

Plan Overview

Jersey County is susceptible to natural hazards that threaten life, health and has caused heavy property damage. While the county has experienced its share of damage from tornadoes, straight line winds and flash flooding, the most devastating and prolonged flood of 1993 stands without equal. Jersey County is positioned at the crossroads of three mighty rivers, the Mississippi, Missouri and the Illinois. The county found itself at the center of a historic flood. In 2003, Jersey County and participating municipalities banded together to better understand the hazards that effect the county and the impact they have on the residents and their property. In 2008 a Plan was developed to identify ways to reduce those impacts. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), through the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and the Stafford Act¹ require that a community develop and adopt a FEMA approved natural hazard mitigation plan in order to be eligible for hazard mitigation grant funds. These requirements are spelled out in 44 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) Part 201. The DMA 2000 and the Stafford Act require that the mitigation plan be updated every five years to maintain grant eligibility.

This 2015 plan is the update of the 2008 plan. It is multi-jurisdictional and has been adopted by Jersey County, City of Jerseyville, City of Grafton, Village of Elsah and Village of Fieldon. The multi-jurisdictional plan meets all FEMA requirements including the National Flood Insurance Program and the Community Rating System (CRS).² Communities participating in the CRS can earn credit towards discounts in flood insurance premiums for their residents.

“Hazard mitigation is defined as any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property from a hazard event.”

FEMA

This Plan: This Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, referred to as the Plan, will study and identify activities the public and private sector can do to reduce property damage, save lives and reduce health issues related to a natural hazard. The selected strategies are consistent with mitigation goals and objectives developed by the planning team.

The update of the Plan was based on discussions and meetings of the participating municipalities and the public was encouraged to participate. The Committee focused on six hazards along with some minor hazards and their impact on people, property, critical facilities, and the local economy. The following table was prepared indicating the hazards impact on health and safety, assets and the economy:

¹ <http://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance>

² <http://www.fema.gov/community-rating-system>

Impact of the Hazards

Hazard Profile	Area of Damage	Annual Frequency	Measured Hazard	Property Damage	Critical Facilities	Economic Impact
Earthquakes	County-wide	<1 %	Low	Medium	Masonry & glass damage, roads	Businesses, transportation
Base Flood Severe Thunderstorms	Floodplain	1 %	Medium	Medium	2	Minor
	County - wide	100 %	High	Minor	Communications	Electrical outage, hail damage
Winter Storms	County-wide	100 %	High	Minor	Emergency disruption	Business & school closures
Tornadoes	County-wide	35 %	Major	Major	Hospitals, schools & assembly halls	Utilities, communications, debris removal & crop damage
Drought	County-wide	1%	Medium	Medium	NA	Crop, Business, livestock
Mines/Mudslides Wildfires/Field-fires	County-wide	< 1 %	Low	Minor	NA	Minor
	Anywhere	< 1 %	Low	Minor	NA	Crop damage

This Jersey County Multi-Hazard Plan 2015 update is an examination of natural hazards that face Jersey County and its municipalities. It establishes goals, evaluates and highlights the existing mitigation activities in process and recommends an action plan for the County and the municipalities for the next five years. Some of the action items are ongoing and some will be new as they are contingent on the availability of staff and funding. In the development of the Plan the County has tried to be consistent with federal mitigation planning requirements and the Community Rating System. The Plan will continue to be monitored and updated every five years.

Using the hazard analysis, it was decided that severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, winter storms, floods and were the highest concern. After review of other plans and goals, the following goals and guidelines were set:

GOALS

- ❖ Minimize loss of life by encouraging residents to assume some responsibility for their protection.
- ❖ New developments of public services, critical facilities should not be exposed to possible damage from natural hazard events. Focus on updating critical facilities.
- ❖ Identify existing buildings for mitigation against damage from natural hazard events.
- ❖ Local initiatives should focus on protecting citizens and public property.

- ❖ Develop partnerships with local municipalities and private stakeholders to improve better mitigation measures with available funding.
- ❖ Enforce mitigation measures, specifically on repetitive loss structures thereby preserving open space in hazardous areas, especially where they are sensitive natural areas and agricultural land.

GUIDELINES

- ❖ Develop an improved way of delivering warnings to the public especially those living in rural areas, design public education campaigns to make the public aware about steps they can take to protect themselves from potential hazards.
- ❖ Encourage people to assume some responsibility for their own protection of life and property.
- ❖ Review security procedures for critical facilities and retrofit any existing facility deemed unreasonably susceptible to natural hazards.
- ❖ Seek county, municipalities, state and federal support for special projects.
- ❖ Preserve and restore open space by reducing damaged structures; protection of wetlands and farmland, erosion and sedimentation control.

ACTION PLAN

Chapter 9 focuses on the recommended action items to be implemented over the next five years. It summarizes the significant natural hazards that confront Jersey County, the goals of the mitigation plan and the actions that need to be implemented and the stakeholders responsible for the implementing the action items, and when they are to be completed. It is understood that the availability of funding may not be available to complete all of the action items listed in the Plan.

SUMMARY

The updated 2015 Plan members consisted of some of the original Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee whose members included representatives of County offices, participating communities, private stakeholders, and the public. The Committee also consists of some new members (a complete list will follow the end of chapter 1). The Jersey County Code Administrator office is responsible for the management of the Plan and reports to the Special Projects Committee which in turn makes recommendations to the County Board. In 2014 and 2015 the office experienced a turnover of personnel that were previously involved with the original creation of the 2008 Plan. The makeup of the Jersey County Board members that participated in the original Plan, are no longer serving on the committee due to a political election. There were some meetings scheduled for the purpose of the Plan update and involvement of the public and local leaders of the municipalities involved with the Plan, however turnout was low. In early 2015 Cindy Cregmiles was appointed the new Jersey County Code

Administrator. Mrs. Cregmiles was involved with the original Plan until leaving the office in 2012. In 2015 Ms. Cregmiles once again began the process of updating the information that was available to her; therefore the updated Plan encompasses information from 2008 to 2015.

References

www.FEMA.Gov/Hazard-Mitigation-Assistance

Feb. 2008 Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan

www.fema.gov/community-rating-system