

CARROLL COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL NATURAL HAZARDS MITIGATION PLAN

PUBLIC FORUM – TELECONFERENCE

**AUGUST 27, 2020
7:00 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 Carroll County residents. Since 1965, Carroll County has been a part of 11 federally-declared disasters and experienced a minimum of \$18.5 million in recorded property damages and \$18.2 million in recorded crop damages within the County.

In the last 10 years alone (2020 – 2019), there have been 47 thunderstorms with damaging winds, 31 severe winter storms, 24 heavy rain events, nine flash flood events, eight severe storms with hail one inch in diameter or greater, eight riverine flood events, seven landslides four tornadoes, three extreme cold events, two lightning strike events with damages, two droughts, two excessive heat events, and 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 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 development of the Carroll County Multi-Jurisdiction Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan update?

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

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| ❖ Chadwick, Village of | ❖ Milledgeville Park District | ❖ Shannon, Village of |
| ❖ Eastland CUSD #308 | ❖ Mount Carroll, City of | ❖ Thomson, Village of |
| ❖ Lanark, City of | ❖ Mount Carroll FPD | ❖ Thomson FPD |
| ❖ Milledgeville, Village of | ❖ Savanna, City of | ❖ West Carroll CUSD #314 |

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How was the Plan update developed?

The Carroll County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan update was developed through the Carroll County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Planning Committee. The Planning Committee included representatives from each participating jurisdiction, as well as business, education, emergency services, GIS, healthcare, insurance and planning. The Planning Committee met five times between March 2019 and August 2020.

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 hazards in this updated Plan:

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| ❖ severe storms (thunderstorms, hail, etc.) | ❖ drought |
| ❖ severe winter storms (snow, ice, etc.) | ❖ landslide |
| ❖ floods (flash & general) | ❖ earthquakes |
| ❖ tornadoes | ❖ dam failures |
| ❖ excessive heat | ❖ 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 lists of mitigation actions identified for each participating jurisdiction; 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 Carroll 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 tonight's public forum and during the public comment period will be 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 can apply for federal mitigation funds and begin implementation of the mitigation actions identified in the Plan.