

**DOUGLAS COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL
ALL HAZARDS MITIGATION PLAN
PUBLIC FORUM SUMMARY HANDOUT**

**NOVEMBER 21, 2024
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 Douglas County residents. Since 1990, Douglas County has been included in 13 emergency and major federal disaster declarations and experienced at least \$112.2 million in recorded property damages and \$41.8 million in recorded crop damages.

In the last 10 years alone (2014 – 2023), there have been 39 verified heavy rain events, 30 thunderstorms with damaging winds, 26 extreme cold events, 22 riverine flood events, 19 excessive heat events, 19 severe storms with hail one inch in diameter or greater, 11 severe winter storms, 10 flash flood events, 7 lightning strikes with verified damages and 2 droughts in the County. While natural and man-made hazards cannot be avoided, their impacts can be reduced through effective hazard mitigation planning and implementation.

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 and man-made 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 an all hazards mitigation plan.

Why prepare an updated all hazards mitigation plan?

By preparing and adopting an updated 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 update of the County’s All Hazard Mitigation Plan?

Recognizing the benefits that could be gained from preparing an updated all hazards mitigation plan, Douglas 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:

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| ❖ Arcola, City of | ❖ Bowdre Township | ❖ Tuscola, City of |
| ❖ Arthur, Village of | ❖ Camargo, Village of | ❖ Villa Grove, City of |
| ❖ Atwood, Village of | ❖ Garrett, Village of | ❖ Villa Grove CUSD #302 |

How was the Plan update developed?

The Douglas County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan update was developed through the Douglas County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Planning Committee. The Committee included representatives from each participating jurisdiction, as well as input from agriculture, business, economic development, education, emergency services, healthcare, social services, and utilities. The Planning Committee met five times between October 2023 and November 2024.

DOUGLAS COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL ALL HAZARDS MITIGATION PLAN

Which hazards are included in the Plan update?

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

Natural Hazards

- ❖ severe storms (thunderstorms, hail, lightning & heavy rain)
- ❖ floods (riverine & flash)
- ❖ excessive heat
- ❖ severe winter storms (snow & ice)
- ❖ extreme cold
- ❖ tornadoes
- ❖ drought
- ❖ earthquakes
- ❖ mine subsidence
- ❖ dam failures

Man-Made Hazards

- ❖ hazardous substances (generation, transportation, and storage/handling)
- ❖ waste disposal
- ❖ hazardous material incidents
- ❖ waste remediation
- ❖ nuclear incidents
- ❖ terrorism

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; 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 and man-made hazards that pose a threat to the County and includes a profile of each 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 analysis that estimates the potential impacts each natural hazard would have on the health and safety of the residents of Douglas 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 and Office of Homeland Security (IEMA-OHS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for review. Once IEMA-OHS 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.