

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLANS

1. What is Natural Hazard Mitigation?

*Natural Hazard Mitigation refers to long-term or permanent measures to reduce disaster damage by reducing risk or reducing vulnerability. Hazard Mitigation means taking steps BEFORE a disaster to reduce the risk of damage.*

2. What is a Natural Hazard?

*Natural Hazards include:*

- *Flooding*
- *Tornadoes*
- *Thunderstorms – hail, lightning, high winds*
- *Earthquakes*
- *Winter storms – ice storm, freezing rain*

3. Why should a community have a Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan?

*A Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan allows a community to:*

- *Identify buildings, structures, and infrastructure that are vulnerable in order to determine necessary mitigation measures for damage protection*
- *Preserve the life, health, and safety of the residents of your community*
- *Understand risk reduction measures to include structural and regulatory tools such as ordinances and building codes*

4. Does my community/county have to have a Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan in order to get funding after a disaster?

*No. Whether or not you have a Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan has no bearing on getting disaster assistance after a disaster, such as a tornado.*

5. Then why should my community of having a plan?

*In addition to assessing the risks associated with disasters, having a plan allows the community to apply for grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to mitigate the hazards listed in the plan.*

6. Can you give me some specific examples of mitigation grants?

*Grants can be used for:*

- *Property acquisition in a floodplain*
- *Relocation or elevation of a structure in a floodplain*
- *Early warning systems for severe storms*

- *Retrofit schools or government buildings with shatter-proof glass or hail-resistant shingles*
- *Construction of tornado shelters/safe rooms*
- *Heating or cooling centers for severe weather*

7. Can a community get a mitigation grant without having a Hazard Mitigation Plan?

*No. Only communities with Hazard Mitigation Plans are eligible for grant funding.*

8. Do any communities in the Tri-County area currently have Natural Hazard Mitigation Plans?

*Yes, five years ago Peoria County, Tazewell County, Woodford County, the City of Peoria, Peoria Heights, East Peoria, Washington, and Roanoke participated in a regional plan, known as the Tri-County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan*

9. Why are you writing a new plan?

*Per federal regulations, the plan must be updated every five years. The current plan expires in late 2015.*

10. If my county has a Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, why does my community need to have a plan?

*County plans cover only the unincorporated areas of the county. Incorporated communities must have their own plan.*

11. Will it cost anything to be included in the plan?

*Tri-County Regional Planning Commission will apply for a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to hire a consultant to develop the plan on behalf of all participating jurisdictions. A 25% match for the FEMA grant is required; therefore, each jurisdiction may be asked to pay up to \$5,000, depending on the final number of communities involved.*

12. What are the benefits of being included in the regional plan?

*An individual community will most likely save precious resources by not having to hire a consultant to write an individual plan.*