

BENTON COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING SURVEY

We need your help!

Benton County and all the cities in the County are in the process of revising the county's Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazard Mitigation Plan. The purpose of this plan is to identify and assess our disaster risks and determine how to best minimize or manage those risks. Upon completion, the revised plan will be presented to the Benton County Board of Supervisors and the City Council of each community for adoption and then submitted to Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for review and approval. This process was started in January 2015 and is estimated to take 13 months.

What we really need for the plan in order to meet FEMA requirements is citizen input. Meetings will be held periodically in the county regarding the plan and the planning process. Notices will be posted around Benton County and in Benton County newspapers. However, we realize that many citizens with valuable input either cannot or do not wish to participate in the meetings. Therefore, we have developed a survey for you to complete that will help us secure the information we need.

Please take the time to complete the attached survey and return it to your city clerk, Benton County EMA, or the address at the end of the form. And PLEASE be certain to provide the documentation we ask for at the bottom of this letterhead. This documentation is necessary for us to meet the FEMA requirements for an approved plan. By noting the time it takes you to complete this survey it also helps us meet FEMA's requirements for volunteer in kind match that is necessary for the grant Benton County received for this project. The monetary rate that was used for the in-kind match is the standard rate for planning services established at \$27.60 per hour."

This survey questionnaire provides an opportunity for you to share your opinions and participate in the mitigation planning process. The information you provide will help us better understand your hazard concerns and identify area policies and projects that can help lessen the impact of future hazard events.

Please help us by completing this survey and returning it to:

Atkins City Hall

Your Name: _____

Organization _____ (If no organization just state private citizen)

Organization or personal address _____

Date _____

Time spent on survey _____ **Signature** _____

What community do you live in?

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unincorporated (rural)
Benton County | <input type="checkbox"/> Mt. Auburn |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Atkins | <input type="checkbox"/> Newhall |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Belle Plaine | <input type="checkbox"/> Norway |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blirstown | <input type="checkbox"/> Shellsburg |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garrison | <input type="checkbox"/> Urbana |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Keystone | <input type="checkbox"/> Van Horne |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luzerne | <input type="checkbox"/> Vinton |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Walford |

2. Have you every experienced or been impacted by a disaster?

Yes (please explain): _____

No

3. How concerned are you about the possibility of your community being impacted by a disaster?

- Extremely concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Not concerned

4. Please select the hazard you think is the HIGHEST threat to your neighborhood:

Natural Disasters

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blizzards/Ice
Storms/Winter Storms | <input type="checkbox"/> Flooding (Flash) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dam Failure | <input type="checkbox"/> High Wind |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drought | <input type="checkbox"/> Hail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Earthquake | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Subsidence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extreme Cold | <input type="checkbox"/> Landslide |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extreme Heat | <input type="checkbox"/> Lightning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flooding (Riverine) | <input type="checkbox"/> Tornadoes |

Other Hazards

- Animal Feeding Operations
- Fire
- Hazardous Materials
- Terrorism
- Transportation Hazards
- Other (please explain): _____

5. Please select the hazard you think is the second highest threat to your neighborhood:

Natural Hazards

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blizzards/Ice Storms/Winter Storms | <input type="checkbox"/> Flooding (Flash) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dam Failure | <input type="checkbox"/> High Wind |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drought | <input type="checkbox"/> Hail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Earthquake | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Subsidence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extreme Cold | <input type="checkbox"/> Landslide |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extreme Heat | <input type="checkbox"/> Lightening |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flooding (Riverine) | <input type="checkbox"/> Tornadoes |

Other Hazards

- Animal Feeding Operations
- Fire
- Hazardous Materials
- Terrorism
- Transportation Hazards
- Other (please explain): _____

6. Is there a hazard not listed in this survey that you think is a threat to your neighborhood?

- Yes (please explain) _____

- No

7. Is your home located in a floodplain?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

8. Do you have flood insurance?

- I don't know
- Yes
- No
- If "NO," why not:
 - Not located in a floodplain
 - Too expensive
 - Not necessary because it never floods
 - Not necessary because I'm elevated
 - Never considered it
 - Other: _____

9. Have you taken any actions to make your home or neighborhood more resistant to hazards?

- Yes
- No

If "YES," please explain:

10. Are you interested in making your home or neighborhood more resistant to hazards?

- Yes
- No

11. What is the most effective way for you to receive information about how to make your home and neighborhood more resistant to hazards?

- Newspaper
- Television
- Radio
- Internet
- Mail
- Public Workshops/meetings
- Other: _____

12. In your opinion, what are some steps your local government could take to reduce or eliminate risk of future hazard damages in your neighborhood?

13. What are other issues regarding the reduction of risk and loss associated with hazards or disasters in the community you think are important?

14. In general, community-wide activities that can reduce risk from hazards fall into one of the following six categories. How important do you think each one is for your community?

Category	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
1. <u>Prevention</u> : Administrative or regulatory actions that influence the way land is developed and buildings are built. Examples include planning/zoning, building codes, open space preservation, and floodplain regulations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. <u>Property Protection</u> : Actions involve modifying existing buildings to protect them from a hazard or removing them from the hazard area. Examples include: elevation, floodproofing, and using fire resistant building materials.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. <u>Natural Resource Protection</u> : Actions that minimize hazard losses and preserve or restore natural resources. Examples include: floodplain protection, habitat preservation, slope stabilization, forest management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. <u>Structural Projects</u> : Actions intended to reduce the impact of a hazard by modifying the natural progression of the hazard. Examples include: dams, levees, detention/retention basins, and storm sewers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. <u>Emergency Services</u> : Actions that protect people and property during and immediately after a hazard event. Examples include: warning systems, evacuation planning, emergency response training, and protection of critical emergency facilities or systems.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. <u>Public Education and Awareness</u> : Actions to inform citizens about hazards and the ways they protect themselves and their property. Examples include: outreach projects, school education, and library materials.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Return form to Steve Meyer Consulting LLC, PO Box 247, Garrison, IA 52229.