



Media Release

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Securing Switzerland's living and business environment: PLANAT updates strategy on natural hazards

The Federal Council has taken note of the strategy updated by the National Platform for Natural Hazards PLANAT. The 2018 strategy "Management of risks from natural hazards" considers current environmental conditions such as the higher incidence of extreme weather events and increasing utilisation of our living environment. Thus it contributes to securing Switzerland's living and business environment for the long term.

A secure setting in which to live and do business is a prerequisite for prosperity and quality of life. However, there is no such thing as absolute security. Natural events can threaten people, material assets and a country's economic vitality, as abundantly demonstrated by recent damaging events such as the floods of 2005. By implementing this strategy, Switzerland will secure its living and economic environment for the long term.

What is new in the 2018 strategy on natural hazards

The 2018 strategy "Management of risks from natural hazards" supersedes the "Protection against natural hazards" strategy from 2003. Proven elements of the 2003 strategy such as the integrated risk management approach will be further pursued and developed. In the updated strategy 2018 PLANAT defines objectives for managing risks from natural hazards and sets out the principles for achieving them. To provide adequate protection against natural hazards such as floods, hail, storms and earthquakes, Switzerland must do more than increase its resistance so that damage can be reduced to a tolerable level. It is also important that the country rapidly regains functional capacity after an event. Finally, Switzerland must be prepared and able to adapt to changing climatic conditions, such as heat waves and increasing heavy rainfalls.

The updated strategy is consistent with other national and international strategies, including for example "Sustainable Development 2016-2019" published by the Federal Office for

Spatial Development, “Adaptation to climate change 2012 & 2014” published by the Federal Office for the Environment and the “Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction” published by the UNO.

Who is the strategy for?

The strategy 2018 is directed at all whose activities and decisions influence the management of risks from natural hazards. These include politicians and authorities at all levels, planners, building owners and insurance companies. Every person and every institution bears risks from natural hazards – both for themselves and for society. In addition, everyone has influence over the risks through their actions and behaviour. In order to achieve the envisaged goals, it is therefore important for everyone to act together in a spirit of solidarity.

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Enclosures

- Strategy “Management of Risks from Natural Hazards”

Internet

- PLANAT: www.planat.ch
- Ereignisanalyse Hochwasser 2005:
<https://www.bafu.admin.ch/bafu/de/home/themen/naturgefahren/publikationen-studien/publikationen/ereignisanalyse-hochwasser-2005-prozesse-schaeden-und-erste-einordnungen.html>