



Emergency Preparedness Pointer

ADA COUNTY EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT

February 2016

Reducing Risk Requires Everyone

People today don't think much about putting on a seatbelt when they get in a vehicle; it is just what they do. But it was not always that way. It took well documented research and public outreach to convince people that wearing a seatbelt would greatly reduce the risk of injury or death in an accident. Eventually the practice became law in all fifty states. The process of identifying a hazard, developing measures to reduce the effects or eliminate the hazard and then implementing those measures is called mitigation. Seatbelts are an example of how a physical aspect (the seatbelt), a policy aspect (seatbelt law) and an educational element (public outreach) were implemented to achieve the goal of risk reduction. Currently, local jurisdictions and taxing districts are updating the Ada County Hazard Mitigation Plan (AHMP) which uses a similar type of process to address the natural hazards of our area.

The First Step

The first step is hazard analysis. The AHMP update will specifically assess and address the following seven natural hazards and one technical hazard.

Earthquake

Severe Weather

Landslide

Flood

Drought

Dam Failure (technical hazard)

Wildfire

Volcanic Ash Fall

A vital part of this analysis is gathering information from the public. Public input will help each planning partner rank the risks to their jurisdiction and develop mitigation activities to reduce or eliminate the effects of the hazards. There is a quick online survey that will help characterize the public's level of preparedness and view of risk. Please complete the survey at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/adacountyhmp>

Participate In The Process

The AHMP update is guided by a Steering Committee composed of government and private sector representatives. Together they established the goals and objectives for the plan. The committee meetings are open to the public and the dates, times and locations are all posted on the Mitigation webpage located at:

<https://adacounty.id.gov/accem/Mitigation>

Information on future meetings and public outreach events are also there along with meeting summaries and progress reports of the current AHMP written in 2011. About mid-summer of this year, the draft 2016 AHMP update will be posted on the site for public review and comment.

The Plan

The AHMP provides a platform for the community to examine the natural hazards of concern and identify methodologies and strategies to remove or reduce risk to life and property within the region. It promotes participation by all eligible jurisdictions and encourages joint projects across jurisdictions to maximize benefit to the community. It is composed of two volumes. The first volume contains information on the planning process, general hazard profiles, a county-wide risk ranking and a county-wide mitigation strategy. Volume two contains profiles, capability assessments, risk rankings and specific action plans for each planning partner. The action plans will include mitigation activities such as improved zoning/building codes (policy), larger culverts under streets (physical project) and targeted methods of community education (outreach). Public review of these suggested activities could help improve the initiatives before the plan is finalized. Take part in this process, together we can create a more resilient community.

