

## Chapter 10. Action Plan

This chapter Action Plan, is the culmination of Jersey County's natural hazard mitigation plan. This chapter summarizes the significant natural hazards that confront Jersey County, the goals of the County's mitigation plan, and the actions that need to be taken in order to mitigate damage and destructions from natural hazards.

Following the guidance provided in FEMA's mitigation planning how-to guide, *Understanding Your Risks: Identifying Hazards and Estimating Losses* (FEMA 386-2), the Jersey County Hazard Mitigation Planning Team initially reviewed local records and existing mitigation plans, conducted informal interviews with local experts from the public and private sectors – including emergency responders and individuals at institutions of higher education – and researched data available on state and federal Websites to ascertain the natural hazards that posed any potential risk to Jersey County. This initial stage of research indicated that additional research should be conducted on the following hazards: earthquakes, extreme heat, floods, hailstorms, land subsidence, severe winter storms, tornadoes, wildfires, and windstorms. Of these hazards, the following were deemed the most prevalent: earthquakes, floods, severe thunderstorms (a category that encompasses hailstorms and windstorms), severe winter storms and tornadoes. These natural hazards and their potential impact on the county are profiled in detail in Chapter 2.

### 10.1. Goals

The following five goals, generated by Jersey County residents, provide overall direction for the identification and implementation of the elements of this action plan.

#### Goal 1 Minimize Loss of Life

Objectives:

- Develop improved systems of delivering warnings about natural hazards to county residents, particularly those in rural areas.
- Develop improved communication systems for emergency responders that will allow them to respond to incidents occasioned by the occurrence of various natural hazards.
- Develop public education campaigns designed to educate residents about steps they can take to minimize the impact of various natural hazards.
- Conduct periodic tests of the county's emergency operation plan.
- Adopt uniform countywide building codes that promote the development of commercial and residential structures capable of withstanding acceptable levels of natural hazard impact.

## **Goal 2 Protect Public Health**

### Objectives:

- Develop public education efforts designed to educate the public about measures individual citizens can take to reduce the health risks associated with various natural hazards before, during and after the occurrence of such hazards.
- Improve the following programs with eye to the health risks occasioned by hazards determined most likely to affect the county: sanitation, disease surveillance, vector control, vaccination.

## **Goal 3 Protect and Develop Infrastructure**

### Objectives:

- Adopt uniform countywide building codes that promote the development of commercial and residential structures capable of withstanding acceptable levels of natural hazard impact.
- Perform regular maintenance on transportation infrastructure including roads and bridges.
- Review building inspection procedures to ensure appropriate attention to hazard mitigation related features.
- Improve sewage and wastewater treatment infrastructure.
- Review building evacuation procedures posted in all county-owned buildings.
- Review evacuation routes on a regular basis to ensure appropriate access in the event of their use.
- Improve communication systems through the use of federal and state grants and private initiatives.

## **Goal 4 Protect Public Property and Critical Facilities**

### Objectives:

- Review building inspection procedures to ensure appropriate attention to hazard mitigation related features.
- Adopt uniform countywide building codes that promote the development of public buildings capable of withstanding acceptable levels of natural hazard impact.
- Retrofit any existing critical facility deemed unreasonably susceptible to natural hazards.
- Ensure that all public buildings are appropriately insured.
- Review security of critical facilities.

## **Goal 5 Protect Private Property**

### Objectives:

- Adopt uniform countywide building codes that promote the development of public buildings capable of withstanding acceptable levels of natural hazard impact.

- Adopt and/or maintain County ordinances that minimize the risk of exposure to the most prevalent natural hazards.
- Conduct public information campaigns designed to educate citizens about the potential benefits of the following activities: retrofitting, flood proofing, and insuring property.

## **10.2. Guidelines**

A number of Illinois jurisdictions have provided examples to guide Jersey County in the preparation of our hazard mitigation plan. From the examples we have identified the following seven guidelines to guide us in reviewing mitigation measures, recommendations (found at the end of Chapters 4-9), and the action items in this chapter.

Guideline 1. Focus natural hazards mitigation efforts on tornadoes, floods, thunderstorms and winter storms.

Guideline 2. Encourage people to assume some responsibility for their own protection.

Guideline 3. New developments should not create new exposures to damage from natural hazards.

Guideline 4. Local initiatives should focus on protecting citizens and public property.

Guideline 5. Seek county, state, and federal support for special projects.

Guideline 6. Preserve open space in hazardous areas, especially where they are sensitive natural areas and agricultural land.

Guideline 7. Be consistent with existing plans.

## **10.3. Action Items**

Each action item has four subheadings: a summary of the recommendation for action; a discussion of the action; an indication of the person or agency responsible for the action; and means for assessing the effectiveness of the action. Each of the action items is cross referenced to Chapters in the mitigation plan. The authorities responsible for implementing these actions fall into three categories:

Jersey County legislative bodies—laws and regulations  
 Jersey County executive authorities—law enforcement  
 Jersey County civic bodies—public information campaigns

### **10.3.1 Jersey County Has Identified Ten Action Items**

The core hazard mitigation team, chaired by the county code administrator and the chair of the political science department at Principia College, reviewed the preliminary hazard mitigation report and compiled several dozen possible mitigation actions suggested in the report. The core team consulted with various county officials to assess the political receptiveness of the potential actions, given the difficult fiscal situation of the county and deep reluctance of citizens to tolerate increased taxes. The core hazard mitigation team pared the list of potential mitigation actions to eleven items.

Over the signature of the County Board Chairman, members of the original hazard mitigation advisory team were invited to review the draft natural hazard mitigation plan and to help prioritize the eleven proposed mitigation actions (see A-1 and A-C of Appendix). Representatives from public and private sectors—business, government, non-profit, and education (see B-1 of Appendix)—prioritized the actions based on three criteria: alignment with goals (see list of goals established by citizens), mitigation impact on one or more goals, and cost to county/taxpayer. Each category was rated high, medium or low—alignment with goals, impact, and cost. Each proposed mitigation action was discussed with regard to the three criteria and each attendee rated each item separately. After review and discussion was completed, the individual ratings were presented and tallied (see 1-D of Appendix). Ratings were given numerical values and calculated to determine prioritization. Those items with the highest alignment with goals, highest mitigation impact, and lowest costs were assigned the highest priority. The cost-benefit calculation was uppermost in the participants minds throughout the discussion.

Following the priority setting meeting, the core mitigation team reviewed the prioritization and revised each of the proposed actions to incorporate input from the meeting. Representatives from the core team then met with the county board chair to review the proposed actions. Central to this discussion was the cost and the possible sources of funding for the various actions. Based on their discussion, one action item was removed from the list in recognition that the item would not be able to gain sufficient support from the county board at the current time. The team and county board chair agreed that the item should remain on the agenda of the hazard mitigation team for continued consideration and, especially, identification of financial resources beyond the county.

The team also discussed with the county board chair the appropriate overall structure for implementing, monitoring, evaluating, and updating the plan. While each action will have its own designated implementation authority and may have separate and independent sources of funding and resources, the county will retain overall responsibility and authority for the plan.

The following ten proposed hazard mitigation actions—in priority order—reflect alignment with mitigation goals, ability to mitigate hazards, appreciation of the cost of the actions, and an understanding of the political realities of the current situation.

### 10.3.2 Administrative Action

#### **1. The Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan shall be monitored by the Jersey County Code Administrator.**

Authority: The County Code Administrator shall oversee the plan and making sure the plan is implemented. The Administrator will schedule meetings and collect information from other jurisdictions. Jurisdictions participating in the plan must report annually on its action and goals and any changes that may effect the plan to the Administrator. The Administrator will meet bi-annually with the Special Projects Committee for evaluation. Additional support from the ESDA Coordinator.

Cost: Staff time

Benefit: A monitoring system helps ensure that the entities and offices responsible for the actions meet their deadlines. Monitoring of the plan would make certain the success of the on-going program as it is critical that the plan remains relevant.

#### **2. The Special Projects Committee shall be responsible for making recommendations to the County Board on matters of evaluation of the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. The Committee would be an advisory body and meet bi-annually. Other duties include reviewing mitigation proposals, hearing resident concerns about flood protection and passing the concerns on to the appropriate entity. Scheduled meetings will be published in a newspaper of general circulation. The Special Projects Committee will also oversee the five year update requirement.**

Authority: Special Projects Committee and the County Board Chairman

Cost: Staff time.

Benefit: Evaluation of the plan is required by the Community Rating System. Continued evaluation of the plan would include changed conditions and progress within the County allowing for revisions to the plan.

#### **3. The Special Projects Committee shall present the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan to the County Board for adoption. Upon the adoption of the plan the County Board will afford the citizens an opportunity to comment on the plan and affirms that the plan will be updated every five years. Local jurisdictions will be required to adopt the plan as well.**

Authority: Jersey County Board, City Councils, local governing bodies.

Cost: Staff time.

Benefit: Adoption is a requirement by FEMA and the Community Rating System. With a plan in place the community is better able to identify and articulate their

needs to state and federal officials when funding is available. It also enables communities to better identify sources of technical and financial resources.

#### **10.3.4 Action Items**

Each action item has four subheadings: a summary of the recommendation for action; a discussion of the action; an indication of the person or agency responsible for the action; and means for assessing the effectiveness of the action. Each of the action items is cross referenced to Chapters in the mitigation plan. The authorities responsible for implementing these actions fall into three categories:

Jersey County legislative bodies—laws and regulations  
Jersey County executive authorities—law enforcement  
Jersey County civic bodies—public information campaigns

##### **1. Jersey County, and local municipalities, promulgate and enforce a nationally-recognized building code. (Chapters 4, 5)**

Recommendation: The Jersey County Board, as well as each local municipality, should promulgate and provide sufficient resources to enforcement of nationally-recognized building codes.

Deadline: Proposed completion by November 2009

Cost: No cost to jurisdictions. Additional staff time to Jerseyville. Burden of costs will be recognized by the builders.

Benefit: Building codes provide best method of protecting new, improved or repaired property of damage from a hazard.

Authority: Jersey County Board and City Councils of concerned municipalities. Enforcement of Ordinance to be carried out by the Jersey County Sheriff Dept.

##### **2. Jersey County design and implement a program of bridge, culvert, and structure monitoring and maintenance. (Chapter 6)**

Action: Using Jersey County GIS resources County Highway Dept. design and implement program of monitoring and maintenance of bridges, culverts and other transportation structures.

Deadline: In progress and ongoing.

Cost: In County budget (Motor Fuel Tax Fund); cost sharing with townships.

Benefit: Averting damage to property and structures can be obtained by making sure culverts and streams are not blocked. Even in a small rainstorm a blocked culvert or storm sewer can become deadly.

Authority: Jersey County Board, Jersey County Highway Engineer.

**3. Jersey County Authorities identify and enforce structure requirements in all future critical facilities construction.**

Deadline: As buildings are constructed.

Cost: Staff time and increased construction costs to meet standards (based on projects).

Benefit: Evaluation of current critical facilities provides valuable information for the future development of other facilities as to withstanding future hazard exposures.

**4. Appropriate Jersey County organizations develop and engage in public education programs regarding potential natural hazards and hazard mitigation.**

Deadline: Underway (annual mailings)

Cost: Staff time; printing, postage

Benefit: Provide more information to the public and educate the public on steps to take to insure safety from hazards. The State of Illinois provides a web site on disaster preparedness (refer to 5-A in Appendix).

Authority: Jersey County Business Association, Jersey County Board, local municipalities.

**5. Jersey County, and local municipalities, promulgate and enforce appropriate regulation of subdivisions, open spaces, dumping, and storm water run-off. (Chapters 5,8)**

Deadline: Subdivision Ordinance was passed on 9/11/07 by the Jersey County Board. Other revised ordinances will be passed within three (3) years.

Cost: Staff Time

Benefit: Subdivision regulations protect and reduce impact of dumping and storm water run-off. Protecting open space is beneficial in averting damage to other properties.

**6. Piasa Creek watershed protections be developed for Macoupin Creek and Otter Creek watersheds.**

Deadline: In progress and ongoing

Cost: The costs vary for each project; individual agencies or organizations will bear the cost for each project.

Benefit: Reducing potential for hazards, reducing impacting of structures.

Authority: Jersey County Board, other public and private agencies.

**7. Jersey County continues and enhances its effective floodplain management program. (Chapters, 5,8)**

Deadline: Underway

Cost: Staff time and technology upgrades. County has been successful of obtaining grants to pay for GIS system.

Benefit:

- better floodplain management
- better monitoring of hazard impact areas (i.e. areas susceptible to fresh flooding)
- removing people from hazard area not only saves lives but saves cost

Authority: Jersey County Board, County Code Administrator, Grafton Floodplain manager.

**8. Jersey County authorities complete or update a full inventory of critical facilities, which should include schools and other large gathering places (in addition to hospitals and public safety facilities). The inventory should indicate the status of each facility and the retrofitting needs. Upon completion of an updated inventory, Jersey County authorities prepare a plan for retrofitting critical county facilities. (Chapter 5)**

Deadline: To be completed over a 4 year period. (Deadline is dictated by availability of funds for staff time).

Cost: Significant staff time. Current intention is to use cooperative education students from Lewis & Clark Community College for data collection.

Benefit: Keeping critical facilities operational when a disaster strikes is essential to public safety and health. An assessment of the facilities exposure to damage would provide valuable information for future development.

Authority: Larry Mead, Emergency Services and Disaster Agency Coordinator, County Board.

**9. Jersey County organizations engage in public information and education program aimed at the retrofitting of residential and business structures, and identify public and private programs and funds in support of private**

**retrofitting of residential and business structures. (Chapter 5)**

Deadline: Underway (annual mailings)

Cost: Staff time, printing, postage

Benefit: Provide life saving information, protection of personal property and structures from a hazard.

**10. Appropriate Jersey County organizations engage in and expand open space, agricultural lands, and urban forest programs, such as those undertaken by the state park, the soil and water conservation district, and the Great Rivers Land Trust. (Chapter 6)**

Deadline: In progress and ongoing.

Cost: Cost will vary for each project; cost will be incurred by individual agencies or organizations responsible for project. (IDNR recently purchased 1200 acres with state to offset their wetlands purchasing agreement).

Benefit: Enhanced level of public/private cooperation in protection of open space, agricultural lands, and urban forestry.

Authority: Jersey County Board and City Councils of all concerned municipalities.

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Cost: Staff time

Benefit: A monitoring system helps ensure that the entities and offices responsible for the actions meet their deadlines. Monitoring of the plan would make certain the success of the on-going program as it is critical that the plan remains relevant.

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**appropriate entity. Scheduled meetings will be published in a newspaper of general circulation. The Special Projects Committee will also oversee the five year update requirement.**

Authority: Special Projects Committee and the County Board Chairman

Cost: Staff time.

Benefit: Evaluation of the plan is required by the Community Rating System. Continued evaluation of the plan would include changed conditions and progress within the County allowing for revisions to the plan.

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