



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Reducing Damages Caused by Severe Weather Events

Watseka, IL (July 29, 2024) — Identifying projects and activities that can protect Iroquois County residents, property, and critical infrastructure from natural hazards while maintaining vital services when severe weather hits will be discussed when the Iroquois County Natural Hazards Mitigation Planning Committee meets at the MABAS 37 Building, 103½ Main St., Crescent City (behind Ailey’s Welding Shop), at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 15.

“Severe weather frequently damages buildings, crops, roads, and other critical infrastructure in this area. Since 1990, the County has been a part of nine emergency and major federal disaster declarations. In addition, there has been at least \$29 million in verified property damages caused by natural hazard events in the County,” said Iroquois County Emergency Management Agency Coordinator, Scott Anderson. “Identifying preventative steps that can be taken to reduce the dollar damages as well as protect public health before a natural hazard event occurs is the goal of this planning process.”

This Committee began work in January 2024 to update the County’s Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. Committee meetings are open to the public.

“Other emergency plans are directed at responding after a storm or disaster strikes. With this Plan, we will identify actions that can be taken to reduce damages caused by natural hazards for each participating jurisdiction before they occur. This Plan also helps assure each participating jurisdiction is eligible to receive federal grant money for mitigation projects,” added Anderson.

Building community safe rooms, acquiring flood prone properties, resolving drainage issues, retrofitting critical infrastructure to better withstand hazard events, installing back-up power supplies, and developing public information materials are a few of the more frequently encountered mitigation projects in Illinois.

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