

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

**MAY 19, 2022
2:00 P.M. – 4:00 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 Whiteside County residents. Since 1965, Whiteside County has been a part of 11 federally-declared disasters and experienced at least \$10.7 million in recorded property damages and \$22.4 million in recorded crop damages within the County.

In the last 10 years alone (2011 – 2020), there have been 86 heavy rain events, 59 thunderstorms with damaging winds, 30 extreme cold events, 30 severe winter storms, 24 excessive heat events, 23 riverine flood events, 17 tornadoes, 17 severe storms with hail one inch in diameter or greater, 13 flash flood events and 2 droughts verified 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 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 Whiteside County Multi-Jurisdiction All Hazards Mitigation Plan?

Recognizing the benefits that could be gained from preparing an updated all hazards mitigation plan, Whiteside 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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|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| ❖ Albany, Village of | ❖ Morrison, City of | ❖ Sterling, City of |
| ❖ CGH Medical Center | ❖ River Bend CUSD #2 | ❖ Sterling CUSD #5 |
| ❖ Erie, Village of | ❖ Rock Falls, City of | ❖ Tampico, Village of |
| ❖ Fulton, City of | | |

How was the Plan update developed?

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

WHITESIDE COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL ALL HAZARDS MITIGATION PLAN

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

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

Natural Hazards:

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

Man-Made hazards:

- ❖ hazardous substances (generation, transportation, and storage/handling)
- ❖ waste disposal
- ❖ hazardous material incidents
- ❖ waste remediation
- ❖ 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; 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 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 estimates the potential impacts each natural hazard would have on the health and safety of the residents of Whiteside 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 and man-made 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.