



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COOK COUNTY RELEASING DRAFT OF FIRST EVER HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Residents invited to review and comment on largest plan of its kind in the U.S.

Slightly more than one year has passed since Cook County was impacted by severe flooding and after up to four inches of rain fell in parts of Cook County overnight, the area is under a flood warning once again. Under the leadership of Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, the Cook County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) has worked diligently with area municipalities and other partnering agencies to formulate a Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan (HMP), to address events like the weather of April 2013.

The county's HMP has been designed to reduce the county's vulnerability to natural hazards while protecting the health, safety, welfare and economy of communities by identifying cost-effective strategies to reduce their impact. A uniform HMP will make Cook County eligible to receive funds through the federal Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

The draft HMP will be available for public review and comment during a series of meetings at the end of May. DHSEM is hosting a series of meetings May 27 – 29 to share the plan with county residents:

Tuesday, May 27
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Berwyn Police Department
6401 W. 31st St.
Berwyn, IL 60402

Wednesday, May 28
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Orland Fire Protection District
9790 W. 151st St.
Orland Park, IL 60462

Thursday, May 29
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Glenview Fire Department
2500 East Lake Ave.
Glenview, IL 60026

Computer workstations will also be set up at the meetings to show residents which natural hazards have the potential to affect their property.

When completed, Cook County's plan will be the largest of its kind, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Currently, more than 100 of the county's 134 municipalities and 30 townships have partnered with DHSEM.

"We have a responsibility to do everything in our power to prepare for hazards this county may face and have plans in place to protect our residents and our infrastructure," Preckwinkle said.

"This HMP will allow Cook County municipalities to apply for funding to undertake mitigation projects that will protect residents' lives and property," said Michael Masters, executive director of DHSEM.

For more information about the Hazard Mitigation Plan, visit www.cookcountyhomesecurity.org/hazard-mitigation-plan/.

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The Cook County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management integrates first responders, their departments and resources from 134 Cook County municipalities, and serves as the central agency in Cook County for coordinating efforts to prevent, protect against, mitigate the effects of, respond to and recover from all incidents, whether manmade or natural. For more information, visit our website at www.cookcountyhomesecurity.org.