policies	Yes	No
1. Does the capital improvement program limit expenditures on projects that would encourage development in areas vulnerable to natural hazards?		
2. Do infrastructure policies limit extension of existing facilities and services that would encourage development in areas vulnerable to natural hazards?		
3. Does the capital improvement program provide funding for hazard mitigation projects identified in the FEMA Mitigation Plan?		
Other	Yes	No
1. Do small area or corridor plans recognize the need to avoid or mitigation natural hazards?		
2. Does the building code contain provisions to strengthen or elevate construction to withstand hazard forces?		
3. Do economic development or redevelopment strategies include provisions for mitigation natural hazards?		
4. Is there an adopted evacuation and shelter plan to deal with emergencies from natural hazards?		

Questions adapted from Godschalk, David R. Practice Safe Growth Audits, *Zoning Practice*, Issue Number 10, October 2009, American Planning Association. <http://www.planning.org/zoningpractice/open/pdf/oct09.pdf>.