



Flora/Clay County E.S.D.A.
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County Prepares For Natural Disasters

Flora, IL (November 4, 2019)—Clay County will begin developing a countywide plan that will identify activities and projects to reduce the damages caused by natural hazards such as thunderstorms, tornadoes, snow and ice storms, floods, and excessive heat among others. The plan is called a Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan and will be funded through a grant from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA).

“Developing this Plan will help us be better prepared before severe weather strikes. The goal is to reduce the harm to residents and property. This Plan is different from an emergency response plan. A mitigation Plan focuses on ways to reduce and prevent damages before they occur,” said Steve Lewis, Clay County ESDA Coordinator.

The first meeting of this Committee will be on Monday, November 18th, 2019 at the Clay County Health Department, located at 601 E. 12th Street in Flora beginning at 1 p.m. The committee will meet periodically over the next several months to develop this Plan.

The Clay County Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee has been created with representatives from each participating municipality and the County, along with technical partners and other stakeholders. Meetings of this committee will be open to the public so that interested residents can attend and provide input. The purpose of these working sessions is to gather and discuss information that will be used to develop the Plan.

“At this meeting we will discuss the planning process, as well as identify how often severe weather events occur and the kinds of damages caused throughout our County. Based on this information we will begin developing lists of activities and projects to reduce the damages caused by these events”, said Lewis.

Once the draft Plan is prepared, it will be presented for review and comment at a public forum. Any comments received from the public and state and federal agencies will be incorporated into the Plan. Following these revisions, the Plan will be presented for adoption at public meetings held by the county and each participating municipality.

“This Plan will be our best resource for determining how to reduce damages from natural hazard events. Once this Plan is completed, comprehensive information will be available in one document to help guide those who are making decisions about how to better protect Clay County residents,” added Lewis.