

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **For Immediate Release**

**Media Release Date:** January 5, 2007

**Contact:** Zach Bishton, Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. (317) 266-8000

## **How Do Tornadoes, Floods and Severe Winter Storms Affect You?**

**Hammond, IN** (January 5, 2007) – The City of Hammond is preparing a Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, and your input is very important to the planning process.

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) requires communities to prepare a Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan in order to be eligible for any future mitigation funding through the State and Federal Emergency Management Agencies. The intent of this planning process is to plan for a disaster before it occurs in order to reduce the physical, social, and economic impact of that disaster.

The City of Hammond and Lake County have had their share of natural disasters in the past. Flooding events have resulted in over \$6 million in property and crop damages since 1993. Additionally, numerous tornado events have caused approximately \$4.1 million in property and crop damages and 23 injuries in Lake County since 1951. Other events such as thunderstorms and high winds, severe winter storms, and hazardous materials incidents also have the potential to cause wide spread physical, social, and economic damage to people and property within the City of Hammond. These are just some of the potential hazard threats to the City of Hammond.

The Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee would like your input regarding natural hazards in the City of Hammond. Information about your experience with earthquakes, extreme temperatures, flooding, hazardous materials incidents, levee failure, severe winter storms, thunderstorms and high winds, and tornado events would be particularly helpful.

Please respond to the following questions and send your response to Becky McKinley, Hammond Sanitary District GIS Manager, 5143 Columbia Avenue, Hammond, Indiana, 46327 or by email at [bmckinley@hammondsd.com](mailto:bmckinley@hammondsd.com).

1. While in the City of Hammond, have you ever experienced an earthquake, extreme temperature, flooding, levee failure, hazardous material, severe winter storm, thunderstorm and high wind, or tornado event? Please identify all that apply; include dates and specific locations when possible.
2. Did your experience result in a personal or financial loss? If so, to what extent was the damage?
3. Of the hazards mentioned in question 1, please indicate all hazards that you feel could occur in the City of Hammond in the near future.
4. Please feel free to include any further comments you have regarding local hazards in the City of Hammond.
5. Do you feel that your household is prepared (own a weather radio, have a safe spot in your home, know the locations of temporary shelter, etc) in the event of a local hazard such as a severe winter storm, tornado, or flood? How so?

The City will host a public meeting in the spring of 2007 to present the draft-version of the Hammond Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan to the public and gather additional public input. The meeting date and time has not been determined but will be widely published in the near future.

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# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **For Immediate Release**

**Media Release Date:** June 1, 2007

**Contact:** Zach Bishton, Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. (317) 266-8000

## **Public Presentation of the City of Hammond Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Scheduled for 7:00 pm, Wednesday, June 13, 2007**

**Hammond, IN** (June 1, 2007) – The City of Hammond has prepared a Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan to address the risk and vulnerabilities associated with such hazards as flooding, tornado, high winds, and severe winter storms.

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) requires communities to prepare a Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan in order to be eligible for any future mitigation funding through the State and Federal Emergency Management Agencies. The intent of this planning process is to plan for a disaster before it occurs in order to reduce the physical, social, and economical impact of that disaster.

The draft City of Hammond Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan will be presented at a public meeting on Wednesday, June 13, at 7:00 pm at the Lost Marsh Golf Course in the Youth Clubhouse (901 E. 129<sup>th</sup> Street). Topics covered during this public presentation will include: an overview of the planning requirements; a summary of the risk assessment and vulnerability analysis; and proposed mitigation projects for prevention, property protection, natural resource protection, emergency services, structural control projects, and public information.

The draft City of Hammond Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan is available for review at the Hammond Public Library (564 State Street) and on-line at [www.gohammond.com](http://www.gohammond.com).

Everyone is encouraged to attend and participate in this informational session.

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## Hammond, Dyer ready for disaster

([http://www.post-trib.com/news/421049\\_hazzard.article](http://www.post-trib.com/news/421049_hazzard.article))

June 9, 2007

Post-Tribune staff report

Hammond and Dyer have prepared a plan to address the risks associated with flooding, tornado, high winds and severe winter storms.

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires communities to prepare the plan to be eligible for funding through the State and Federal Emergency Management Agencies.

The draft plan will be presented at 7 p.m. Wednesday in Dyer Town Hall, and in Hammond at Lost Marsh Golf Course Youth Clubhouse, 901 E. 129th St.

The plan for Hammond can be reviewed at the Hammond Public Library, 564 State St., and [www.gohammond.com](http://www.gohammond.com).



Date posted online: Thursday, June 07, 2007

## Public forum to discuss disaster plan

Times Staff Report

HAMMOND | A public forum has been scheduled for city residents to consider the city's emergency preparedness plan.

Residents are encouraged to attend the forum, which will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Youth Clubhouse at the Lost Marsh Golf Course, 901 E. 129th St.

The plan addresses the risks associated with potential hazards, such as flooding, tornado, high winds and severe winter storms.

Topics include planning requirements, risk assessment, vulnerability analysis and proposals for mitigation projects.

A draft of the Hammond Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan can be previewed at the Hammond Public Library, 564 State St., and online at the city's Web site, [www.gohammond.com](http://www.gohammond.com).

## Hazard Plan TV Coverage



Footage provided by: [Lakeshore Public Television](#)

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**Date posted online: Friday, June 15, 2007**

## **Hammond, Dyer thinking ahead**

### **Disaster plans open door to funding, lower insurance rates**

BY SUSAN BROWN

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HAMMOND | An exhaustive two-year study leading to the city's proposed multihazard mitigation plan has identified flooding and hazardous leaks as the top two risks the city faces.

Tied for third were thunderstorms/high winds and extreme temperatures.

Presented in a public meeting Wednesday at the Lost Marsh Youth Clubhouse, the development of a multihazard plan a requirement of the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000.

The intent is to plan for disasters, such as September's massive flooding in six Lake County communities, before they occur so the physical, social and economical impact may be reduced.

Communities must prepare such a plan to be eligible for mitigation funding through state and federal emergency management agencies. Participation also earns points toward the National Flood Insurance Program Community Ratings System, which can result in lower flood insurance premiums.

The city of Hammond and town of Dyer are the only two communities in Lake County with a plan in process, according to Cat Langel, spokesperson for FEMA's Region V office in Chicago.

Langel said communities can develop their own plans as well as join in countywide plan if one exists. LaPorte County has a plan, but FEMA shows no countywide plans, either submitted or in development, for either Lake or Porter counties, she said.

Being without a mitigation plan can be like a "driver driving without insurance," according to Sheila McKinley of Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LTD., the Indianapolis firm hired by Hammond to oversee the process.

McKinley said flooding is the most common, widespread natural hazard with the National Climatic Data Center recording 16 significant events in Lake County since 1993.

On Sept. 13, 2006, four to eight inches of rain fell on the city of Hammond in five hours, McKinley said.

"Residents were stranded in Dowling Park, and I-80/94 exit ramps were impassable," she said.

Some 1,000 residents across the city reported basement backups.

The study revealed there are 11,020 structures within the city's flood hazard area and 13 are considered critical facilities, such as hospitals and schools.

While the levee project associated with the Little Calumet River Flood Control and Recreation project is estimated to reduce flooding potential in Hammond by 96 to 99 percent, the report shows flooding risks will still exist, in part due to inadequate drainage in some areas of the city.