**Extreme Weather Challenge**

**Glossary**

**for Building Resilient Neighborhoods**

**Adaptation** Changes, techniques and actions taken to reduce the impacts of climate stresses on human and natural systems. *(For a more in depth discussion of adaptation, refer to page 8 of the “Citizen’s Guide for readiness for Climate Extremes in the Desert Southwest.)*

**Community** A group of people living in the same locality and under the same government who are interdependent inhabiting the same region and interacting with each other through food, environment, property, laws or rules, protection, development and many other relationships

**Community Resilience** Community resilience is a measure of the sustained ability of a community to utilize available resources to respond to, withstand, and recover from adverse situations. Resilience can also mean adaptation and the movement of a community to a more sustainable level of being.

**Extreme Heat** Ambient air temperatures that are above the range that is tolerable and safe (during prolonged exposure) for human survival in a region in which people usually inhabit. (These may be lower for Northern dwellers who are not acclimatized to higher, e.g. desert-like, temperatures.)

**Facilitation** Leading or assisting discussion or planning that focuses on helping people to participate in the process of learning or planning, not only concerned about what gets achieved in the process facilitated.

**Facilitator**  A facilitator is a guide to help people move through a process together, not the seat of wisdom and knowledge. That means a facilitator isn't there to give opinions, but to draw out opinions and ideas of the group members. A facilitator is neutral and does not take sides.

**Mitigation**  is taking measures to reduce or reverse the impact of conditions leading to an adverse situation such as climate change. *(For a more in depth discussion of mitigation, refer to page 6 of the “Citizen’s Guide for readiness for Climate Extremes in the Desert Southwest.)*

**Neighborhood** An area of a community with people living in proximity to one another, often organized informally or formally (e.g. in associations) to act together to preserve and protect the neighborhood and possibly to help one another.

**Neighborhood Cohesion** A strong sense of community with people engaging in frequent acts of “neighboring” (knowing and helping one another) and people highly attracted to living in and remaining residents of the neighborhood.

**Resiliency** The ability to become strong, healthy, or successful again after something bad happens such as an extreme weather event. Resilience can also mean movement to a more sustainable level of living through adaptation.

**Risk** The possibility that something bad or unpleasant (such as an injury or a loss) will happen which may be more likely to those who are more vulnerable to the consequence of the risk.

**Vulnerability** The state of being more likely or liable to be susceptible or harmed by a particular risk when exposed to that risk. A vulnerable person may be less li kely to defend themselves with exposure to risks.