

MASON COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL NATURAL HAZARDS MITIGATION PLAN PUBLIC FORUM SUMMARY HANDOUT

**APRIL 28, 2022
5:00 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 Mason County residents. Since 1968, Mason County has been a part of 14 federally-declared disasters and experienced at least \$14.8 million in recorded property damages and \$81.7 million in recorded crop damages within the County.

In the last 10 years alone (2012 – 2021), there have been 57 heavy rain events, 38 thunderstorms with damaging winds, 28 riverine flood events, 24 excessive heat events, 23 extreme cold events, 14 severe winter storms, 7 flash flood events, 5 tornadoes, , 2 severe storms with hail one inch in diameter or greater, 2 droughts, and 1 lightning strike with verified damages 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 property damage and loss of life from natural hazards. This process helps the County and participating jurisdictions reduce their risk 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 a natural hazards mitigation plan.

Why prepare an updated natural hazards mitigation plan?

By preparing and adopting an updated natural 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 update of the Mason County Multi-Jurisdiction Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan?

Recognizing the benefits that could be gained from preparing an updated natural hazards mitigation plan, Mason County invited all the local government entities within the County to participate. The following jurisdictions chose to participate in the Plan update with the County:

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| ❖ Bath, Village of | ❖ Havana CUSD #126 | ❖ Mason City Fire Protection District |
| ❖ Easton, Village of | ❖ Kilbourne, Village of | ❖ Mason District Hospital |
| ❖ Havana, City of | ❖ Kilbourne Fire Department | ❖ Midwest Central CUSD #191 |
| ❖ Havana Rural Fire Protection District | ❖ Manito, Village of | ❖ San Jose, Village of |
| | ❖ Mason City, City of | |

How was the Plan update developed?

The Mason County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan update was developed through the Mason County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Planning Committee. The Planning Committee included representatives from each participating jurisdiction, as well as agriculture, education, emergency services and healthcare. The Planning Committee met five times between April 2021 and April 2022.

MASON COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL NATURAL HAZARDS MITIGATION PLAN

Which natural hazards are included in the Plan update?

After reviewing the risk assessment, the Planning Committee chose to include the following natural hazards in the Plan:

Natural Hazards:

- ❖ severe storms (thunderstorms, hail, etc.)
- ❖ floods (riverine & flash)
- ❖ severe winter storms (snow, ice, etc.)
- ❖ tornadoes
- ❖ excessive heat
- ❖ extreme cold
- ❖ drought
- ❖ earthquakes
- ❖ dam failures
- ❖ levee failures

What is included in the Plan update?

The Plan update is divided into sections that cover the planning process; the risk assessment; the mitigation strategy, including the jurisdiction-specific mitigation action lists; and plan maintenance and adoption. The majority of the Plan update is devoted to the risk assessment and mitigation strategy.

The risk assessment identifies the natural 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 estimates the potential impacts each natural hazard would have on the health and safety of the residents of Mason County, as well as the buildings, critical facilities, and infrastructure in the County.

The key component of the mitigation strategy is a list of the projects and activities developed by each participating jurisdiction to reduce the potential loss of life and property damage that results from the natural hazards identified in the risk assessment. These projects and activities are intended to be implemented *before* a hazard event occurs.

What happens next?

Any comments received at today's public forum and during the public comment period will be reviewed and, where applicable, incorporated into the draft Plan update 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 update, each participating jurisdiction will be eligible to apply for federal mitigation funds and can begin implementing the mitigation actions identified in the Plan.