

Howard County, Iowa Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

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Howard County Planning Team Seeks Public Input

Howard County, IA — The public is encouraged to review and comment on the Howard County Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update before it is finalized. The plan includes an updated strategy to reduce damage and losses caused by hazard events. The final draft of the plan will be available online and in hard-copy from October 25, 2017 to November 7, 2017. The purpose is to provide information to the public on the Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update as well as gain public input.

Taxpayers pay billions of dollars each year for disaster recovery. Some events are predictable, and often, damages can be reduced or eliminated. The Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires communities to develop an approved local hazard mitigation plan to remain eligible for certain federal funding.

Howard County invited representatives from County departments, the incorporated cities, public school districts, Northeast Iowa Community College and other mitigation planning stakeholders to work together to develop this plan update. The planning Team addressed 14 hazards—ranging from extreme heat and severe winter storms to tornadoes and flooding—and considered the impacts of these events on local communities. Based on the results of an updated risk assessment of the hazards, team members updated the strategies for their jurisdictions to reduce damages caused by the various hazards. The team consulted with Amec Foster Wheeler, Environment & Infrastructure, Inc. to assist with the plan update and ensure that the final plan meets federal regulations.

The planning team would like input from the public on the updated strategy to lessen impacts of future disasters on people and property in Howard County. The Plan will also be concurrently reviewed by the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department (IA HSEMD) and then submitted to FEMA for review and approval. Public comments will be considered by the Hazard Mitigation Planning Team and incorporated into the final plan, as appropriate. The final plan must be approved by the governing body of each participating jurisdiction, IA HSEMD, and FEMA before becoming official.

From, October 25, 2017 to November 7, 2017, the final draft plan will be available for your review at the following locations:

Online at: www.co.howard.ia.us

In hard-copy during normal operating hours at:

Howard County Auditor's Office
Howard County Courthouse
137 North Elm Street
Cresco, IA 52316

Cresco Public Library
320 North Elm Street
Cresco, IA 52136

For more information on this planning effort, or to provide your comments, please contact Darrell Knecht, the Howard County Emergency Management Coordinator at 563-547-9208 or via email at dknecht@co.howard.ia.us.