



## **JO DAVIESS COUNTY BOARD**

**330 North Bench Street  
GALENA, ILLINOIS 61036**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Projects to Reduce Damages Caused By Natural Disasters**

Galena, IL (January 20, 2020)— Projects to prevent injuries and fatalities while maintaining vital services for Jo Daviess County residents during severe storms will be the main topic of discussion at the Jo Daviess County All Hazards Mitigation Planning Committee meeting on Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 1 P.M. The meeting will be held at the Crossroads Community Church, 900 Galena Square Drive, in Galena and is open to the public.

This Committee began work in October 2019 to update the County's Plan. This All Hazards Mitigation Plan will identify projects and activities to protect Jo Daviess County residents and property from storms and other natural disasters. Unlike all other emergency plans, this Plan is aimed at identifying projects and activities that can be taken before these disasters occur.

“Severe storms frequently damage buildings, crops, roads, and other critical infrastructure in this area. At least \$32.2 million in verified damages have resulted from just 97 severe weather and natural hazard events. It's highly likely that there were additional damages that weren't documented. Consequently we are seeking to identify preventative steps that can reduce the dollar damages as well as protecting public health before severe weather strikes,” according to Charles Pedersen, Jo Daviess County Emergency Management Agency Manager.

The municipalities of Apple River, East Dubuque, Elizabeth, Galena, Hanover, Scales Mound, Stockton, Warren, in addition to the County, The Galena Territory, Apple Canyon Lake and the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation have been participating in the planning process.

Resolving drainage problems, providing back-up power supplies, building storm shelters, retrofitting water supplies and other critical facilities to better withstand natural disasters are a few of the more frequently encountered mitigation projects in Illinois. Developing public information materials and conducting drainage studies are examples of other activities that might also be included in the All Hazards Mitigation Plan.

**Scott Toot**  
County Board Chair

**Steve Allendorf**  
Vice-Chair

**Dan Reimer**  
County Administrator



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“A public forum will be conducted later this Spring for interested persons to review the Plan update and ask questions of Committee Members. A public comment period will be established to accommodate interested persons who are unable to attend the forum. We want to make sure that anybody who is interested has an opportunity to review and comment on the draft Plan update,” added Pedersen.

Interested persons can submit questions and comments to the Committee members or directly to the Jo Daviess County Emergency Management Agency.

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