



Sheriff Troy J. Knudson ROCK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Jude G. Maurer
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Erik D. Chellevold
Commander, Correctional Services

MEDIA RELEASE

Weigh in on Rock County's 2022 Hazard Mitigation Plan update

For Immediate Release

Date: September 30, 2022

Contact Person

Sergeant S. Kohler
608-758-8440

To better prepare our communities for natural and human-made disasters, Rock County Emergency Management is currently updating the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan. Rock County's current multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan was last updated in 2017.

The Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) requires plans to be updated every five years to maintain eligibility for certain FEMA grant programs. By maintaining a FEMA approved, all participating communities in Rock County will maintain eligibility for federal disaster assistance and hazard mitigation funding.

Rock County Emergency Management will lead the process in partnership with the Madison-based Capital Area Regional Planning Commission (CARPC). Representatives from County departments, local municipalities, and other organizations will help develop the plan's risk assessment, capability assessment, and mitigation strategy. To fund the update, Rock County secured a planning grant through FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program.

What is Hazard Mitigation Planning?

Disasters can damage buildings and infrastructure, disrupt social, environmental, and economic systems, and cause injuries and loss of life. The purpose of mitigation planning is to identify actions and policies that can reduce the risks and losses from future hazard events. Common mitigation activities include relocating or demolishing flood prone structures, constructing storm shelters, burying utilities, and conducting public awareness campaigns.

Proactive mitigation measures help create safer, more disaster-resilient communities. A 2019 study by the National Institute of Building Sciences shows that each federal grant dollar spent on mitigation saves an average of six dollars in future recovery costs.

The updated plan will address various natural and human-made disasters, such as:

- Flooding
- Tornadoes and windstorms
- Cyber threats
- Winter storms
- Active threats and mass casualty
- Food and agriculture crises
- Climate change
- Disease outbreaks
- Disruptions to fuel, electric, water, and wastewater systems

200 East U.S. Highway 14
Janesville, WI 53545
Phone: 608-757-8000 Fax: 608-757-7997

Opportunities to Participate

Every city, village, and township in Rock County is invited to participate in the update and have their own section in the final plan. Community representatives and other stakeholders from area businesses, educational institutions, and non-profits will have the opportunity to share their feedback at a **series of meetings to take place at the Dr. Daniel Hale Williams Resource Center (DWRC), located at 1717 Center Avenue, in Janesville:**

- October 6 | 9:00 – 11:00 am
Topic: Risks and Threats
- October 19 | 2:00 - 4:00pm
Topic: Vulnerabilities and Capabilities
- November 9 | 1:00-3:00pm
Topic: Mitigation Actions

Gathering input from the public is an important and required step of the planning process. **Rock County residents are invited to share their perspectives through a brief 3-question online survey available now through November 4: <https://arcg.is/1LmLKr>**

Residents can also view updates and information on the Rock County Sheriff's website and Facebook page. Once a draft plan is completed this winter, it will be posted for public review and comment.

RCEM leads the County in planning, response, recovery, and mitigation efforts for large-scale events, emergencies, and disasters impacting the citizens of Rock County. Learn more at: <https://www.co.rock.wi.us/departments/sheriff-s-office/emergency-management>

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TROY J. KNUDSON
SHERIFF

By: Sergeant S. Kohler, Capital Area Regional Planning Commission (CARPC)