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Mitigation and Community Resilience

Mitigation, defined as the reduction of risks and hazards or the decrease of the consequences of them, is a cornerstone of disaster management.¹ Mitigation's role in community resilience ensures that the community will experience as little damage as possible. For example, the use of structural mitigation strategies through the use of building codes, along with the modification of structures, can allow for a less expensive recovery.² This aspect of mitigation conserves financial resources, which can increase community resilience. In this instance, reducing costs for damages will allow communities to have more financial freedom to strengthen mitigation and response efforts. Additionally, mitigation of disasters reduces risk for individual citizens, while also fostering community organization. This coordination can allow for a focus on the needs of a community outside of disaster mitigation and response.

Community resilience as a part of disaster mitigation is also essential because a community is the first line of defense.² As disasters are often localized, the role of the community allows for the meeting of custom needs of different areas. Additionally, a significant part of community resilience involves the population working together for disaster mitigation.³ In the case of the destruction and contamination of natural resources, the community recognized their need to preserve their environment to prevent natural disasters and ensure the promotion of their health.

References

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