

APPENDIX F

PRESS RELEASES ISSUED BY MONMOUTH COUNTY



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Monmouth County towns preparing for next natural hazard *Federal emergency management grant jumpstarts initiative*

FREEHOLD – The Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders has begun developing a comprehensive all-natural hazards-mitigation plan for the county and its 53 municipalities.

"We have 100 percent participation from all 53 municipalities, so I am confident that this process will move forward because there is so much at stake," said Gary McTighe, acting coordinator of Monmouth County Office of Emergency Management.

The primary natural hazard in Monmouth County is flooding, but other potential hazards such as drought, extreme cold, extreme heat, snow, ice, hail, windstorms and tornadoes will be included in the planning process.

The vulnerability to various natural hazards will be determined based on existing and future buildings, infrastructure and critical facilities that might be impacted. Critical facilities include shelters and hospitals; infrastructure includes power-generation facilities, water utilities, roadways, railroads and communication systems.

The completed plan will include a risk assessment and a hazard-mitigation strategy that will identify county and local projects that can reduce damage from future natural hazards.

"The goal is to reduce the potential damages caused by natural hazards before the next one hits Monmouth County," said Freeholder Director William C. Barham, liaison to the county's Office of Emergency Management. "This project will provide a detailed plan and action items that will address a variety of potential hazards that could affect some or all of our citizens. What we do today will protect us tomorrow."

(more)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) awarded the County a multi-jurisdictional All Natural Hazards Mitigation grant in the amount of \$345,375 in late 2006. The County has contracted with URS Corporation of Wayne for the full grant amount to develop the county's hazards mitigation plan in accordance with state and federal standards. The county and its municipalities will contribute an additional \$115,125 of in-kind staff services, bringing the project total to \$460,500.

The creation of this plan will allow the county and its participating municipalities to be eligible for future mitigation funding from FEMA.

The risk assessment will include four phases:

1. identify hazards that may impact the county and its municipalities;
2. profile the relevant hazards and their potential consequences;
3. identify assets that are subject to losses or damage, including physical structures, functions and populations; and
4. estimate the potential losses that could result from each type of hazard.

Following the risk assessment, the county will develop a hazard mitigation strategy. The strategy will include the identification of hazard mitigation goals as well as a prioritized list of actions designed to reduce losses.

A series of public meetings will be part of the plan development process, both to solicit public comment and to present the draft plan to residents and local officials. Information about the All Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan will be posted on the County's Web site at www.visitmonmouth.com under the Emergency Management link.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 30, 2007

Input from residents sought to create hazards plan

Online citizen survey for All Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan under way

FREEHOLD – Has your home ever flooded? Or, have you been affected by any other type of natural disaster? The Monmouth County Office of Emergency Management wants to know your personal experience with natural disasters such as flooding, erosion and other weather-related events.

A Natural Hazards Mitigation questionnaire has been posted at www.visitmonmouth.com as a way of collecting this information from residents. The 15-question survey takes about five minutes to complete online. County residents also may request that a survey be mailed to them by calling the Office of Emergency Management at (732) 431-7400.

The results of the questionnaire will be used to develop a comprehensive all-natural hazards-mitigation plan for the county and its 53 municipalities. The completed plan will include a risk assessment and a hazard-mitigation strategy that includes projects that can reduce damages from future natural hazards.

"We are asking residents for their input – their information is critical to the development of a meaningful plan. We need to work together to reduce the potential damages caused by natural hazards before the next one hits us," said Freeholder Director William C. Barham, liaison to the county's Office of Emergency Management. "This questionnaire asks some basic questions that should provide an improved description of recent and potential natural hazard conditions within Monmouth County."

Background information about the plan is now on the county's Web site. While the primary natural hazard in Monmouth County is flooding, other potential hazards such as drought, extreme cold, extreme heat, snow, ice, hail, windstorms and tornadoes will be included in the planning process.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) awarded the County a multi-jurisdictional All Natural Hazards Mitigation grant in the amount of \$345,375 in late 2006. The County has contracted with URS Corporation of Wayne in July 2007 for the full grant amount to develop the county's hazards mitigation plan in accordance with state and federal standards. The county and its municipalities will contribute an additional \$115,125 of in-kind staff services, bringing the project total to \$460,500.



For Immediate Release:
February 29 2008

County makes progress on hazards mitigation plan *Public meeting March 10 to review risk assessment*

FREEHOLD – Monmouth County is moving forward with the next phase of its All Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan, and will be discussing the preliminary risk assessment portion of the plan at 7 p.m. on March 10 in the Monmouth County Agriculture Building, 4000 Kozloski Rd.

"The goal is to reduce the potential damages caused by natural hazards before the next one hits Monmouth County," said Freeholder William C. Barham, liaison to the county's Office of Emergency Management. "The analysis and dialogue that will come out of this process will move us toward an effective, detailed plan with action items. What we do today will protect us tomorrow."

The meeting will consist of an informal working session with a question and answer session.

The Risk Assessment summarizes the identification and profiling of natural hazards, identification and characterization of assets, and assessment of vulnerabilities, as well as types of mitigation alternatives that can be considered for reducing damages associated with the identified hazards. A copy of the section is available on the Monmouth County Web site at www.visitmonmouth.com under the Emergency Management link.

The primary natural hazard in Monmouth County is flooding, but other potential hazards such as drought, extreme cold, extreme heat, snow, ice, hail, windstorms and tornadoes will be included in the planning process. The county began developing a comprehensive all-natural hazards-mitigation plan for the county and its 53 municipalities in 2007.

For more information, please contact Margaret Murnane of the Monmouth County Office of Emergency Management at 732-577-5798.

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