



Cook County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan

Information Bulletin #4

The Mission Statement and Critical Facilities

What Is a Mission Statement and Why Do We Need One?

The purpose of a mission statement for the Cook County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan is to identify the principle message of the plan. A mission statement should be broad in scope and help provide direction for the planning process. The mission statement is not a goal or an objective, as it does not describe outcomes or ways to achieve outcomes. The mission statement will be promoted through public outreach as a brief description of what the Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan is about.

What Is a Critical Facility and Why Is It Important?

Some buildings or places are of such importance to a community that they must remain accessible and able to operate even during a flood, tornado or other natural disaster. For example, hospitals and fire stations need to remain in operation for the rescue and treatment of injured people. Water treatment facilities and wastewater treatment plants are needed to provide potable water and safe living conditions for residents.

Federal regulations require local governments preparing hazard mitigation plans to define which facilities and infrastructure are critical to the community's ability to respond to and recover from the impacts of natural hazards. This definition is then used to create an inventory of all critical facilities in the planning area.



During a disaster, communities need to provide essential services to their residents. To do that, roads and bridges must be accessible, police and fire departments need power and fuel for their vehicles, and shelters need potable water and electricity. Identifying critical facilities within a community helps leaders plan for the impacts and ensure that they will be able to continue providing those services.

Photo courtesy of the Forest View Fire Department

Cook County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan Mission Statement:

Identify risks and sustainable cost-effective actions to mitigate the impact of natural hazards in order to protect the life, health, safety, welfare and economy of the communities of Cook County.

Cook County Critical Facilities Definition

Federal regulations do not establish a standard definition of critical facilities — each community drafts its own definition of this term as part of the hazard mitigation planning process. Every community has different facilities deemed to be critical to residents' safety and well-being.

The Steering Committee developed the following definition for communities participating in this planning process to use in identifying critical facilities in their jurisdictions.

Any facility, whether publicly or privately owned, that includes infrastructure that is vital to the ability to provide essential services and protect life and property in the Cook County planning area. Damage that causes a short or long-term loss of such infrastructure would likely result in a severe health and welfare, life-sustainment, economic, or other catastrophic impact. Critical facilities can be grouped into three categories:

- ◆ Facilities that are essential to the ability to respond to, mitigate and recover from the impacts of natural hazards
- ◆ Facilities that need early warning to enable them to prepare for and respond to the impacts of natural hazards
- ◆ Facilities that, by the nature of their operations, produce, manufacture or store materials that create an exposure to secondary hazards of concern.

For the Cook County hazard mitigation plan, critical facilities are defined as facilities that meet the above criteria. By determining critical facilities before a natural disaster occurs, communities will be able to make better decisions about how to expend resources to protect these key facilities.

Save the Dates:

- ◆ Public meetings—December 9 in Homewood; December 11 in Northbrook; December 12 in Westchester; check our website for exact times and locations
- ◆ Jurisdictional Annex Workshops—January 29 to 31, 2014; exact dates, times, and locations to be determined

For more information visit our website:

www.cookcountyhomeslandsecurity.org/hazard-mitigation-plan

For more information about this process and the plan, please contact:

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