

**CLAY COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL
NATURAL HAZARDS MITIGATION PLAN
PUBLIC FORUM TELECONFERENCE**

**MAY 19, 2020
2:00 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 Clay County residents. Since 2002, Clay County has been included in two federally-declared disasters and experienced at least \$16.1 million in verified property and \$32.2 million in crop damage within the County.

In the last 10 years alone (2010-2019), there have been 67 heavy rain events, 67 thunderstorms with damaging winds, 25 flash flood events, 21 excessive heat events 17 severe storms with hail one inch in diameter or greater, 15 severe winter storms, 11 riverine flood events, five lightning strikes, two droughts, two tornadoes, and one extreme cold event 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 hazards. This process helps the County and participating municipalities 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 a natural hazards mitigation plan?

By preparing and adopting a 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 development of the Clay County Multi-Jurisdiction Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan?

Recognizing the benefits that could be gained from preparing a natural hazards mitigation plan, Clay County invited all the local government entities within the County to participate. The following jurisdictions chose to participate in the Plan development:

- ❖ Clay City, Village of
- ❖ Clay County
- ❖ Clay County Hospital
- ❖ Flora, City of
- ❖ Flora CUSD #35
- ❖ Louisville, Village of
- ❖ North Clay CUSD #25
- ❖ North Clay FPD
- ❖ Xenia, Village of

CLAY COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL NATURAL HAZARDS MITIGATION PLAN

How was the Plan developed?

The Clay County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan was developed through the Clay County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Planning Committee. The Planning Committee included representatives from each participating jurisdiction, as well as education, emergency services (911, fire and law enforcement), healthcare, insurance and local utilities. The Planning Committee met three times between November 2019 and May 2020.

Which natural hazards are included in the Plan?

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

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

What is included in the Plan?

The Plan is divided into sections that cover the planning process; the risk assessment; the mitigation strategy, including lists of mitigation actions identified for each participating jurisdiction; and plan maintenance and adoption. Much of the Plan is devoted to the risk assessment and mitigation strategy.

This 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 Clay 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 during the public comment period will be incorporated into the draft 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.