

Chapter 1

Natural disasters have played a significant role in the history of Jersey County. While the county has experienced its share of damage from tornadoes, straight line winds and flash flooding (the latter being responsible for the most deaths due to natural hazards), the devastating and prolonged flood of 1993 stands without equal. When the swollen rivers of the Mississippi, Missouri and Illinois overran their banks in the spring of 1993, Jersey County, positioned at the crossroads of these three mighty rivers, found itself at the center of a historic flood.

Official records place the length of the flood at 195 days between April and October, but its impact on county and municipal government continues to this day. At its height, the Mississippi River crested at approximately 20 feet over flood stage in Grafton. Hundreds of residents were displaced, some permanently, by the floodwaters. The Jersey County Assessors Office recorded a reduction of property assessment of more than \$3 million due to damage caused by the flood.¹ Damage to agricultural land caused the County's crop production to fall by 3 percent from 1992 production levels in a year when state crop production rose by some two percent. Incalculable costs from disrupted transportation were also incurred. Approximately 35 miles of county roads were inundated, including the Great River Road, the main transportation route for goods and people between Jersey County and metro St. Louis communities on both sides of the Mississippi. During the flood, only five businesses out of 85 remained open in Grafton while all seven businesses in Elsah were closed.²

The impact of the 1993 flood has changed the entire character of some areas of the county. The City of Grafton experienced a loss of population and a change in its economic structure. Restoration of damaged historic buildings in the Village of Elsah, itself a national registered historic landmark, took nearly ten years to complete. As we will document in this mitigation plan, significant steps have been taken to mitigate future floods, but continued flood related-mitigation efforts remain a priority.

While the 1993 flood provides us with an actual worst-case scenario for mitigation planning, flooding remains only one of several notable natural hazards facing the county. Indeed, the county's geographic position makes it susceptible to a mixture of natural hazards not found in a majority of U.S. counties. Jersey County lies on the New Madrid Fault Line, a fault line that generates more than 200 events per year. As a result, Jersey County has experienced over twenty earthquakes, including one in 1968 that measured 5.2 on the Richter scale.³ County residents also keep a close watch on the skies, particularly in spring and summer months. The state of Illinois ranks 9th nationally in the number of tornadoes per year.⁴ Over the past 56 years, Jersey County has experienced 11 tornadoes, all but one (an F4) at the F1 or F2 level on the Fujita scale. High winds accompanying severe thunderstorms have generated 63 instances of recorded high wind events in the county, according to NCDC records. Winter months bring the risk of various forms of dangerous winter precipitation to the county. On average, one severe snowstorm strikes Jersey County every other year. The county also experiences three to four days of freezing rain each

¹ C.C. Hopper and Associates, *Draft of Economic Impact Analysis and Flood Recovery Strategy for Greene Jersey, and Calhoun Counties*

² C.C. Hopper and Associates.

³ USGS, Earthquake History of Illinois

⁴ National Weather Service Archives, "Tornado Numbers, Deaths, Injuries, and Adjusted Damage," <<http://www.spc.noaa.gov/archive/tornadoes/st-trank.html>> (26 January 2004).

winter creating hazardous conditions for motorists and emergency responders. It is against this unique backdrop of potential natural hazards that we develop a hazard mitigation plan.

Recognition of the need to develop a hazard mitigation plan coincided with the county's efforts to restore its good standing with the national flood insurance program. In December 2001 the county received notification from the Federal Emergency Management Administration of its provisional status with the national flood insurance program. The county board agreed that the county must establish a position and hire a flood plain coordinator to manage the county's flood plain program, with the goal of getting the county back on solid status with the federal government. As of June 2005, with the exception on a single commercial property currently in negotiation, the goal has been achieved. A county board member stepped down from his position to take the job as county flood plain coordinator and building inspector. It was to this person that the county board chairman turned for assistance in responding to FEMA's mandate for hazard mitigation.

This document is multi-jurisdictional plan submitted by Jersey County, the cities of Grafton and Jerseyville, and the villages of, Elsah, Fieldon, and Otterville. The plan presents strategies designed to mitigate a wide range of natural hazards identified by the planning team. The selected strategies are consistent with mitigation goals and objectives developed by the planning team following public input (see Chapter 3). These goals and objectives are also intended to support broader objectives related to community planning and emergency response. The plan follows FEMA mitigation planning guidelines and fulfills the requirements of the Community Rating System (CRS) and Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA). The remainder of this chapter, describes the county's physical characteristics, documents existing countywide land use and development, and documents the planning process.

1.1 Jersey County

1.1.1 Physical Setting

Geologically, Jersey County is at the southern edge of the ice sheet of the Ice Age. The scrapping of the ice sheet followed by uplift and erosion define the shape of the land. One of the most prominent features of Jersey County and a significant tourist attraction are the bluffs along the southern and western edges of the county. The other prominent feature of the county is the rivers – the Mississippi, Illinois and Missouri.

The Mississippi River delineates the southern line of Jersey County. The Illinois River delineates much of the western line of the county, separating Jersey from Calhoun. As the earth's crust uplifted, the great rivers eroded downward, carving the bluffs and meandering back and forth, creating floodplains. The western edge of the county drops from the bluffs on to the Illinois River floodplain (in an area known as Nutwood). The southern bluffs drop to the river (or the Great River Road, which hugs the base of the bluffs for nearly thirty miles). One can stand on these bluffs looking southward across the floodplain of St. Charles County (Missouri), the Missouri River, and the far bluffs in St. Louis County (Missouri). This entire expanse was covered to the treetops in the flood of 1993.

The county is also at the northern end of the New Madrid earthquake fault line. Perhaps the most important modern (in geologic terms) event was the series of New Madrid, Missouri earthquakes of 1811-12 that, according to the USGS, "still rank as some of the largest in the United States

since its settlement by Europeans.”⁵ The region continues to be active, with minor tremors being felt, albeit infrequently, in Jersey County.

It is obvious that the geography defines the most significant, to date, natural hazard—riverine flooding—and the most potentially significant hazard—earthquakes.

On the south and west, Jersey County is defined by its bluffs and the hollows and ravines that are carved into them. These areas are generally the most natural parts of the county, home to Pere Marquette State Park, the largest in the state, and Principia College, which maintains much of its land in natural state (including in state-designated grasslands). Other portions of this area are protected by private landowners, such as the Great Rivers Land Trust, and conservation easements.

The county is crossed by three watersheds. Flowing westward to the Illinois River from the central Illinois plains along the northern border of Jersey (with Greene County) is the Macoupin Creek watershed. Flowing westward to the Illinois River across the center of the county is the smaller Otter Creek watershed. Flowing fanlike south to the Mississippi River is the Piasa Creek watershed.

Figure 1.1 Jersey County Water Sheds



⁵ USGS, “Large Earthquakes in the United States, New Madrid 1811-1812.” http://neic.usgs.gov/neis/eq_depot/usa/1811-1812.html#december_16 (accessed March 14, 2005).

Jersey County is approximately 700 feet above sea level. More obvious though is that upland Jersey County is about 250-300 feet above the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers. The designated elevation of Alton Lake, the expansion of the Mississippi River spreading along the southern edge of the county due to the Melvin Price Lock and Dam complex at Alton, is 419 above sea level. Jersey County is 241,546 acres, with 28,702 acres in the floodplain. Over 90% of the county is well above the rivers, and only 12 % of the county is in federal-designated flood plain.



Section 1.01 Figure 1.2 Location of Jersey County in Illinois

1.1.2 Jersey County Location, History, and Development

Jersey County is located in what is considered southwestern Illinois, overlooking the confluence of the Mississippi, Missouri, and Illinois Rivers. Though predominantly rural, the county is part of the St. Louis Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area. Depending on traffic, residents of Jersey County can reach downtown St. Louis for a Cardinals' baseball game, a Rams' football game, the symphony, or a flight from Lambert international airport in an hour's drive.

Jersey County is not an origination or destination point for most of the transportation in, near or above the county. Instead, Jersey County is a transit region. This is an historical reality. Native Americans used the rivers and trails to move across and beyond the region. The Piasa Bird, a local symbol and school mascot, comes from the legend of a phoenix-like half-bird, half-dragon rising from the Great River. The hamlet on the opposite side of the Mississippi River from Principia College was aptly named Portage de Souix, crossing place for the Souix Indians.

Early explorers, including Joliet and Pere Marquette, after whom our state park is named, floated down the Illinois River. The two French explorers made landfall at a point just west of the City of Grafton. George Clark and Meriweather Lewis began their epic journal at the mouth of the Missouri River, within site of the Jersey County bluffs. Historical records suggest that a branch of the National Road, and extension of the turnpike that crossed through the Cumberland Gap in the early years of the Republic, terminated just east of the Village of Elsah.

In 1821, with the establishment of Greene County, it ceased to be a part of Madison County, a relation it had held since the latter was formed by Gov. Edwards in 1818. The

part of Greene County that now constitutes Jersey County, continued to be included in Greene County until August 5, 1839. The Enabling Act passed by the Legislature, February 28, 1839, provided that on August 5, following an election held for that purpose, a proposition should be submitted to the voters of the latter county, for and against the separation of Jersey County from Greene County, for their determination. At that election, there were 1,239 votes for and 714 against the proposition, a majority of 525 out of a total of 1,953 votes. From 1821 until 1839, however, the history of Jersey County is naturally included in that of Greene, and is so given. [Hamilton "History of Jersey Co. 1919]

Jersey County was not central to opening of the west, deferring to the great cities of Alton and St. Louis further south. However, the railroads had a major impact on the region. Ultimately, short lines connected most corners of the county, including hauling limestone from Grafton. Major national railroads crossed the county, which was originally part of neighboring Greene County. Greene, more than Jersey, was a crossing point between north-south and east-west lines. The Greene County town of Roodhouse, recalling the railroad Roadhouse, still has many of the tracks.

The Mississippi, Missouri, and Illinois Rivers—three great commercial arteries—border or are within sight of Jersey County. Yet, except for two ferry services and private pleasure craft, commercial traffic bypasses the county.

Jersey County is expecting an economic boom as the new “Westside” expressway, currently designated US 67, begins to take shape. The limited, four-lane expressway is to connect the St. Louis region with the Quad Cities. It would be the only north-south expressway in the western side of the state. Jersey County is also transited by two transcontinental pipelines, without terminals or access points within the county.

Jersey County is experiencing increased suburbanization, especially in the form of small housing developments. The scale of the developments is generally small, although the homes within the developments vary greatly in size. Since Jersey County has no zoning ordinance or land use controls, there are no accurate or adequate records on the extent or nature of building.

1.1.3. Governmental and Regulatory Structure

Illinois has the reputation for having the most number of local governmental units. Jersey County is an example of this curiosity and the havoc it can cause.

Most of Jersey County is covered by School District 100. However, edges of the county are in several neighboring school districts. Between the local school districts and the state department of education, Illinois has an intermediate structure known as regional superintendents of schools. These regional structures can cross, as absurd as it seems, school district lines. Thus, Jersey County’s District 100 falls under two different regional superintendents. This is because regional superintendent districts are political creations, following state political lines.

In 2000 Jersey County was gerrymandered into the following: it is in two state representative districts; it is in two state senate districts; it is in two regional superintendents of school districts; and it is in two US congressional districts. This absurdity is highlighted by the fact that the dividing line goes down the middle of the tiny village of Elsah (dividing some 250 voters).

Jersey County is divided into 12 townships, and has six quasi-independent municipalities (there is no home-rule charter, so there is some overlapping jurisdiction). The county is divided into independently managed fire protection districts. For taxing purposes, there are separate districts

(and governing bodies) for the library, the community hospital, and the community college (which is located in a neighboring county). There are separate water and sewer districts, with most of the county served by a rural water authority.

Jersey County has no zoning code. In the early 1990s, the Jersey County Board adopted a countywide zoning ordinance. The citizen response was immediate, vociferous, and at times deeply concerning to law enforcement. Citizens rejected zoning in a countywide referendum on January 14, 1991. Within six months, the county board abandoned efforts at zoning scheme. Jersey County has no land use ordinance. Currently, land development is limited by the state plat law (which requires platting of parcels less than five acres). Land use is limited by state laws, if any, such as the regulations on construction of landfills. Thus, there are no limitations on the development of hog farm factories, airstrips, landfills, or junkyards (to list a few that rise citizen ire).

Until 2004, the county had no building code. After intense negotiations, the county building regulatory scheme as of 2005 consists of the requirement that new residential building use either the ICC or the National Electrical Building Code. There is no inspection requirement or process, nor any enforcement scheme. Because the two largest municipalities—cities of Jerseyville and Grafton—employ the ICC scheme (with permits and inspections required), county builders naturally gravitate to using the ICC standards.

Jerseyville, the largest municipality in the county (population listed at 8000), has a land use plan, zoning, and a building code. They have hired a fulltime professional staffer to monitor and enforce both zoning and the ICC building code.

Under Illinois law, municipalities with zoning can demand enforcement of the zoning within 1.5 miles of the municipality limits (under the expectation that there buffer areas will be developed and seek annexation into the municipality). The anti-zoning and anti-building code sentiment of the county has been so strong that the city has periodically not exercised its legal rights, to its own detriment.

The City of Grafton, the second largest municipality in the county (population is under 1000), has both zoning and the ICC building code, along with a part time building inspector. This advance, in the face of anti-regulatory sentiments, was one of the results of the flood of 1993.

The Village of Elsay, a national landmark, has land use (zoning) and historical-appearance ordinances, but (as they recently rued to discover) they have no building or construction code. In other words, a structure must look historically appropriate, no matter how inadequately it may be constructed.

Currently, the most vigorous form of land use or building code regulation is the federal program that dictates land use and construction in order to join the national flood insurance program. This program is limited to structures within the legally designated flood plain. The program stipulates construction requirements, including elevations, for structures. The local jurisdiction is responsible for application of the program and enforcement of the regulations. Failure of any structure can jeopardize participation in the program for all other structures. Jersey County employs a full-time flood plain inspector to implement the program. However, at least one major commercial structure continues to fail to meet the program requirements and the county continues to be in jeopardy of losing its access to national flood insurance. Enforcement of the regulations is a local responsibility and county authorities have not acted to enforce the regulations against the offending structure.

1.1.4. Critical Facilities

Hazardous materials, other than those being transported through the county, are not a significant concern for Jersey County. There are no nuclear generation, manufacturing, storage or disposal facilities in Jersey County. There are no EPA Superfund sites in Jersey County. While there are no chemical manufacturing sites in Jersey County, there are a number of chemical storage and distribution sites in the county. All of these sites involve chemicals, such as fertilizers, used in agriculture. There are only three bio-chemical sites in the county—the Jersey Community Hospital (including radiological), the Jersey Community High School (chemistry and biology labs for teaching), and Principia College (chemistry and biology labs for teaching).

Section 2

According to HAZUS MF, as verified by county officials, Jersey County has 1 dam that is rated a class 1. Dams are rated by volume of water and extent of downstream risk if there is dam failure. All of the dams are earthen dams. All of the dams are privately owned and maintained.

The greatest risk for dams is due to severe storms that, through flash flooding, could push dams beyond capacity or weaken dams through erosion or absorption of water. Jersey County is familiar with the effects of prolonged exposure to water on earthen structures with the collapse of levees during the 1993 floods. Dams could also be damaged due to earthquakes or other events. Thus, dam failure will probably result from another hazardous event—severe storms, earthquake, etc. Therefore, the Hazard Mitigation Planning Team examines dams as critical facilities at risk of other hazards, rather than as hazards in and of themselves.

Based on county GIS studies and topography, there appears to be only one populated area at risk from dam failure—portions of the City of Grafton.

Jersey County has 594 miles of roads, both seasonal and all-weather. The roads include dirt, gravel, oil and chip, concrete, and blacktop. The roads include township, county, state, and federal roads. The roads are maintained by townships, the county, and the Illinois Department of Transportation. With the completion (at some unspecified date, in-county construction has not begun) of US Route 67 expressway, the county will have a limited access four lane highway bisecting the county north-to-south.

The county monitors the condition of its roads through the office of the County Highway Engineer. The County Highway Engineer maintains a database of all public county roads, regardless of jurisdiction. This database is cross maintained with the county's GIS project and the county's 911 program.

The County Highway Engineer maintains a program of periodic inspections and upgrades, when funded by the County Board. The County Highway Engineer was an initial part of the Hazard Mitigation planning process and continues to be involved and committed to hazard mitigation.

1.2 Planning Process

1.2.1 Identification of Mitigation Jurisdiction and Initial Contact with Municipalities and the Public

The first task in the planning process involves the identification of the mitigation planning area. In consultation with elected officials at the county and municipal levels, the Hazard Mitigation Planning Team proposed defining the planning area as the entirety of Jersey County. Jersey County includes extensive unincorporated areas along with a number of incorporated jurisdictions—cities of Jerseyville and Grafton, and villages of Brighton, Elsay, Fieldon, and Otterville. Defining the entire county, including all incorporated areas, results by definition in a multi-jurisdictional plan.

One of the first acts of the Hazard Mitigation Task Force was to approach each municipality and present the need for hazard mitigation planning, the proposal for multi-jurisdictional planning, and an invitation to join in the multi-jurisdiction process. Each presentation was made before municipal boards and public, with opportunity for community participation and response. A list of the dates and locations of these public meetings is provided in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1 Initial Meetings in January/February 2004 with Municipalities & Public Hearings

Jurisdiction	HMPT Representative
City of Grafton	Mike Prough, County Floodplain Coordinator
City of Jerseyville	Yvonne Hartman, City Mayor Jeff Soer, City Building Inspector
Village of Brighton	Mike Prough, County Floodplain Coordinator Tom Glynn, County Supervisor of Assessments
Village of Elsay	Larry Mead, Chief of Police & County ESDA Director Brian Roberts, Professor, Principia College
Village of Fidelity	Mike Prough, County Floodplain Coordinator
Village of Fieldon	Betty Duggan, Village Mayor
Village of Otterville	Howard Landon, Chair, County Board

All of the incorporated communities wholly inside the county concurred that a multi-jurisdictional plan was the appropriate approach. Consistent with FEMA's rationale for developing multi-jurisdictional plans, municipalities determined that they possessed insufficient resources to develop a mitigation plan on their own. They decided to benefit from resources marshaled by the county with the acknowledgement that mitigation strategies would ultimately be consistent with local objectives. Care was taken to include members of the different incorporated communities in the planning process. Mayors or board presidents of almost all of the jurisdictions have participated routinely in task force activities and meetings. Only one municipality, the Village of Brighton, expressed some reluctance to engage in the process, but their exclusion from this process seemed appropriate given the fact that the much larger portion of the village – both in land and population – is located in adjacent Macoupin County. Furthermore, their other

governmental districts (such as fire protection and school districts) are predominantly in Macoupin County.

1.2.2 Development of Planning Team

As of this writing, Mike Prough is the Jersey County Flood Plain Coordinator and Building Inspector, a post he has held since June 2002. The job is defined as a full-time, twelve-month job. His role as a central coordinator for hazard mitigation planning efforts makes logical sense given the obvious connection and parallel between flood plain coordination and hazard mitigation. As with other Planning Team members, Mr. Prough has worked on this hazard mitigation plan in addition to his contracted duties.

The chairman of the Jersey County Board throughout this period is Howard Landon. A retired businessman, Mr. Landon spends many hours, not under remuneration, in the county offices, managing and administering county business. In lieu of any paid staff support, Mr. Landon has served as the secretary/clerk for the hazard mitigation effort. His involvement throughout the planning process has helped insure that county board interests were considered in the course of these efforts.

In early 2003, in response to hazard mitigation instructional materials provided by FEMA, Mr. Prough and Mr. Landon invited a number of stakeholders to an initial meeting to learn about the need to develop a hazard mitigation plan. Following this initial meeting, a group of individuals was identified and invited to join an initial Hazard Mitigation Planning Team. Table 1.2 identifies the individuals who have voluntarily served on this initial Team. Unlike other counties who contracted the development of their mitigation plan to outside consulting groups, Jersey County decided to rely on the contributions of volunteers from the public and private sectors (for example, see affiliations noted in Table 1.2) to generate its mitigation plan.

Table 1.2 Initial Jersey County Hazard Mitigation Planning Team

Chair, Jersey County Board	Howard Landon
Member, Jersey County Board	Diane Stumpe
Member, Jersey County Board	Carol Yocom
Jersey County Floodplain Manager	Mike Prough
Supervisor, Jersey County Highway Department	Tom Klasner
Supervisor of Assessments, Jersey County	Tom Glynn
Citizen, former commissioner, City of Jerseyville	Jack Stork
Building Inspector, City of Jerseyville	Jeff Soer
Head, Jersey County Public Health Department	Therese Macias
Director, Jersey County Emergency Services (ESDA)	Larry Mead
Citizen, retired bank president	John Hefner
Mayor, City of Jerseyville	Yvonne Hartman
Manager, City of Grafton	Carol Wallace
President, Village of Fieldon	Betty Duggan
Red Cross	Alice Edminston

The initial Team held one public meeting in the summer of 2003. There was poor public attendance and participation at this initial meeting, held in the county's governmental center.

Due to the press of professional and personal matters, the initial all-voluntary Team met infrequently during 2003 and, eventually, lapsed into hiatus. By November 2003, Mr. Prough recognized the necessity of re-initiating the mitigation planning process and sought outside guidance and assistance.

1.2.3 Involvement of Principia College

Following the guidance of FEMA planning materials, Mr. Prough enlisted the help of the county's only institution of higher learning, Principia College, a small, private, four-year, undergraduate, liberal arts college. Professor John Williams, the chairman of the political science department at Principia College, is a longtime county resident who has served on several local or county boards and task forces. His familiarity with county government made him a natural initial point of contact for Mr. Prough. Professor Williams viewed college involvement in the hazard mitigation process as a benefit to all parties. The Principia political science program is committed to educational principles of active learning—whereby students actively engage intellectually in their subject matter; experiential learning—whereby students solidify their theoretical learning by practical experience; and service learning. The department was familiar with the county, its politics, and its governmental structure. For example, for more than a decade, political science students conducted public opinion polls, both by telephone and as voting day exit polls, and several students have served on local campaigns as volunteers and as interns.

Assisting with the hazard mitigation process was a logical extension of the educational strategy of the department.

Professor Williams, in turn, enlisted the involvement of his colleague, Professor Brian Roberts, who serves as an instructor for the department's senior seminar in public policy analysis and, along with Professor Williams, an instructor in a required research methodology course. Professor Roberts was able to retool his senior seminar in public policy to utilize involvement in the planning process as a vehicle for teaching public policy. Over the course of the following five months, four of his students – Melanie D'Evelyn, Nate Greene, Nellie Strong and Chrisy Wills – researched and drafted the bulk of the sections of the plan that describe the natural hazards threatening Jersey County. They also assisted in the development of potential mitigation strategies for selected hazards. Mr. Greene and Miss Wills also designed and administered a survey to gauge the awareness of county residents with natural hazard mitigation – a project that served as their primary research project in the research methods course. Their resulting analysis of survey results is included in a section of this plan and provides both the Planning Team and the county board with a helpful snapshot of citizen awareness. The students also assisted with the facilitation of a meeting of emergency responders that was held during the early stages of the planning process. Professors Williams and Roberts also assumed key roles in the development of this plan, serving as members of the Planning Team, researching aspects of the plan, facilitating certain planning exercises and contributing to the drafting and editing of the plan. Another Principia political science major, Sarah Andrews, also provided meaningful contributions in the drafting and revision stages.

Professors Roberts and Williams documented the educational component and benefits of this cooperation in a paper titled, "Developing a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan: Practical Project-Centered Learning for Undergraduates," which they delivered at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, Illinois, in April, 2005.

Section 3

1.2.4 Initial Organization, Public Information and Stakeholder Input for Hazard Mitigation Planning Team

The first activity recommended by Principia College was an initial brainstorming session of key stakeholders, including emergency responders and government officials.

Tom Glynn, Supervisor of Assessments, Jersey County
Howard Landon, Chair, Jersey County Board
Larry Mead, Director, ESDA, Jersey County & Chief of Police, Village of Elsayh
Mike Prough, Floodplain Coordinator and Building Inspector, Jersey County
Diane Stumpe, Member, Jersey County Board and local business owner
John W. Williams, Chair, Political Science Department, Principia College

Over the three-hour session held in December, 2003, this initial group identified the county's experience with natural disasters, identified individuals and organizations with expertise or information relevant to the planning process (including key local, state and federal officials, emergency responders, and private sector persons); and developed a rough timeline for development of the plan.

The second activity was to reconstitute the Hazard Mitigation Planning Team. This task was undertaken in January 2004.

At its early meetings, the Team engaged in further brainstorming. The Team shared anecdotal information and experience with natural disasters. This information provided the starting point for initial identification and research of past and potential natural hazards. The Team identified additional stakeholders and individuals with expertise or information. A number of these persons were invited to join the Team over the coming months. Finally, the Team polished the rough timeline for the completion of the plan and devised an initial schedule of public information meetings designed to solicit community support for the planning process.

Planning Team members contacted and met with officials of each of the municipalities within Jersey County. These meetings were paired with local public meetings to solicit citizen input and interest in hazard mitigation. A complete list of these public meetings, referenced earlier in this section of the document, is provided in Table 1.1 (p.1-8).

1.2.5 Constitution and Activities of the Hazard Mitigation Planning Team

The Jersey County Hazard Mitigation Planning Team can be easily described as a set of concentric circles. All members are volunteers. At the center of the circle and central to the process are four individuals: Mike Prough, Jersey County Floodplain Coordinator and Building Inspector—responsible for overall management of the process; Howard Landon, chairman of the Jersey County Board—responsible for overseeing jurisdiction and governmental support for the planning process; Prof. Brian Roberts—lead investigator and writer; and Prof. John Williams—assisting with research and writing.

Within the second circle are regular and active Team members. These members have taken the lead in conducting research into specific hazards and mitigation strategies. These members have been constituted into ad hoc sub-teams for various purposes, including development of proposed mitigation strategies.

The third circle consists of irregular, yet active Team members. These members have assisted in research and writing of portions of the report, and assisted with other Team activities.

Finally, there is a fourth circle, which consists of infrequent but important members of the Team. These members are important because of their professional positions and connections, including (for example) local mayors or governmental department heads. These members are important as sources of information or assistance with policy development and implementation.

Table 1.3 Members of Jersey County Hazard Mitigation Planning Team

Section 4

Representing	Name
Chair, Jersey County Board	Howard Landon
Citizen and former member, Jersey County Board	Carol Yocom
Jersey County Floodplain Manager	Mike Prough
Supervisor, Jersey County Highway Department	Tom Klasner
Supervisor of Assessments, Jersey County	Tom Glynn
Citizen, former commissioner, City of Jerseyville	Jack Stork
Building Inspector, City of Jerseyville	Jeff Soer
Head, Jersey County Public Health Department	Therese Macias
Director, Jersey County Emergency Services (ESDA)	Larry Mead
Soil and Water Conservation District	Jeff Blackorby
Citizen, retired bank president	John Hefner
Citizen, owner of engineering company	Dean Heneghan
Citizen, President, Grafton Telephone Inc.	Paul Arnold
Citizen, owner, McIntyre Construction Inc.	Jerry McIntyre
Conservation Office, Pere Marquette State Park	Scott Istringhausen
Mayor, City of Jerseyville	Yvonne Hartman
Manager, City of Grafton	Carol Wallace
President, Village of Fieldon	Betty Duggan
Citizen, Village of Fieldon	William Eagleton
Red Cross	Alice Edminston
Red Cross	Nancy Miller
Principia College	Brian Roberts
Principia College	John Williams

All of the jurisdictions and municipalities, with the exception of the Village of Brighton, have been routinely represented by their mayors, planning directors, building inspectors, or emergency responders. Key county agencies have been routinely represented by their directors or key employees. The public has been represented by individual citizens at almost every Team meeting. Most of these citizens are affiliated with civic groups or hold elected or appointed positions in local government (including, for example, town aldermen, commissioners, or trustees).

From January 2004 through August 2004, the Planning Team held biweekly meetings to establish research assignments, review relevant data, and plan public information sessions, among other

activities. From September 2004 through December 2004, the Planning Team found it more effective to break into small working groups to devise mitigation strategies that address the leading hazards identified in the risk assessment research phase. An additional working group was formed to draft and edit the mitigation plan. The entire Planning Team then reassembled to review final drafts of the mitigation plan. From the summer 2004 to the summer 2005, the Planning Team met as needed and the leadership team (Landon, Prough, Roberts, Williams) met frequently in person or by telephone.

The Planning Team, for the purpose of researching the range of potential hazards, the history of natural events and disasters, and the damages caused by those events, organized into a series of hazard working groups:

Floods—riverine flooding and flash flooding

Mike Prough, team leader
Howard Landon
Diane Stumpe
Carol Wallace
Christy Wills, report author

Tornadoes

Nate Greene, researcher and report author

Earthquakes

Larry Mead
Nellie Strong, researcher and report author

Thunderstorms (including lightning strikes) and Wind (straight-line)

Mike Prough, team leader
Alice Edminston
Rodney Goetten
Jeff Soer
Christy Wills, report author

Extreme Temperature (heat and cold)

Jeff Soer
Betty Duggan
Diane Stumpe
Tom Klasner
(portion of research covered by Winter Percipitation)

Winter Percipitation (snow, ice)

Melanie D'Evelyn, researcher and report author

Drought

Howard Landon
Mike Prough
Jeff Soer
Larry Mead
Jim Angel
(impact is state or Midwest regional, rather than county)

Fire

Therese Macias, team leader
Scott Isringhausen
Nancy Miller
Betty Duggan
John Williams, report author

Ground Disturbance (other than earthquake, including subsidence and erosion)

John Williams, team leader and report author
Tom Klasner
Allie Ringhausen
Sharon Clagg

Assets

Brian Roberts, team leader and report author
Tom Glynn
Carol Yocom
Jack Stork
Therese Macias
Yvonne Hartman

As the subsequent chapters document, the Planning Team made decisions concerning their research and organizational efforts throughout the process as they identified primary, secondary and tertiary hazards. For example, the Team distinguished the nature and impact of straight-line winds from the nature and impact of tornadoes. Initially, winds were considered a separate category until it became clear that winds, especially the very damaging straight-line winds, occur under conditions similar to thunderstorms. The two teams, which consisted of the same personnel, were collapsed into one. Substantial research into riverine flooding had been completed by the Floodplain Coordinator as part of his duties. Because of the similar impact, rather than the causal conditions, this team's efforts were expanded to include all flooding, including flash flooding occurring during severe weather such as thunderstorms. Three substantial efforts—tornadoes, earthquakes, and winter weather—were assigned to student researchers from Principia College, under the supervision of Prof. Brian Roberts. These three hazards, among the most significant impacting Jersey County, required specific and detailed supervised research. The research into winter weather embraced work of the team studying extreme weather (heat & cold) conditions. The team studying droughts also embraced the work of the extreme-weather team. Floods, tornadoes, earthquakes, and severe (including winter) weather were eventually identified as primary hazards. Substantial research conducted on fires (field and forest) and ground disturbance (subsidence and erosion) determined that these were not primary hazards. Finally, the team studying droughts determined that droughts have not been a substantial threat to the county and that droughts by their nature are much larger than the county. Droughts affect the entire state or Midwest. Hence, mitigation efforts are best implemented at the higher governmental level.

The Planning Team, for the purpose of researching mitigation strategies, organized into three Strategy Groups:

Floods (riverine, flash-flooding):

Mike Prough, Jersey County Floodplain Coordinator
Carol Wallace, City of Grafton
Paul Arnold, Grafton Telephone Company
Bill Eagleton, citizen, Village of Fieldon

Earthquakes:

Larry Mead, Director, ESDA
Tom Klasner, Director, Jersey County Highway Department
Tom Glynn, Supervisor of Assessments, Jersey County

Severe Weather (including thunderstorms, tornadoes, winter weather):

Therese Macias, Director, Jersey County Public Health Service
Jack Stork, citizen, City of Jerseyville
Jeff Soer, Building Inspector, City of Jerseyville
Jerry McIntyre, private contractor
Brian Roberts, Principia College

1.2.6 Emergency Responders Meeting

Another important early activity took place in February 2004 when a gathering of emergency responders was held at Principia College. The basic premise of this meeting is that the emergency responders would have information on the range and nature of natural hazards, as well as insight into mitigation strategies that could reduce the nature and level of their initial responses.

As Table 1.3 documents, representatives from state, county and local emergency response units were present at this session. Participants were informed of the purpose and process of mitigation planning in an initial plenary session, hosted by the President of Principia College, Dr. George Moffett. Breakout sessions of responders were held for the purpose of collecting information about emergency response activities associated with the response to natural hazards.

These sessions were helpful in two main respects. First, they provided additional confirmation about the most prevalent hazards facing the county. Second, they uncovered the need for greater interagency and inter-jurisdictional cooperation.

Section 1.02 Table 1.4 Emergency Responders Meeting

Law Enforcement:

Paul Cunningham, Sheriff, Jersey County
Bill Bridges, Chief of Police, City of Jerseyville
Rob Hedger, Chief of Police, City of Grafton
Mike Hillman, Illinois State Police
William Norris, Chief of Police, Village of Brighton
Tom Roth, Chief of Police, Village of Fieldon

Fire Departments:

Jason Bowman, Chief, Brighton Fire Department
Rodney Goetten, Chief, Fieldon Fire Department
Alan Gowen, Chief, Jerseyville Fire Department
Arno List, Chief, QEM Fire Department
Lawrence Ontis, Chief, Rosedale Fire Department

Public Health and related services:

Larry Alexander, Coroner, Jersey County
Larry Bear, Administrator, Jersey County Hospital
Jeff Goetten, Future Farmers of America (litter services)
Modell Renken, Jersey County Ambulance Service
Jason Timmerman, Future Farmers of America (litter service)
Patty Turner, Head Nurse, Principia College
Theresa Marcias, Director, Jersey County Public Health Department
Alice Edminston, Jersey County Health Department

Other Emergency Services and Public:

Bill Breden, Director of Transportation, Unit 100 School District (Jersey County)
Carolyn Burns, Director of Risk Management, Principia College
Bill Church, Unit 100 School District
John Demko, Patrolman, Village of Elsay, and ESDA Auxillary/Radiological
Howard Landon, Chairman, Jersey County Board
Larry Mead, Director, ESDA, Jersey County & Chief of Police, Village of Elsay
Ray Sinclair, ESDA Auxillary/Communication
Tom Klasner, Supervisor, Jersey County Highway Department
Brian Roberts, Professor, Principia College
John Williams, Chair, Political Science Department, Principia College
Nate Greene, student, Principia College
Melanie D'Evelyn, student, Principia College
Nellie Strong, student, Principia College

This workshop was helpful in two main respects. First, the information gathered from the “first-responders” provided additional confirmation about the most prevalent hazards facing the county. Second, discussions uncovered the need for greater interagency and inter-jurisdictional cooperation. This was the first multi-jurisdiction meeting that many of these first-responders have attended. The political science public policy class used the opportunity of the workshop to survey the emergency responders on a number of hazard mitigation issues. What follows is a summary of the report on their study.

Section 1.03 1.2.6.1 Report on Emergency Responders Survey

On February 24, 2004, the Jersey County Hazard Mitigation Planning Team conducted a survey of Jersey County’s first-responders. As stated on the survey, it was conducted in an effort to measure the level of risk associated with various types of disasters as perceived by the county’s emergency responders. The information gathered through this survey provided a valuable local perspective when developing mitigation strategies. The survey asked respondents to respond to three questions from their perspective as a first-responder. Responders were asked to rank the likelihood of particular hazards, the extent of harm to individual health and safety, and the extent of damage to various existing structures resulting from a natural disaster. A total of 21 emergency responders filled out the survey. A summary of the aggregated results follows.

The first item on the survey asked respondents to rank the likelihood of specific disasters occurring in Jersey County. Participants were asked to rank according to this scale: 1=not likely, 2=somewhat likely, 3=likely, and 4=very likely. Table 1 reflects how many emergency responders gave each disaster which ranking.

Hazard	Number Responders per Likelihood Rating			
	Not Likely	Somewhat Likely	Likely	Very Likely
Earthquake	1	11	6	3
Extreme Temp.	0	2	12	7
Flood	0	0	4	17
Land Subsidence	2	11	5	1
Thunderstorms	0	1	3	17
Winter Storms	0	2	8	11
Tornado	0	4	7	10
Wildfire	7	8	4	2
Wind (straight-line)	0	3	6	12

Table 1.5 Responders’ Response to *Likelihood* of Hazard

It is especially important to note the disasters that were considered to be the most likely. Six different disasters were perceived by at least 16 out of 21 respondents (or at least 75 percent of respondents) to be either likely or very likely. These are extreme temperatures, floods, thunderstorms, winter storms, tornadoes, and straight-line winds. Of these, four were considered by at least half of those surveyed to be very likely. These are flooding, thunderstorms, winter storms, and straight-line winds. Therefore, according to first responders, these are the disasters about which county planners should probably be most concerned.

The second item on the survey asked respondents to rank the extent of harm to individual health and safety caused by particular natural disasters. They were asked to rank the extent of harm according to this scale: 1=insignificant, 2=mild, 3=significant, and 4=severe. Table 2 shows how many first-responders gave each disaster which ranking.

Table 1.6 Responders' Response to *Extent of Harm of Hazard*

Hazard	Number Responders per Extent of Harm Rating			
	Insignificant	Mild	Significant	Severe
Drought	2	11	7	1
Earthquakes	1	3	6	11
Extreme Temp.	0	6	9	5
Floods	0	5	9	7
Land Subsidence	4	11	3	2
Thunderstorms	0	4	13	4
Winter Storms	0	5	13	3
Tornadoes	1	0	10	10
Wild Fire	5	10	5	1
Wind (straight-line)	1	4	10	6

According to emergency responders, there are five types of disasters that pose the greatest risk to individual health and safety. These five were thought by at least 75 percent of respondents to pose either a significant or severe level of harm to individuals. They are earthquakes, thunderstorms, winter storms, tornadoes, and straight-line winds. Of these, earthquakes were thought by at least half of respondents to pose a severe level of risk to individuals. As one of the chief intentions in developing a hazard mitigation strategy is to minimize harm to individual health and safety, it is important to take note of these perceptions.

The third item on the survey asked respondents to rank the extent of damage or destruction to critical facilities, and commercial and residential structures as a result of natural disasters. Emergency responders were asked to rank according to the same scale as the extent of harm

question: 1=insignificant, 2=mild, 3=significant, and 4=severe. Table 3 reveals how many responders gave each disaster which ranking.

Table 1.7 Responders' Response to *Extent of Damage of Hazard*

Hazard	Number Responders per Extent of Damage Rating			
	Insignificant	Mild	Significant	Severe
Drought	6	12	3	0
Earthquake	0	1	5	15
Extreme Temp.	5	9	6	1
Flood	1	0	2	18
Land Subsidence	3	7	7	2
Thunderstorms	0	6	10	5
Winter Storms	0	8	10	3
Tornadoes	0	0	8	13
Wild Fire	1	11	5	4
Wind (straight-line)	0	2	10	8

The results from this survey question indicate that there are four disasters that at least 75 percent of respondents considered to impose either significant or severe amounts of damage on buildings, whether they be critical facilities or commercial or residential structures. These are earthquakes, floods, tornadoes, and straight-line winds. Of these four, earthquakes, floods, and tornadoes were considered by at least half of respondents to impose a severe level of damage on the various types of structures. This is another important area to note because the county clearly would like to minimize the damage to its buildings.

The natural disasters that pose the greatest risk to Jersey County are probably those that are likely and could potentially cause great harm to individuals and damage to buildings. Only two disasters were considered by at least 75 percent of respondents to fall into the two most significant categories for each survey item. These are tornadoes and straight-line winds. However, thunderstorms and winter storms can be added to the list because they were considered to be likely or very likely and to cause a significant or severe level of harm to individuals. Also, it is important to note that while earthquakes and floods do not fall into the category of disasters that overlap all categories, when they do happen, they can cause much damage. When added to the rest of the information and research gathered for Jersey County's plan, the perceptions of first-responders provide an important perspective in designing mitigation strategies.

1.2.7 Survey of County Residents

In order to solicit the widest possible public input, a team from the SQ 2004 Social Science Research Methods course at Principia College prepared, conducted, compiled and analyzed a wide-ranging survey of public opinion. The survey, conducted in May 2004, was based on a convenience sample of more than 300 Jersey County residents. The survey was conducted by college students, high school students, and others (even the chairman of the county board, Mr. Howard Landon, assisted in interviewing citizens) at important local businesses, including the Jerseyville Walmart Supercenter, Shop'n Save grocery store, and Sinclairs grocery store. The survey solicited citizen perceptions on likely hazards, the likelihood of the hazards, and remediation strategies. What follows is a summary of the survey's findings.

Jersey County, Illinois, along with all other U.S. counties, states, and municipalities, is in the process of developing a natural disaster mitigation plan designed to lessen the impact of natural hazards such as floods and tornadoes. This planning process was mandated by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, a piece of federal legislation that calls for the development of a comprehensive natural disaster mitigation plan by November 2004. To assist this effort, the Jersey County Hazard Mitigation Planning Team – a group comprised of county officials, civil servants, community leaders, and academicians – conducted an in-person survey of Jersey County residents between May 13 and 15, 2004. The purpose of the survey was to obtain a more accurate assessment of county residents' concerns about natural hazards, including steps they have taken, or might be willing to take, to mitigate the effects of these hazards. This survey thus constitutes an important component of the Planning Team's work in developing appropriate mitigation actions – actions designed to minimize the loss of life and protect public health, infrastructure, and public as well as private property.

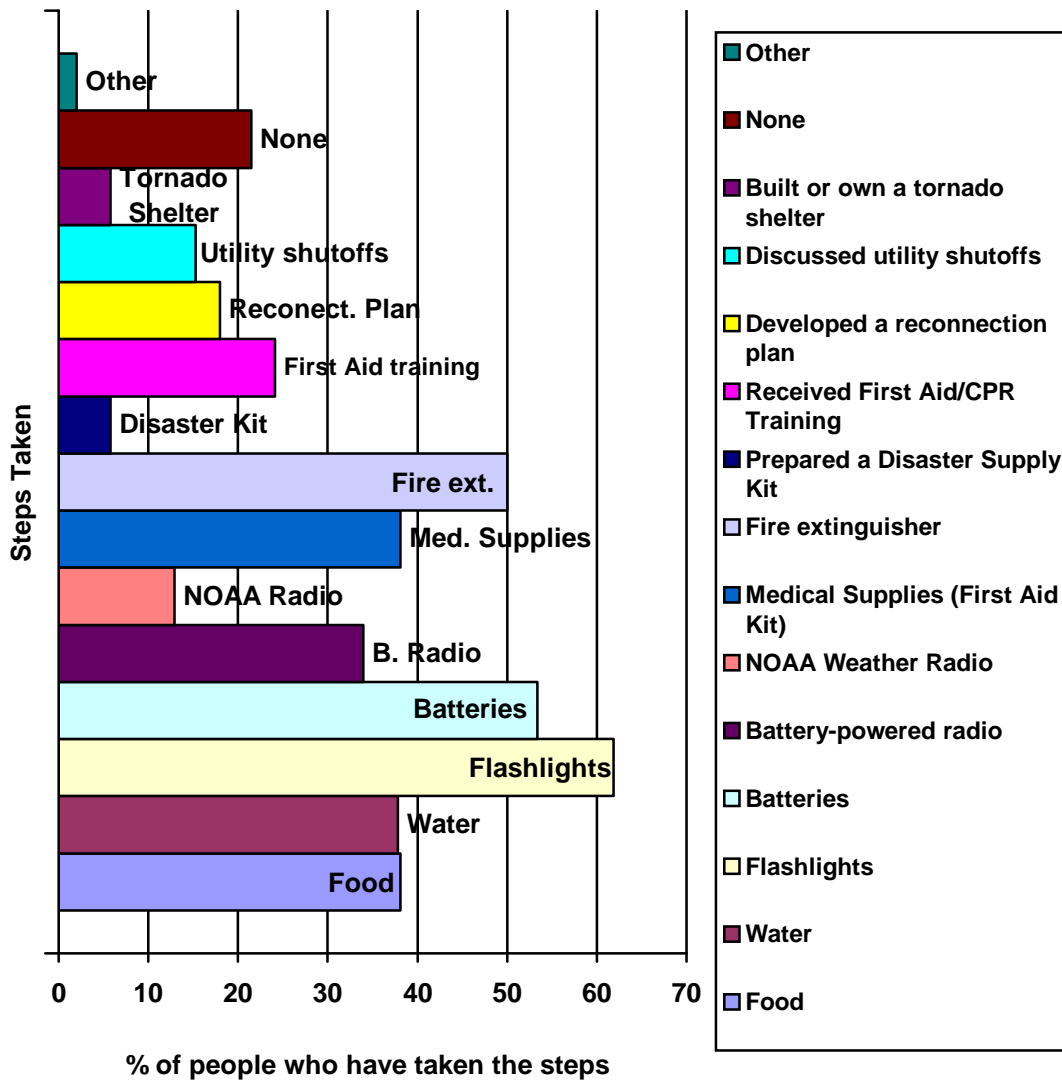
The survey was administered by members of the Planning Team and by students from both Principia College and Jersey Community High School at various locations in Jersey County between May 13 and 15, 2004. The locations were selected in an attempt to survey a relatively representative sample of Jersey County residents. In all, 306 residents completed the surveys. Fifty-nine percent of the respondents were from Jerseyville, eleven percent from Grafton, and ten percent from Elsah. The rest of the respondents were from different municipalities in the county, including Brighton, Delhi, Dow, Fieldon, Medora, Otterville, and Rosedale. In terms of developing mitigation strategies, some of the most helpful results of the survey follow.

One important aspect of the survey was to discover Jersey County residents' greatest concerns relating to natural disasters. Given a choice of natural disasters perceived likely to affect the county, respondents were most concerned about tornadoes. Seventy-six percent of respondents were concerned about tornadoes, and of those, forty-seven percent were very or extremely concerned. The next two most significant concerns of respondents were straight-line winds, with seventy-two percent concerned, and large hail, with sixty-four percent concerned. It is surprising to note that less than half of those surveyed were concerned with overbank flooding given the county's history with flooding – especially the relatively recent 1993 flood. However, it is important to realize that the majority of those surveyed do not live in the floodplain; tests conducted with information from the survey reveal that the residents living in the floodplain are collectively more concerned about flooding than those residing elsewhere in the county. In terms of concern about damage from natural disasters, forty-five percent of those surveyed were most concerned about personal injury while thirty-eight percent were most concerned about building structure damage.

After noting county residents' level of concern about natural disasters, it is then important to note what steps they have taken to prepare for such disasters. One of the most important

sections of the survey was the one in which residents disclosed how prepared they were for a natural disaster by answering specific questions about practical household steps they might have taken. While many respondents were properly prepared in certain ways, there were a few categories that displayed a marked lack of attention. These included tornado shelters, Disaster Kits, and NOAA Weather Radios. The percentage of people who had the use of these features in their homes was alarmingly small. Mitigation strategies recommend these features as being some of the most effective means of maintaining personal safety during hazardous conditions. The proliferation of these three items would contribute to the overall safety and wellbeing of the county. Figure 1.3 below outlines the steps that respondents have taken to prepare for disasters.

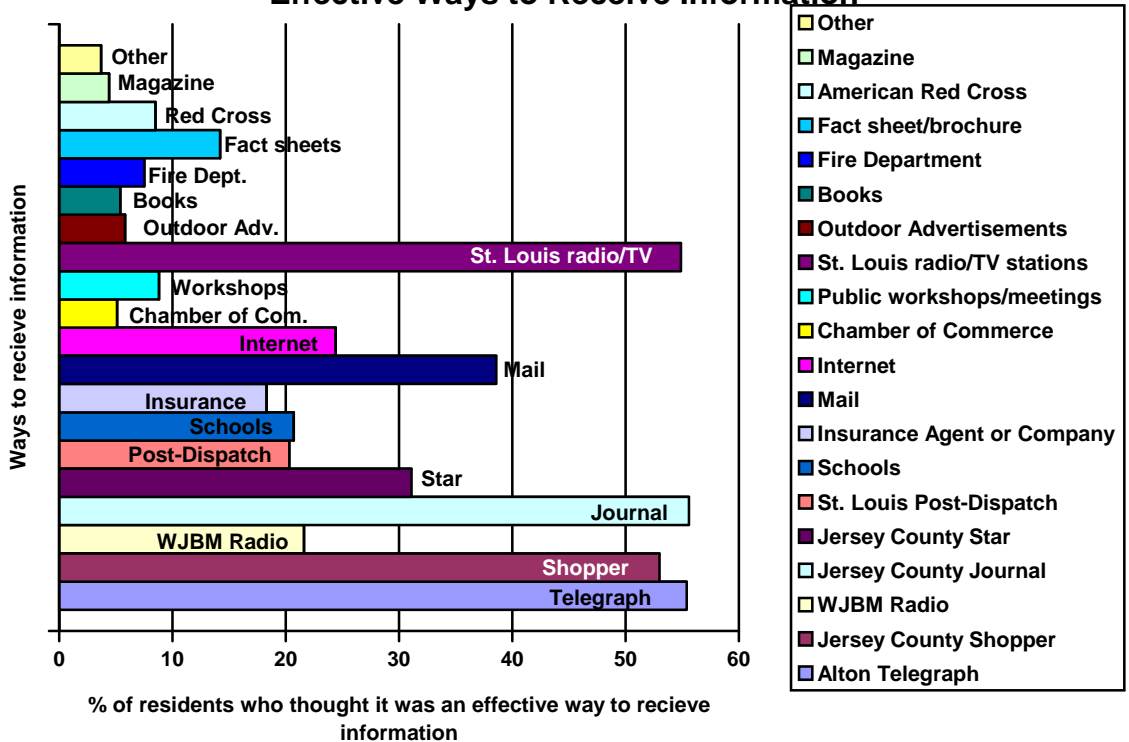
Figure 1.3
Steps Taken to Prepare for Natural Disasters



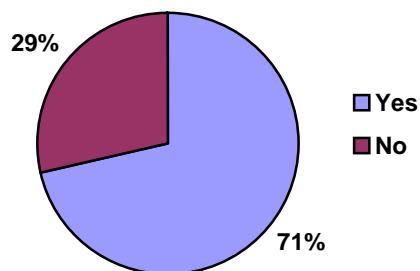
The survey did indicate, however, that residents may be willing to take additional steps to prepare for natural disasters. For example, sixty-two percent of respondents said that they would be willing to spend additional money on a home with features that made it more disaster resistant. Also, when respondents were asked how much more money they would be willing to spend to protect their families and homes, 45.5 percent said that they would be willing to spend some level of additional money while 36.3 percent did not know how much they would be willing to spend. Only 8.2 percent of respondents indicated that they would not be willing to spend any additional money. Reduced insurance rates and tax incentives were cited as leading incentives that would spur further efforts by citizens to provide better protection against natural disasters.

While many respondents were concerned about natural disasters and have taken some steps to protect themselves, the survey revealed a need for public information on the various hazards. More than half of those surveyed (56 percent) indicated that they had not received any information about natural disaster preparedness. Fortunately, the survey allows the Planning Team to see what types of communication would be most effective in reaching the largest number of Jersey County residents. Since well over half of the county does have Internet access, it would be possible for Jersey County officials to communicate information to large segments of the population at a fairly minimal cost. The survey also reinforced the popularity of the *Alton Telegraph*, *Jersey County Shopper*, *Jersey County Journal*, and St. Louis radio and TV stations. Respondents evaluated these four options as being the most effective potential sources for disseminating disaster preparedness information. Information disseminated through these channels would have the best chance of reaching the largest possible audience in Jersey County. Figure 2 shows effective sources of information and Figure 3 indicates the percentage of respondents with internet access.

Figure 1.4
Effective Ways to Receive Information



(a) Figure 1.5 Breakdown of Access to the Internet



Since one of the chief goals of developing a hazard mitigation strategy is to protect the lives, health, and property of county residents, it was essential that input was gathered from local citizens. The information gathered in this survey should help planners to develop effective mitigation policies by providing information on local concerns, levels of preparedness, and the need for information.

1.2.8. Public Meeting for Purpose of Goal Setting

On June 3, 2004, the Planning Team convened a public meeting for the purpose of soliciting community input, identifying severity of perceived hazards, and proposing priorities for hazard mitigation. The following people participated in the public meeting:

Section 5 Elected officials--County

Gary Hayes, member, Jersey County Board
Howard Landon, chair, Jersey County Board
Don Little, member, Jersey County Board
Diane Stumpe, member, Jersey County Board
Carol Yocom, member, Jersey County Board

Section 6 Elected officials—local municipalities and townships

Dave Chapman, Trustee, Village of Fieldon
Jack Downs, Commissioner, Piasa Township
Marjorie Doerr, Mayor of Elsay
Betty Duggan, Mayor of Fieldon
Charles Kraushaar, Mayor of Otterville
Bobby Johns, Commissioner, Otter Creek Township
Ed Lewitz, Trustee, Village of Elsay
Merlin Lewis, Trustee, Village of Elsay
Donald Pellikan, Supervisor, Otter Creek Township
Leon Schetter, Supervisor, Piasa Township

Section 7 Government officials

Tom Glynn, Supervisor of Assessments, Jersey County
Larry Mead, ESDA Coordinator, Jersey County
Scott Isringhausen, Pere Marquette State Park
Theresa Macias, Head, Jersey County Health Department

Mike Prough, Floodplain Coordinator, Jersey County
Jeff Soer, Building Inspector, City of Jerseyville

Section 8 Private citizens

Paul Arnold, citizen, President, Grafton Technology, Inc.
Bill Eagleton, citizen
Dean Heneghan, citizen, owner of engineering/surveying company
Jim Mager, citizen
Jerry McIntyre, citizen, owner, McIntyre Construction, Inc.
Joyce Morrison, citizen
Bonnie Sawyer, citizen
Rodney Stump, citizen
Brian Roberts, citizen, Principia College

This meeting was followed on June 21 by a meeting of the Planning Team at which time the Team reviewed the results of the public meeting and, after thoughtful discussion, settled on the Team's proposed goals for the hazard mitigation efforts. Two weeks later the Team met to develop and refine objectives based on the goals. More details about the June 3 meeting and subsequent goal setting meetings are discussed at length in Chapter Three.

Section 9

1.2.9 Utilization of Training Seminars and External Expertise

The Planning Team, especially through its leadership, maintained regular contact with Illinois FEMA officials and consultants. On at least one occasion, a FEMA consultant visited with the Team leaders to answer questions and provide advice. The leaders (Prough, Roberts, and Williams) attended the Indiana HAZUS users' group training session in Indianapolis (as did several other Illinois officials). Mike Prough, as team leader, attended additional training session in HAZUS data base and in FEMA requirements in South Bend, Indiana, and Chicago, Illinois.

HAZUS-MH Indianapolis meeting, July 2004 (Prough, Roberts, Williams)

HAZUS training, South Bend, Indiana, August 2004 (Prough, Glynn)

Risk training, Chicago, August 2004 (Prough)

1.2.10. Reports to County Board or Board committees

Team leaders (Prough, Roberts, Williams) routinely brief the County Board on the status of the planning process. On occasion, Team members have brief key County Board committees. One of the most important meetings was the County Board committee charged with development of a countywide building code. This hearing, which featured a presentation by Prof. Williams on the important of building codes in hazard mitigation, was attended by local contractors, home inspectors, bankers, and activists. This meeting alerted the Team to the contentious nature of building codes, zoning, and other regulation of property and buildings.

1.2.11. Coordination with Other Studies and Reports

Jersey County has only one countywide planning or operation document, the Emergency Operations Plan of the county's Emergency Services and Disaster Agency. The plan is either

tested annually or reviewed after significant emergency or disaster incidents. ESDA and the Hazard Mitigation Planning Team have worked carefully together, primarily through the active participation of the ESDA Coordinator on the Planning Team. The early effort, documented in this section, to bring first responders together for a three-hour workshop was an intentional coordination effort.

The county has no economic development plan. The county, along with many of the municipalities, support a small economic development agency. The most recent effort of this body, related to planning, was a survey conducted the University of Illinois Extension Service. The study, which can be found on the Web, was a convenience sample of 234 civic leaders, business owners, and members of the Farm Bureau. Among the “biggest problems facing Jersey County,” according to the respondents, is “uncontrolled growth.” The respondents would support zoning and land use planning. Community safety and security is one of the six dominant values.

The City of Jerseyville has had an economic development or master plan for a number of years. However, perhaps in response to the needs for hazard mitigation planning and development of the Route 67 corridor, the City has hired a consultant to study, revise, and report out a new economic development plan. The new plan should be ready for public discussion by the end of the summer, 2005.

The City of Grafton has an economic development plan, which was shared with the Planning Team. Grafton city officials have been key active members of the Planning Team.