



## FAIRFIELD COUNTY MITIGATION PROGRAM Information Sheet

This page has been developed in order to provide the citizens of Fairfield County an opportunity to learn what “Mitigation” is all about and why a County Mitigation Program is necessary. This sheet will outline the purpose of mitigation planning and what the benefits are for the citizens of Fairfield County.

Definition: Webster describes *mitigation* as “to make or become less severe, less painful, etc.”

When developing the mitigation plan the planners will take into consideration such things as:

- What are the hazards that could affect the jurisdictions and the citizens of the county?
- What were the results and costs of past disasters, i.e., damages to homes, businesses, public property (buildings, roads, bridges, parks, etc.), utilities, non-profit organizations, etc.

The mitigation program will:

- Assess flood risks and identify problem areas within the county and attempt to develop plans to reduce the risks.
- Consider reduction of flood damage and losses to homes by elevating, acquiring, and the demolishing or relocation of homes in repetitive flood areas.
- Consider flood control measures to drainage ditches, roads, culverts, bridges.
- Consider need for tornado protection and warning, protective public shelters, assisting the public with “safe room” information, etc.
- Work to provide public warning systems and devices such as tornado warning sirens, weather warning radios for schools and other public places.

Issues important to our communities:

- Fairfield County currently has a federally approved Mitigation Plan for the County. The plan dated October 7, 2003 will expire in November of 2010.
- Without a federally approved plan Fairfield County would not be eligible for federal mitigation funds in the event of a disaster or to participate in a mitigation grant program.
- Jurisdictions that do not participate in the County Plan will not be eligible for mitigation funds if needed.

Public Involvement in the Planning Process:

- The citizens of the county will be kept informed of the planning process and invited to add their comments and recommendations to the planning committee.
- To accomplish this, the County EMA office will post information on our web page, provide a comment form that can be used to allow the public to present their comments. The instructions will request that the citizen provide the completed forms to their city, village or township using the appropriate address provided on the web page. (**[www.fairfieldema.com](http://www.fairfieldema.com)**)
- Public access to the planning meetings will be permitted and the meeting minutes and progress reports will be posted on the web page.

### Mission

To establish, coordinate and sustain partnerships throughout Fairfield County, united in efforts to prepare for emergencies and to minimize loss of life and property and help the community to return to normalcy when they occur.

