



**CITY OF MOUNT VERNON**  
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## **INTRODUCTION**

The city of Mount Vernon government, in partnership with other city governments located within Skagit County and the Skagit County government, has been an active participant in the process to develop the **City of Mount Vernon Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan**. Mount Vernon has been represented throughout the planning process by the Development Services Department (consisting of the Building Planning and Engineering Divisions), and the Fire Department.

These offices and departments have created an overall profile of Mount Vernon, based on size, population, growth trends, economic base and current/future predominant land uses. From this profile, Mount Vernon was segmented into distinct “neighborhoods” based on flood zone geography, land use, and hazard risk elements that are specific to each. The use of these neighborhood profiles has allowed for the development of area-specific risk assessments and has thereby promoted efficient mitigation planning.

The city of Mount Vernon, because of geographical, geological and topographical diversities, is subject to a wide variety of hazards. This document is intended to identify the types of hazards that pose a high degree of risk of occurrence, and the mitigation measures that are currently in place to reduce or mitigate loss to health, life, property, and the environment.

Mount Vernon has adopted Mount Vernon Municipal Code Title 15, and the 1997 edition of the Uniform Codes (Building, Fire, Mechanical and Plumbing), effective July 1998. The purpose of these codes is to provide minimum standards to safeguard life and limb, health, property and public welfare. In addition to the general standards for construction, the Building Code provides for geographically specific requirements for seismic design, high wind design and high snow load design.

Mount Vernon adopted Mount Vernon Municipal Code Title 15.36, Flood Plain Management Standards, as part of its Municipal Code. The purpose of this ordinance is to protect life and health, minimize public money expenditure, minimize the need for rescue and relief associated with flooding, and minimize prolonged business interruption and to minimize damage to public facilities and utilities.

Mount Vernon adopted Mount Vernon Municipal Code Title 15.40 Critical Areas as part of its Municipal Code. Within this ordinance are requirements and restrictions relating to steep, unstable or otherwise hazardous slopes, which could impact human safety during earthquakes, sliding and erosion. The purpose of this portion of the Critical Areas Ordinance is to safeguard citizens, property, and resources, through identification of hazardous areas, requirements for mitigation through engineered design and construction methods; and, when design and construction methods cannot reduce risks to acceptable levels, to prohibit building and construction.

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