

**Hurricanes Katrina and Rita
FEMA-DR-1603/1607-LA
Information Sheet # 016**

MITIGATION

During the repair of damaged components of facilities, there may be opportunities to prevent recurrence or similar damage from future, similar disaster events. Mitigation measures are in addition to any measures undertaken to comply with applicable codes and standards. Hazard mitigation funding under Section 406 of the Stafford Act is discussed in FEMA policy #9526.1.

Benefit/Cost Guidance for the 406 Mitigation Program

Only FEMA approved benefit/cost models will be acceptable.

The following fixed values are approved when using a benefit/cost model to determine the cost effectiveness of a proposed hazard mitigation measure:

- The event return frequency for FEMA-1603/1607-DR-LA is 8.5 years.
- Discount rate is 7%.
- Effective life of damaged elements (in years):

Steel and Concrete Bridges	50	Buildings	50
Electric Utility Lines	50	Mechanical Equipment	30
Timber Bridges	30	Erosion Control (rip rap)	20
Concrete Pipe, Arch, and		Computer Equipment	10
Box Culverts	40	Paved Roads	25
Building Contents	20		
Gravel Roads	15		

General Mitigation Guidance:

For facilities damaged by the above referenced disasters that are within communities participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (a listing can be found at <http://www.fema.gov/fema/csb.shtm>), where the cost of repair/restoration of the facility back to its predisaster condition would equal or exceed 50% of the predisaster fair market value of the facility, building to the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) will be considered as building to an applicable code/standard. In addition, mitigation funding will be considered for measures to address the new flood advisory elevations within that community.

For facilities that do not meet the above criteria, any improvements to address flood related damage, such as elevation or flood proofing, will be considered for mitigation, as long as those measures conform to the program requirements set forth in RR Policy #9526.1, Hazard Mitigation Funding under Section 406 (Stafford Act).

Applicable codes must meet the criteria of 44 CFR 206.226 (d).

Only eligible costs directly attributable to the eligible damage for which the mitigation is being proposed shall be included in the benefit/cost calculation.

This guidance applies both inside and outside the levee protected areas.

Mitigation against wind damage will follow standard program guidelines.

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Because this document is not exhaustive, either in topics or in detail, information should be verified with FEMA Public Assistance Program officials before becoming the basis for decision making.