



Partners in Prevention

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New - Become a *DisasterSmart* Leader

In cooperation with [FEMA's Building Science Branch](#), FLASH launched [DisasterSmart—Leadership for a Resilient Future](#). The new education initiative is for leaders seeking to advance disaster resilience by fostering an environment with strong, well-built residential homes as the foundation for community resilience.

The new *DisasterSmart* video and program guide offer appointed and elected leaders with case studies and details on opportunities to support community resilience at all levels of government. The program promotes understanding of resilience policy fundamentals that include building codes, beyond-code mitigation, incentive-aligned relief programs, public-private initiatives, and smart disaster finance.

Eric Letvin, Deputy Associate Administrator, Mitigation Directorate, Federal Insurance & Mitigation Administration (FIMA) says it best in the [video](#), “We want to build it right, we want to build it to the latest codes and standards so when the next event happens, those buildings we funded with our federal dollars are going to have the most resilient building codes and standards within them.”

Creating community-wide disaster resilience is a broad-based undertaking. Leaders at every level of government can promote life safety, economic stability, and overall welfare in the face of natural disasters. Putting proactive policies in place before earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, and other natural disasters will save lives, decrease financial losses, and ensure communities bounce back swiftly. Action beforehand can mitigate secondary impacts such as fire, power outages, transportation interruption, and water contamination as well.

For more information on becoming a *DisasterSmart* Leader, email info@flash.org.