

# MCLEAN COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL ALL HAZARDS MITIGATION PLAN PUBLIC FORUM SUMMARY HANDOUT

FEBRUARY 9, 2022  
3:00 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 McLean County residents. Since 1968, McLean County has been a part of seven federally-declared disasters and experienced at least \$56.8 million in recorded property damages and \$74.7 million in recorded crop damages within the County.

In the last 10 years alone, there have been 63 heavy rain events, 55 thunderstorms with damaging winds, 24 severe winter storms, 22 severe storms with hail one inch in diameter or greater, 17 riverine flood events, 17 flash flood events, 15 excessive heat events, 11 tornadoes, 7 extreme cold events, 3 droughts, 3 lightning strikes with verified damages and 1 mine subsidence 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 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 all hazards mitigation plan?**

By preparing and adopting an 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 development of the McLean County Multi-Jurisdiction All Hazards Mitigation Plan?**

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

- ❖ Arrowsmith
- ❖ Bellflower
- ❖ Bellflower FPD
- ❖ Bloomington
- ❖ Bloomington Public Schools District #87
- ❖ Bloomington Township FPD
- ❖ BNWRD
- ❖ Carle BroMenn Medical Center
- ❖ Chenoa
- ❖ Colfax
- ❖ Cooksville
- ❖ Danvers FPD
- ❖ Downs
- ❖ Ellsworth
- ❖ Ellsworth FPD
- ❖ Heartland Community College
- ❖ Hudson
- ❖ Le Roy
- ❖ Lexington Community FPD
- ❖ McLean, Village of
- ❖ McLean County Unit District #5
- ❖ Mt. Hope-Funks Grove FPD
- ❖ Normal
- ❖ Towanda

# MCLEAN COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL ALL HAZARDS MITIGATION PLAN

## How was the Plan developed?

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

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

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.)
- ❖ tornadoes
- ❖ floods (flash & general)
- ❖ excessive heat
- ❖ extreme cold
- ❖ drought
- ❖ mine subsidence
- ❖ earthquakes
- ❖ 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?

The Plan is divided into sections that cover the planning process; the risk assessment; the mitigation strategy, including the jurisdiction-specific mitigation lists; and plan maintenance and adoption. The majority of the Plan 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 and man-made hazard would have on the health and safety of the residents of McLean 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 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 will be eligible to apply for federal mitigation funds and can begin implementing the mitigation actions identified in the Plan.