



*HUBBARD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE-EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT*

June 7, 2017

**Public Review & Feedback Invited for Hubbard County's Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan**

Hubbard County has completed an updated draft of the of the County's Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (MHMP) as required by the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000). Local jurisdictions are required to update the plan every five years to remain eligible for pre-disaster & post-disaster mitigation grant programs.

Community involvement & feedback are vital to the success of the plan. Hubbard County invites public review & feedback on the draft plan prior to submitting it to the State of Minnesota & the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for review. A copy of the draft MHMP & a survey for public feedback is available online at <https://scse.d.umn.edu/hubbard-county-mhmp>. The plan review & comment period will be open until Weds, June 21<sup>st</sup>.

**About the Plan**

The Hubbard County MHMP is a multi-jurisdictional plan that covers Hubbard County, including the cities of Akeley, Laporte, Nevis, & Park Rapids. The Hubbard County MHMP also incorporates the concerns & needs of townships, school districts, & other stakeholders participating in the plan.

Hubbard County is vulnerable to a variety of potential natural disasters, which threaten the loss of life & property in the county. The plan addresses how to mitigate against hazards such as tornadoes, flooding, wildfires, blizzards, straight-line winds, ice storms, & droughts which have the potential for inflicting vast economic loss & personal hardship.

Update of the plan has been under the direction of Hubbard County Emergency Management in cooperation with the University of Minnesota Duluth – Geospatial Analysis Center & representatives from County departments, local municipalities (city & township), school districts, & other key stakeholders such as utility providers. Together, the planning team worked to identify cost-effective & sustainable actions to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life or property from natural hazards. Some examples include improvement of roads & culverts that experience repetitive flooding; construction of safe rooms at campgrounds, public parks, mobile home parks or schools to protect lives in the event of tornados or severe wind events; burying power lines that may fail due to heavy snow, ice or wind storms; ensuring timely emergency communication to the public through warning sirens & mass notification systems, & conducting public awareness & education campaigns to help people be prepared to take safe action before, during, or following a hazard event.

**The Benefits of Hazard Mitigation Planning**

Hazard mitigation planning ultimately helps us protect Hubbard County residents. By working with local communities we can identify vulnerabilities & develop strategies to reduce or eliminate the effects of a potential hazard. In addition, increasing public awareness of local hazards & disaster preparedness helps to create a community that is resilient to disaster & breaks the cycle of response & recovery. Update of the plan will further allow the county & its jurisdictions to apply for eligible projects under future Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant funding from FEMA for projects that are cost-effective & will help to reduce or eliminate impacts of future natural disaster events.

**Contact**

For questions on the Hubbard County MHMP please contact Brian Halbasch, Hubbard County Emergency Management Director: Phone: (218) 732-2588 or Email: [bhalbasch@co.hubbard.mn.us](mailto:bhalbasch@co.hubbard.mn.us).

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