

Jackson County News Release

Public Input Wanted as County Updates Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Jackson County Emergency Management Office is working on updating the county's Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). The Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) requires that a plan be updated every five years to maintain eligibility for FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant programs. The plan covers Jackson County including the unincorporated areas, cities and school districts. The plan assesses the natural hazards that pose risk to the county, such as tornadoes, wind storms, ice storms, flooding and extreme temperatures and identifies ways to minimize the damage of future events. The plan will be updated by a planning team of representatives from county departments, local municipalities, school districts and other key stakeholders. As the county works to update the plan, it wants to hear from the public.

According to Lyn Medinger, Jackson County Emergency Management Coordinator, "Mitigation creates safer communities by reducing losses of life and property. Mitigation enables individuals and communities to recover more rapidly from disasters."

Examples of hazard mitigation actions include improvement of roads and 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 tornadoes or severe wind events; burying powerlines that may fail due to heavy snow, ice or wind storms; ensuring timely emergency communication to the public through warning sirens and mass notifications systems, and conducting public awareness and education campaigns to help people to be prepared to take safe action before, during or following a hazard event. Some mitigation activities may be eligible for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant funding.

Jackson County is seeking feedback from residents and businesses to incorporate in the plan. To access the current HMP and the public survey visit the Jackson County Emergency Management website at <https://jacksoncounty.iowa.gov/emergency-management/>. Your input will help shape future hazard mitigation strategies. A draft of the updated plan will be posted for public review prior to submission to the State of Iowa.