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## **Charleston Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Will Help SAPSD Better Prepare for Natural Disasters**

**Charleston, S.C. (April 2019) -**[CHARLESTON, SC](#) **St. Andrews Public Service District** is better prepared for disasters with the recent approval of the local hazard mitigation plan, which is a long-term strategy to reduce the community's vulnerability to natural disasters.

The plan identifies hazards and potential hazards in SAPSD and it creates a framework to help community officials make decisions that may ultimately protect lives and property. The plan also outlines a strategy for implementing mitigation projects in SAPSD.

History shows that the physical, financial and emotional losses caused by disasters can be reduced significantly through hazard mitigation planning. The planning process encourages communities to integrate mitigation with day-to-day decision making regarding land-use planning, floodplain management, site design and other activities.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reviews and approves state, tribal and local hazard mitigation plans, which are required as a condition for states and communities to receive certain types of disaster assistance, including funding for mitigation projects. State mitigation plans must be approved every five years, and local and tribal mitigation plans must be approved at least once every five years.

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St. Andrews Public Service District was created by Act 443 of the South Carolina General Assembly on July 1, 1949. The territory was made up of five districts in St. Andrews Parish in Charleston County. It is a Special Purpose District originally created to provide refuse removal, wastewater services, fire protection, street lights and street signs.

Currently, St. Andrews Public Service District provides fire, rescue, first responder and environmental services, and street lighting to approximately 28,000 people in two districts.

