



Mitigation Still Saves

SPA Risk LLC and the National Institute of Building Sciences are updating and expanding the classic four-to-one benefit-cost analysis of natural-hazard mitigation, for FEMA

The National Institute of Building Sciences' Multihazard Mitigation Council (MMC) and SPA Risk LLC have begun a \$1-million benefit-cost analysis of natural hazard risk mitigation for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The study employs new data and methods to update the widely cited MMC study of a decade ago that found that on average FEMA-funded natural-hazard mitigation for flood, wind, and earthquake saved \$4 for every \$1 spent. The new study updates and expands the previous study by: (1) Including other perils; (2) Examining above-code design; and (3) Adding grants and loans by other federal agencies. Later work will: (4) Consider compliance with a model code where none is enforced; (5) Investigate retrofit of existing private-sector buildings; (6) Examine business continuity planning and disaster recovery; (7) Address utility and transportation critical infrastructure; and (8) Examine direct mitigation action by federal agencies. SPA is leading the effort. SPA's Keith Porter is the study's principal investigator and Charles Scawthorn is a co-PI. The project began in October 2016 and will finish in September 2017. To learn more about the cost-effectiveness of natural-hazard mitigation for your organization, contact SPA at www.sparisk.com.