



MONMOUTH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

300 Halls Mill Road, Freehold New Jersey 07728
732-431-7400 FAX 732-409-7532

Shaun Golden
Sheriff

www.monmouthsheriff.org

Michael Oppegaard, CEM
Coordinator

June 29, 2012

Re: Monmouth County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Dear Municipal Official

Monmouth County has recently received grant funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to prepare the first update of our 2009 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Updates are mandatory on a five year cycle following FEMA approval in order to comply with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and maintain eligibility to apply for certain types of federal disaster mitigation project funding (under such programs as the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program). As you probably remember from our earlier multi-jurisdictional planning meetings when the initial plan was prepared, in order to be compliant with the DMA 2000, a community must either: (a) prepare its own hazard mitigation plan, or (b) participate in a "multi-jurisdictional" plan development process.

Monmouth County has again elected to use its grant funding to lead the effort for a 'multi-jurisdictional' plan update. We are writing to you today to invite you to participate with us in this important endeavor as we continue to work toward becoming a more sustainable and disaster-resistant county. Municipalities are by no means required to participate. However, some advantages to participating in a multi-jurisdictional plan update process include:

- All jurisdictions who participate in the process will maintain compliance with DMA 2000 once FEMA approves the final updated plan and the jurisdiction's local governing body formally adopts it.
- Multi-jurisdictional planning committees can provide a forum for engaging in partnerships that could provide technical, financial, and/or staff resources in your effort to reduce the effects, and hence the costs, of hazards.
- Smaller jurisdictions can benefit from the additional resources and expertise that collaboration can bring.
- Multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plans are practical for addressing issues best dealt with on a larger scale, which do not recognize political boundaries.
- Multi-jurisdictional planning creates economies of scale and enables pooling of limited resources.

While natural disasters cannot be prevented from occurring, the continued implementation of our hazard mitigation plan over the long-term will gradually, but steadily, lessen the impacts associated with hazard events in our county.

Please advise if your municipality is interested in participating in the plan update or wishes to decline. We have enclosed two formal statements – one indicating a desire to participate and the second indicates a desire to decline. Please complete and return the appropriate form to us no later than July 27, 2012. Note that if your municipality wishes to participate in the update, we have asked that you identify a single

representative and an alternate to represent your jurisdiction on the Core Planning Group. Ideal candidates might be representatives who participated in the initial plan development process or someone from your emergency management office, planning department, public works department, etc. who is familiar with the hazards in your community. Please remember that FEMA will ultimately approve our plan update individually and that your municipality's specific involvement and direct participation will be required to receive FEMA's approval for your municipality and continued compliance with DMA 2000.

For participating jurisdictions, please be prepared to attend a Kickoff Meeting for the project on Tuesday, July 31, 2012 at either 2:00 pm or 7:00 pm (attend one) at the Monmouth County Fire Academy, Rt. 33, Howell, NJ 07731.

We look forward to your participation with us in this very important plan update. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Margaret Murnane-Brooks, Deputy Coordinator at 732-431-7400.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael E. Oppegard', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael E. Oppegard, Coordinator, CEM
Monmouth County Sheriff's Office
Office of Emergency Management

Enclosures:

Fact Sheet
Statements of Authority