

Cook County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Survey

1. Survey Introduction

A partnership of local governments and other groups is currently developing a plan for handling natural hazards in Cook County: the Cook County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan. By preparing this plan, the participating governments will become eligible for federal funding that can be used for actions that help reduce Cook County's exposure to natural hazards risks, thus benefitting you by preventing future harm to life, property and the environment.

You can help complete the plan by taking this survey. The team preparing the plan will use the survey results to assess how much local citizens already know about natural disaster issues and to determine how the county and its residents are most vulnerable. The information you provide will be used to help prioritize projects to reduce risks from natural hazards.

The survey includes 37 questions and an opportunity for you to provide additional comments at the end. Questions preceded by an "*" indicates a question that must be answered before you can advance to the next page.

Your participation is completely anonymous and should take only 10 to 15 minutes. The Cook County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Planning Partnership thanks you for taking the time to participate in this important information gathering process.

When you have finished the survey, please click "Done" on the final page.

*1. Where in Cook County do you live?

2. Do you work in Cook County?

Yes

No

3. Which of the following natural hazard events have you or has anyone in your household experienced in the past 20 years within Cook County? (Check all that apply.)

Dam/levee failure

Severe weather (for example, wind, lightning or winter storm)

Drought

Extreme heat

Earthquake

Extreme cold

Flood

Tornado

River/stream bank erosion

None

Hazardous materials spill/release

Other (please specify)

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2. Natural Hazard Preparedness

Individuals and households can prepare for natural hazards by stocking vital supplies and making a plan for what to do when a disaster occurs. Good information is essential for people to know the best steps they can take to protect their homes and families.

The following questions aim to find out how much you already know about disaster preparedness, what steps you've taken to prepare, and what are the best ways to provide information to the public about preparing for natural hazards.

*4. How prepared is your household to deal with a natural hazard event likely to occur in Cook County?

	Not at all prepared	Somewhat prepared	Adequately prepared	Well prepared	Very well prepared	Not sure
Check one:	<input type="radio"/>					

5. Do you consider yourself informed about the probable impacts of natural hazard events that may occur within Cook County?

- Yes No Somewhat

6. If yes, what has helped you to become informed of the impacts of natural hazards? (Check all that apply.)

- Emergency preparedness information from a government source (for example, federal, state or local emergency management agency)
- Information from a nongovernmental source (for example, Red Cross)
- Personal experience with one or more natural hazard events
- Locally provided news or other media information
- Schools or other academic institutions
- Meetings that addressed or taught disaster preparedness
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
- Other (please specify)

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7. Which of the following have provided you with useful information to help you be prepared for a natural hazard event? (Check all that apply.)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency preparedness information from a government source
(for example, federal, state or local emergency management) | <input type="checkbox"/> CERT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal experience with one or more natural hazards/disasters | <input type="checkbox"/> Public awareness campaign |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Locally provided news or other media information | <input type="checkbox"/> Church or faith-based institution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Schools and other academic institutions | <input type="checkbox"/> None |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meetings that have dealt with disaster preparedness | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

8. What are the most effective ways for you to receive information on how to protect your family members and property from damage due to natural hazard events? (Check all that apply.)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper | <input type="checkbox"/> CERT classes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Informational brochures | <input type="checkbox"/> Public awareness campaigns (for example, Flood Awareness Week) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal newsletters | <input type="checkbox"/> Community safety events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal website | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair booths and/or festivals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public meetings, workshops and/or classes | <input type="checkbox"/> Books and/or magazines |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Schools and academic institutions | <input type="checkbox"/> Public library |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TV based media (for example, news and public service announcements) | <input type="checkbox"/> Chamber of commerce |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Radio based media (for example, news and public service announcements) | <input type="checkbox"/> Nongovernmental organization (for example, Red Cross) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County website | <input type="checkbox"/> Auto-dial information from "911" center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State and/or federal websites | <input type="checkbox"/> Social media (for example, Twitter, Facebook or LinkedIn) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Weather Service website | <input type="checkbox"/> Email |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fire department/rescue | <input type="checkbox"/> Direct mail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Law enforcement | <input type="checkbox"/> Word of mouth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Church or faith-based institutions | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

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*9. How concerned are you about the following natural hazard events in Cook County? (Check one response for each hazard.)

	Not concerned	Somewhat concerned	Concerned	Very concerned	Extremely concerned
Climate change	<input type="radio"/>				
Dam/levee failure	<input type="radio"/>				
Disease/epidemic	<input type="radio"/>				
Drought	<input type="radio"/>				
Earthquake	<input type="radio"/>				
Flood	<input type="radio"/>				
River/stream bank erosion	<input type="radio"/>				
Hazardous materials	<input type="radio"/>				
Household fire	<input type="radio"/>				
Severe weather	<input type="radio"/>				
Other	<input type="radio"/>				

(Please specify other natural hazard)

10. Which of the following steps, if any, has your household taken to prepare for a natural hazard event?

(Check all that apply.)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Received first aid/CPR training | <input type="checkbox"/> Stored a battery-powered radio |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Made a fire escape plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Stored a fire extinguisher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Designated a meeting place | <input type="checkbox"/> Stored medical supplies (for example, first aid kit or medications) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Identified utility shutoffs | <input type="checkbox"/> Purchased natural hazard insurance (for example, flood or earthquake) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stored sand bags | <input type="checkbox"/> Installed a sump pump |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prepared a disaster supply kit | <input type="checkbox"/> Identified an out-of-area contact person |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Installed smoke detectors on each level of the house | <input type="checkbox"/> Regularly updated emergency information |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stored food and water | <input type="checkbox"/> Have anchored service utilities to my home (for example, anchored water heater, furnace or wood stove) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stored flashlights and batteries | <input type="checkbox"/> None |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Purchased and learned how to program a NOAA Weather Radio | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

11. How do you feel your community is doing to make people aware of the natural hazard events they may face?

- Very well
 Adequate
 Not very well
 Not at all
 Not sure

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***12. To the best of your knowledge, within which of the following natural hazard zones is your home located? (Check all that apply.)**

- Floodplain Channel migration zone None of the above
 Dam/levee inundation zone Earthquake

13. If you own your home, do you carry homeowners insurance on your property?

- Yes No Not applicable

14. To the best of your knowledge, for which of the following natural hazard events does your homeowners or renters insurance policy provide coverage for damage? (Check all that apply.)

- Floods Not applicable
 Earthquakes None
 I am not sure
 Other (please specify)

15. For which of the following natural hazard events have you acquired specialty insurance policies that provide coverage from losses not covered by your homeowners/renters insurance policies? (Check all that apply.)

- Flood insurance
 Earthquake insurance
 Sewer backup rider
 I am not sure
 None, I have not purchased special insurance coverage

16. Do you or does anyone in your household have any special access or other special needs that would require early warning or specialized response during natural hazard events? (For example, a wheelchair, walker or oxygen.)

- Yes
 No
 Not sure

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17. If yes, are you receiving support and assistance from such groups as hospice, county health department, church or faith-based institution or from your family?

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

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3. Hazard Mitigation

Mitigation is action taken to make a problem less harsh or severe. Hazard mitigation activities are permanent improvements you can make to homes and belongings to protect your family, home and property from natural disasters.

The following questions ask what you know about options for protecting your property from natural hazard events.

***18. When you moved into your home, did you consider the impact a natural hazard event could have on your home?**

- Yes No Not sure

***19. Was the presence of a natural hazard risk zone (for example, dam failure zone or flood zone) disclosed to you by a real estate agent, seller or landlord before you purchased or moved into your home?**

- Yes Not sure
 No Not applicable

***20. Would the disclosure of this type of natural hazard event risk information influence your decision to buy or rent a home?**

- Yes No Not sure

21. If you own a home, how much money would you be willing to invest to make changes to your home to better protect your family and your property from impacts associated with natural hazard events? (For example, by elevating a home above the flood level, adding fire suppression automatic sprinklers or performing seismic upgrades.)

- \$10,000 or above Nothing
 \$5,000 to \$9,999 Not sure
 \$1,000 to \$4,999 Not applicable
 Less than \$1,000

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22. If you own your home, which of the following incentives would encourage you to spend money to make changes to your home to protect it against natural hazard events? (Check all that apply.)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance premium discount | <input type="checkbox"/> Building permit fee waiver |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mortgage discount | <input type="checkbox"/> Property tax break or incentive |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Low interest rate loan | <input type="checkbox"/> All |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grant funding that requires "cost share" | <input type="checkbox"/> None |
| <input type="checkbox"/> "Rebate" program | <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

23. If your property is located in a designated hazard zone or has received repetitive damages from natural hazard events, would you consider a "buyout" (the purchase of your home) offered by a public agency?

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> Not sure |
| <input type="radio"/> No | <input type="radio"/> Not applicable |

24. How supportive are you of the regulation of land uses within known hazard zones?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Very supportive | <input type="radio"/> Adamantly oppose |
| <input type="radio"/> Somewhat supportive | <input type="radio"/> Do not care |
| <input type="radio"/> Not very supportive | |

25. Who do you think has the primary responsibility for helping people during the first 12 hours after a major natural hazard event?

- Federal government (for example, FEMA or Department of Homeland Security)
- State government (for example, IEMA or Illinois National Guard)
- Local government (for example, city or county)
- The people in the area affected (for example, myself or my neighbors)
- Other (please specify)

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26. What types of projects do you believe the municipal, county, state or federal agencies should be doing in order to reduce damage and disruption from natural hazard events within Cook County? (Please rank each option as a high, medium or low priority.)

	High	Medium	Low
Modify and strengthen essential facilities such as police, fire, schools and hospitals.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Modify infrastructure such as roads, bridges, drainage facilities, dams/levees, water supply, wastewater and power supply facilities.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fund large projects such as dams, levees, flood walls, drainage improvements and bank stabilization projects.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Strengthen building and land use codes and regulations in natural hazard zones.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Purchase vulnerable properties in danger of repetitive damage and maintain as open space.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assist owners of vulnerable properties with securing funding for mitigation projects.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provide better public information about risk and the exposure to natural hazard events within Cook County.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Implement projects that restore the natural environment's capacity to absorb the impacts from natural hazard events.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Implement projects that address the potential impacts from climate change.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

27. Please indicate how you feel about the following statement:

It is the responsibility of government (local, state or federal) to provide education and programs that promote citizen actions that will reduce exposure to the risks associated with natural hazard events.

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Choose one:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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28. Please indicate how you feel about the following statement:

It is my responsibility to educate myself and take actions that will reduce my exposure to the risks associated with natural hazard events.

Strongly agree Somewhat agree Neither agree nor disagree Somewhat disagree Strongly disagree

Choose one:

29. Please indicate how you feel about the following statement:

Information about the risks associated with natural hazard events is readily available and easy to locate.

Strongly agree Somewhat agree Neither agree nor disagree Somewhat disagree Strongly disagree

Choose one:

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36. Do you have access to the internet or "world wide web"?

- Yes
- No

37. How much is your annual gross household income?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> \$20,000 or less | <input type="radio"/> \$75,000 to \$99,999 |
| <input type="radio"/> \$20,001 to \$49,999 | <input type="radio"/> \$100,000 or more |
| <input type="radio"/> \$50,000 to \$74,999 | <input type="radio"/> Not Sure |

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5. Comments (Optional)

If you have additional information you would like to share about your knowledge and experience regarding local natural hazard events in Cook County, we invite you to provide that information below. This survey and your comments are completely confidential.

Thank you for your time and feedback.

38. Comments

