

LEE COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL ALL HAZARDS MITIGATION PLAN

PUBLIC FORUM – OPEN HOUSE

FEBRUARY 17, 2011

DIXON PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING (POLICE & FIRE COMPLEX)

4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Each year natural hazards (i.e., severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, severe winter storms, flooding, etc.) cause damage to property and threaten the lives and health of Lee County residents. Since 1965, Lee County has had three federally-declared disasters. In addition, in the past decade alone, there have been over 80 severe storms (thunderstorms, high winds, hail, lightning strikes, heavy rain etc.), 27 severe winter storms, 11 flood events, two tornadoes, one drought and three earthquakes felt by residents in the County. While natural hazards cannot be avoided, their impacts can be reduced through effective hazard mitigation planning.

What is hazard mitigation planning?

Hazard mitigation planning is the process of determining how to reduce or eliminate the loss of life and property damage resulting from natural and man-made hazards. This process helps the County and participating municipalities reduce their risk from natural and man-made hazards by identifying vulnerabilities and developing mitigation actions to lessen and sometimes even eliminate the effects of a hazard. The results of this process are documented in an all hazards mitigation plan.

Why prepare an all hazards mitigation plan?

By preparing and adopting an all hazards mitigation plan, participating jurisdictions become eligible to apply for and receive federal hazard mitigation funds to implement mitigation actions identified in the Plan. These funds, made available through the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, can help provide local government entities with the opportunity to complete mitigation projects that would not otherwise be financially possible.

Who participated in the development of the Lee County Multi-Jurisdiction All Hazards Mitigation Plan?

Recognizing the benefits that could be gained from preparing an all hazards mitigation plan, the Lee County Board passed a resolution on June 16, 2009 authorizing the development of the Lee County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan. The County then invited all the municipalities within Lee County to participate. The following municipalities chose to participate in the Plan's development:

- | | | |
|----------|------------------|------------|
| ❖ Amboy | ❖ Franklin Grove | ❖ Steward |
| ❖ Ashton | ❖ Harmon | ❖ Sublette |
| ❖ Dixon | | |

How was the Plan developed?

The Lee County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan was developed through the Lee County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Planning Committee. The Planning Committee included representatives from each participating jurisdiction, the general public as well as agriculture, business, education, emergency services (ambulance, fire and law enforcement), healthcare, GIS and insurance. The Planning Committee met five times between February, 2010 and February, 2011.

Which natural and man-made hazards are included in the Plan?

After much discussion, the Planning Committee chose to include the following natural and man-made hazards in this Plan:

- ❖ severe storms (thunderstorms, hail, lighting & heavy rain)
- ❖ severe winter storms (snow & ice)
- ❖ tornadoes
- ❖ flood
- ❖ drought
- ❖ extreme heat
- ❖ earthquakes
- ❖ dam failures
- ❖ man-made hazards including:
 - hazardous substances (transportation & disposal)
 - hazardous material incidents
 - nuclear accidents
 - terrorism

What is included in the Plan?

The Plan is divided into sections that cover the planning process; the risk assessment conducted on each of the previously identified natural and man-made hazards; the mitigation strategy, including lists of mitigation actions identified for each participating jurisdiction; recommendations; and plan maintenance and adoption. The majority of the Plan is devoted to the risk assessment.

This risk assessment identifies the natural and man-made hazards that pose a threat to the County and includes a profile of each natural hazard which describes the location and severity of past occurrences, reported damages to public health and property, and the likelihood of future occurrences. It also provides a vulnerability assessment that evaluates the assets of the participating jurisdictions (i.e., residential buildings, critical facilities and infrastructure) and estimates the potential impacts each natural hazard and man-made hazard would have on the health and safety of the residents of Lee County as well as the buildings, critical facilities and infrastructure located within the County.

What happens next?

Any comments received at tonight's public forum will be incorporated into the Plan before it is submitted to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for review. Once IEMA and FEMA have reviewed and approved the Plan, it will be presented to the County and each participating jurisdiction for formal adoption. After adopting the Plan, each participating jurisdiction can apply for federal mitigation funds and begin implementation of the mitigation actions identified in the Plan.