

# **Kankakee County Natural Hazards Mitigation Planning PRESS RELEASE**

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**DATE:** June 5, 2013

**TO:** All media

**FROM:** Michael Van Mill, CEcD, AICP, Planning Director

**SUBJECT:** Press Release for Kankakee County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update – Notice and Opportunity for Public Comment

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## ***For Immediate Release***

### **Kankakee County seeks additional public input on update to Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan**

(Kankakee County, IL) – The County of Kankakee is currently in the process of updating the existing Kankakee County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. With re-adoption of the plan, Kankakee County and its municipalities will maintain their eligibility to apply for federal funding towards natural hazard mitigation projects. This local planning process includes a wide range of representatives from city and county government and emergency management personnel.

A natural hazards mitigation plan provides communities with a set of goals, action items, and resources designed to reduce risk from future natural disaster events. Engaging in mitigation activities provides jurisdictions with a number of benefits, including reduced loss of life, property, essential services, critical facilities and economic hardship; reduced short-term and long-term recovery and reconstruction costs; increased cooperation and communication within the community through the planning process; and increased potential for state and federal funding for recovery and reconstruction projects.

To comment on hazard mitigation planning in Kankakee County, please visit <http://planning.k3county.net/>. A survey is available on the website for citizens to provide information about their natural hazard experiences in Kankakee County. This information will be utilized in the updating of the plan. The survey will be available until July 5, 2013.

A draft version of the updated Kankakee County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan will be available for formal public comment during the month of July 2013. Copies of the plan will be available on the Planning Department's websites.

If you have any questions regarding the Kankakee County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan or the update process in general, please contact: Delbert Skimerhorn, Planner, at (815) 937-2940 or [Dskimerhorn@k3county.net](mailto:Dskimerhorn@k3county.net).