

For Immediate Release

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Setting Goals For Sangamon County

Task Force To Initiate Goals and Objectives To Prepare For Natural Hazards

Springfield, IL January 7, 2007 — The Sangamon County Multi-jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Task Force is in full swing and is preparing to set goals and objectives at the next meeting. The third meeting of the task force will be held January 9, 2008 at 5:30pm in the County Board Chamber located on the 2nd floor of the Sangamon County Complex, 200 S. Ninth Street.

Representatives from Auburn, Buffalo, Cantrall, Chatham, Curran, Dawson, Divernon, Grandview, Illiopolis, Jerome, New Berlin, Pawnee, Pleasant Plains, Riverton, Rochester, Sherman, Southern View, Springfield, Thayer, Williamsville and Sangamon County will attend the third meeting of the Sangamon County Multi-jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Task Force. Next on their agenda is to set goals and objectives. These community representatives and other task force members will form small group discussions in order to develop goals and objectives. The purpose will be to focus on nine hazards that include: dam failure, drought, earthquakes, extreme heat, floods, mine subsidence, severe storms, tornados and winter storms. A risk assessment has been conducted for each hazard and this will be the basis for developing goals and objectives. For more information on each hazard and its risk assessment log on to <http://co.sangamon.il.us/NHMP>.

The Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission was awarded a contract for a Hazard Mitigation Planning grant in the amount of \$46,167 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. This grant will fund 75% of the cost of plan preparation. The Regional Planning Commission will facilitate development of the plan and Sangamon County will provide the remaining 25% through staff involvement.

"The development and maintenance of a Hazard Mitigation Plan is important to the welfare of all of us in Sangamon County," said Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission Executive Director Norm Sims. "Any one of us could be affected by a future natural disaster, and it is so important for the citizens of Sangamon County to get involved in this effort any way they can."

The advantages of having a hazard mitigation plan include protecting citizens and property from the effects of hazards such as tornadoes, flooding and winter storms. Any community that has a hazard mitigation plan that is compliant with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 is eligible for hazard mitigation grant money from FEMA. The purpose of this plan is to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters by identifying mitigation measures that can be implemented prior to a disaster.

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