

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release-Public Participation Meeting August 5, 2015, 5:00 PM

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Lafayette, IN (July 24, 2015) – The Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) requires communities to prepare a Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, (MHMP) in order to be eligible for future mitigation funding through the Indiana Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The intent of the planning process is to prepare for a disaster before it occurs to reduce the physical, social and economic impact of that disaster. The disasters most likely to occur in this community were analyzed for severity, duration, warning time, extent and potential damage. These disasters include: hazardous materials, flooding, tornados/windstorm, severe winter storm, earthquake, dam failure and utility failure.

To ensure the future flow of money to our community, the Area Plan Commission, in cooperation with the Tippecanoe County Emergency Management Agency and on behalf of Tippecanoe County, Lafayette, West Lafayette, Battle Ground, Clarks Hill, Dayton, and Shadeland has prepared a draft Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. The plan identifies ways to lessen the impact of disasters on our community and ways to reduce loss of life and property when a disaster does strike.

Citizen input is a key element of the planning process and the resulting outcomes. According to Larry Aukerman, APC staff, “Additional information or ideas based on personal experiences with dam failures, earthquakes, flooding, severe snowstorms, tornadoes, ice storms, hazardous material spills, and utility failures would be particularly helpful because some of the best lessons come from experience.”

Local governments have some existing mitigation tools in place; the plan calls for the preservation or expansion of existing measures while adopting new initiatives. Examples of existing mitigation tools:

1. The Area Plan Commission and its member jurisdictions have prohibited construction in the floodplain since 1965; the Town of Shadeland also prohibits construction in the floodplain.
2. In 1998, the Unified Zoning Ordinance began requiring under ground tornado shelters for new manufactured home communities. This concept could be expanded for places of public assembly, apartment complexes or manufacturing plants.
3. Use of NOAA weather radios at critical facilities, such as hospitals and by residents in known hazard areas, would reduce risk to citizens and property by providing additional time to seek shelter and secure belongings.

Tippecanoe Emergency Management Agency Director, Smokey Anderson said, “If we can minimize risk by deploying the hazard mitigation tools identified in the plan we help keep citizens, their property and emergency responders safer.”

The Area Plan Commission is now inviting the public to comment on the draft version of the MHMP, which is available online at the Tippecanoe County Area Plan Commission website homepage at www.tippecanoe.in.gov/apc and in print at the Area Plan Office. **A public meeting to discuss the draft plan will be held on August 5, 2015, at 5:00 pm in the Tippecanoe Room of the Tippecanoe County Office Building located at 20 N. 3rd Street.** Public comment will be received from now until August 6th, 2015 and can be mailed to the Area Plan Commission, 20 N. 3rd Street, Lafayette 47901 or emailed to Larry Aukerman at laukerman@tippecanoe.in.gov

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