



DeKalb County All Hazards Mitigation Plan 2012 Annual Evaluation Report

Overview

The *DeKalb County All Hazards Mitigation Plan*, January 2008, was developed by the DeKalb County Hazard Mitigation Committee as a multi-jurisdictional plan to meet the mitigation planning requirements of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). An adopted mitigation plan is required by FEMA, along with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA), in order for a community to be eligible for hazard mitigation grant funds.

The *DeKalb County All Hazards Mitigation Plan (Plan)* examines the natural and manmade hazards facing DeKalb County, establishes mitigation goals, evaluates existing mitigation activities throughout the County, and recommends additional mitigation steps that are appropriate to protect people, property and other assets of DeKalb County. Chapter 11 of the *Plan* provides an “Action Plan” for implementation and maintenance.

Action Item 3 calls for the development of an annual evaluation report to be developed by the DeKalb County Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (Mitigation Committee). The report is to be submitted to the County Board and other pertinent agencies to ensure appropriate plan monitoring and maintenance. Annual evaluation reports are intended to provide a review of the *Plan* direction and recommendations, a summary of natural disasters that impacted DeKalb County in reporting year, and a review of the action items implemented since the *Plan* adoption, as appropriate.

The Mitigation Committee met on September 11, 2012 at the DeKalb County Legislative Center to develop this 2012 annual evaluation report. The agenda for the annual meeting is provided in Appendix A to this report. This report is based on information collected from County departments and the municipalities, and the Committee discussion at the September 2012 meeting.

Natural Disaster Declarations for DeKalb County since *Plan* Development

No State emergencies or federal disaster declarations were made for DeKalb County since the 2011 Annual Report to the *Plan*.

Status of Action Items

The Action Plan (Chapter 11) in the *DeKalb County All Hazards Mitigation Plan* contains 19 action items. These action items were taken from the hazard mitigation recommendations made in Chapter 5 through 10. They are identified as administrative, project or public information action items. The status of the implementation of the action items are summarized below.

Action Item 1 - Plan Adoption - Adopt this *DeKalb County All Hazards Mitigation Plan* by resolution. Status: Completed in 2008.

Action Item 2 - Mitigation Planning Committee - The DeKalb County Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee would be converted to a permanent advisory body in the County's resolution to adopt this *Plan*. Status: This Action Item has been completed.

Action Item 3 - Plan Monitoring and Maintenance - A Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee meeting will be held *at least* once a year to evaluate and monitor progress on implementation. At the annual meeting, along with an assessment of the implementation efforts, the Committee will determine if other mitigation issues or efforts, based on any natural or manmade hazard occurrences or input from communities or the public, should be added to the *Plan*.

Status: The Mitigation Committee prepared an annual evaluation report for 2011 and this report for 2012. The Mitigation Committee will work towards the required update of the *Plan* in 2013 and prepare an annual evaluation report for 2013. This Action Item is ongoing.

Action Item 4 - Building Code Improvements

Adopt the latest series International Codes. Residential and commercial code revisions should be pursued to strengthen new buildings against damage by high winds, tornadoes hail, and earthquakes. Requiring tornado safe rooms in certain structures should be considered. Any code revisions should be consistent with the efforts undertaken by any multi-community organizations of building department staff.

Status: DeKalb County updated to the 2006 I-Codes. The City of DeKalb plans update to 2009 I-Codes in 2012. This Action Item is ongoing.

Action Item 5 - Critical Facilities Design with All Hazards Protection

Offices responsible for design, construction or permitting critical facilities, including federal, state, county and municipal agencies, and institutions should ensure that the design or modification of critical facilities accounts for natural and manmade hazards and adjacent land uses.

Status: The Sycamore Police Department addition includes a tornado shelter. A new City of DeKalb police station is under construction. This Action Item is ongoing.

Action Item 6 - Mapping of Hazards

Natural and manmade hazard mapping should be developed on a countywide basis, as part of the County's GIS mapping effort.

Status: This Action Item is ongoing. The County's GIS Department has a floodplain layer with the updated 2009 Flood Insurance Rate Map boundaries for the entire county.

Action Item 7 - Mitigation for Floodplain Properties and Critical Facilities

Repetitive flood loss areas within the mapped 100-year floodplain should be identified, investigated and mitigated, including critical facilities in the floodplain. The number of structures within the 100-year floodplains should be determined in detail, and mitigation opportunities for those structures should be identified. The County or municipalities should seek a mitigation planning grant as needed for preparing flood mitigation plans.

As repetitive flood loss areas are identified and investigated, and as cost-effective mitigation alternatives are developed (acquisition, elevation or floodproofing), funding assistance from FEMA or IEMA should be pursued.

Status: DeKalb County has been approved for \$4.2 million (of a total request for \$5.6 million) to acquire the Evergreen Village Mobile Home Park located in the floodplain and floodway in unincorporated DeKalb County near Sycamore. The County is also pursuing the acquisition of a severe repetitive flood loss property in an unincorporated Mayfield Township with IEMA/FEMA Predisaster Mitigation Program (PDM) funds.

The City of DeKalb has completed the acquisition of five floodplain properties with a grant received from IEMA/FEMA, and one floodway property with CDBG funds. This Action Item is ongoing.

Action Item 8 - Property Protection Checklist

A checklist should be prepared for use by all agencies throughout the County for evaluating properties that are exposed to flood damage, and to examine property protection alternatives.

Status: No progress made on this Action Item.

Action Item 9 - Include the All Hazards Mitigation Plan into Other Plans

As the county and municipalities develop or revise comprehensive or land use plans, emergency operations plans, and ordinances, the goals and guidelines of this *Plan* should be incorporated into those efforts.

Status: This Action Item is ongoing.

Action Item 10 – Grant Funding for Safe Rooms

Pursue grant funding for the construction of safe rooms, in homes, businesses, at critical facilities, health care facilities, and schools. The first priority for any available funding should be schools.

Status: This Action Item is ongoing.

Action Item 11 - Watershed Studies

DeKalb County should pursue the study of the County's watersheds for purposes of stormwater management, flood control, and water quality concerns. This effort will foster the understanding of impact of development on existing flood problems and identify ways to reduce future flood problems.

Status: DeKalb County has applied for a grant from IEPA to develop a watershed plan for the Union Ditch/Virgil Ditch watershed.

Action Item 12 - Structural Flood Control Projects

DeKalb County and/or municipalities should support and cost-share on feasible structural flood control projects as they are identified in watershed plans.

Status: Kingston has been working with the Illinois Department of Natural Resource, Office of Water Resources on the planning of a small flood protection project. This Action Item is ongoing.

Action Item 13 - Drainage System Maintenance

The South Branch and the East Branch of the South Branch of the Kishwaukee River, and their tributaries, are in need of stream maintenance in both rural and urban areas. Efforts should be made to identify areas of restricted flow, due to erosion and sedimentation, and funds should be pursued to restore the flow capacity of the streams. Also, bridges and culverts (active or abandoned) that restrict flood flows should be evaluated. The removal or enlargement of stream crossings, in cases where a modification will not cause an increase in downstream flooding, should be considered and funded.

Status: The City of DeKalb replaced the Bethany Road bridge located east of North 1st Street. Also street improvement projects along Gurler Road included log debris along the Afton Drainage District Ditch. This Action Item is ongoing.

DeKalb County has replaced/enlarged six bridges and culverts in DeKalb, Franklin, Mayfield, Paw Paw, Pierce and South Grove Townships since the 2008 Plan to allow for additional stream conveyance.

Action Item 14 - Participation in StormReady:

DeKalb County, municipalities, other agencies, universities and colleges should join, or maintain their status in, the National Weather Service's StormReady program. The StormReady program has been developed to provide communities guidelines to improve the timeliness and effectiveness of hazardous weather-related warning for the public.

Status: Northern Illinois University continues to be a StormReady community. One village reported that they are considering joining the program. This Action Item is ongoing.

Action Item 15 - NOAA Weather Radios All Hazards for Critical Facilities, Homes, and Businesses

Ensure that all critical facilities (as defined by this *Plan*) in the County, municipalities, institutions, and animal care facilities, have enhanced NOAA Weather Radios All Hazards that include additional media alerts, and encourage homes and businesses to allow have weather radios.

Status: DeKalb County is acquiring 50-60 desk model weather radios for distribution to public facilities. This Action Item is ongoing.

Action Item 16 - Improved Threat Recognition

DeKalb County, municipalities, and Kishwaukee College should seek funding for improved outdoor warning sirens.

Status: No progress made on this Action Item; funding not available. Also see next action item.

Action Item 17 - Improved Emergency Response

Working through the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), DeKalb County and the municipalities should update all state and federal required emergency response plans for natural and manmade hazards.

Status: The City of DeKalb updated their Emergency Response Plan with assistance from Northern Illinois University (NIU). DeKalb County is in the final steps of their Telecommunications Interoperability Plan (TICP) development. This Action Item is ongoing.

Action Item 18 - Information for Floodplain Property Owners

Due to their particular vulnerability to damage, properties in floodplains should be provided with information and advice on property protection measures. Special attention should be given to repetitive loss and high hazard areas.

Status: The City of DeKalb and the City of Sycamore conducted their annual outreach to floodplain residents as part of their participation in the CRS. This Action Item is ongoing.

Action Item 19 - Educate Property Owners on Safe Rooms

Use available brochures and other information to educate residents, businesses, school communities and other property owners about safe rooms for tornados. Encourage retrofitting of existing buildings to include safe rooms, and the construction of safe rooms in new building designs.

Status: No action.

Action Item 20 - Public Information Hazard Mitigation Materials

Prepare background information, articles, and other explanations of hazard mitigation topics, including:

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- Warning signals and emergency protection measures
 - Safety during, tornados, severe summer ad severe winter storms
 - Health hazards related to natural and manmade hazards
 - Protecting water quality
 - What the County and municipalities are doing for hazard mitigation

These materials are to be provided to County, municipal, school, and private offices for use in presentations, newsletter articles, webpages, brochures and other outreach projects.

Status: Communities continue to offer hazard mitigation information on websites and press releases regarding health, safety and property protection. Countywide and DeKalb County-specific items have not been developed. Funding is needed for this effort. This Action Item is ongoing.

Action Item 21 - Public Information Outreach Projects

Prepare and disseminate outreach projects based on the materials provided under action item 20. Such projects should include articles in newsletters, news releases, directed mailings, handouts, websites, and displays.

Status: No progress made on this Action Item. Funding needed.

Action Item 22 - Property Protection References

Provide building departments, libraries and other interested offices with a list of references on property protection that can be ordered for free from state and federal offices. Include a request that they make the references available for public use. A special effort should be made to identify references on insurance, emergency preparedness and property protection.

Also, identify websites that provide property protection information and provide their addresses to the County and municipal webmasters.

Status: This Action Item is ongoing.

Plan Evaluation

Progress has continued on action items by the County and municipalities. No changes to the *DeKalb County All Hazards Mitigation Plan* are necessary at this time.

Summary

This 2012 annual evaluation report of the *DeKalb County All Hazards Mitigation Plan* provides a status of the implementation of the action items by participating communities and institutions. DeKalb County made progress on obtaining the funding for the acquisition of the Evergreen Village Mobile Home Park in 2012. Municipalities continued to implement floodplain regulations and building codes. The Mitigation Committee will continue to meet in 2012 to complete the required update of the *Plan* by January 2013.

Table 1.
 Status of Adoption and Approval of the DeKalb County All Hazards Mitigation Plan

Community Name	Adoption Resolution Date
Town of Cortland	12/5/2008
City of DeKalb	5/12/2008
Village of Hinckley	9/15/2008
Village of Kingston	5/5/2008
Village of Kirkland	6/2/2008
Village of Lee	
Village of Malta	7/9/2008
Village of Somonauk	5/14/2008
City of Sycamore	11/17/2008
Village of Waterman	6/1/2008
DeKalb County	1/16/2008
Kishwaukee College	
Northern Illinois University	
Township of Kingston	3/10/2008
Township of Shabbona	9/11/2008
Township of Squaw Grove	9/9/2008
Township of Sycamore	9/15/2008
Township of Sycamore	9/16/2008

Appendix A.



DeKalb County Hazard Mitigation Committee

Annual Meeting

September 11, 2012, 2:00 p.m.

DeKalb County Gathertorium

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. DeKalb County All Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan
 - a. 2008 Plan Development
 - b. Minutes of October 22, 2011 Meeting
 - c. Draft 2012 Annual Report
 - d. FEMA Requirements for 5-year Update
3. Planning Step 1 – Organize
 - a. Committee Role and Participation
 - b. Ten Planning Steps
 - c. Meeting Schedule
4. Planning Step 2 – Public Involvement
 - a. Press Releases
 - b. Website
 - c. Public Meeting
 - d. Other Methods To Encourage Input
5. Planning Step 3 – Agency & Organization Coordination
 - a. Government Agencies
 - b. Private Organizations
6. Planning Step 4 – Hazard Assessment *Update*
 - a. Hazard Prioritization Exercise
 - b. Hazard Profile – Data Collection
7. Planning Step 5 – Problem Evaluation *Update*
 - a. Data Sources
 - b. Municipal Data Collection
8. Public Comment
9. Assignments For Next Meeting
10. Next Meeting
11. Adjourn

