



# *County of Kankakee*

## *Planning Department*

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### **Projects to Reduce Damages Caused by Natural Hazards**

Kankakee, IL (October 26, 2022) — Identifying projects and activities that can protect Kankakee County residents and property from natural hazards while maintaining vital services when severe weather hits will be discussed at the Kankakee County Natural Hazards Mitigation Advisory Task Force meeting on Wednesday, November 2, 9 a.m., at the Kankakee County Administration Building, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor County Board Room, 189 E. Court Street.

“Severe weather frequently damages buildings, crops, roads, and other critical infrastructure in this area. Since 1973, the County has been a part of seven federal disaster declarations. In addition, there have been at least six fatalities, 87 injuries, and \$42.7 million in verified property damages caused by natural hazard events in the County. 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,” said Delbert Skimerhorn, Kankakee County Director of Planning.

This Committee began work in May 2022 to update the County’s Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan.

“Other emergency plans are directed at responding after a storm or natural 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 Skimerhorn.

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

Task Force meetings are open to the public. Those who wish to attend the meeting may do so in person or virtually. Persons interested in participating in the meeting virtually should contact Ken Runkle, American Environmental Corporation, at 217-585-9517, ext. 8, or [krunkle@aecspfld.com](mailto:krunkle@aecspfld.com).