



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE CORRECTION (from Jan 17 to Jan 31)

Contact: Reema Abi-Akar
309-673-9330

Tri-County Area Prepares for Natural Disasters

Peoria, IL (January 6, 2023) — Tazewell and Woodford Counties will update their plan to reduce the damages caused by severe weather such as floods, snow and ice storms, thunderstorms, and tornados, among other events. The plan is called a Hazard Mitigation Plan, and the process to update it will be funded through a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

“The plan describes the natural hazard events that have impacted the counties and identifies activities and projects to reduce the risk to residents, property, and infrastructure”, said Reema Abi-Akar, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission Planner. “By having an updated hazard mitigation plan, the counties and participating jurisdictions will remain eligible for federal funds to construct these projects.” she added.

The Tri-County Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee will hold its first meeting on Tuesday, **January 31, 2023**, at 1:30 P.M. The meeting will be held at the East Peoria Civic Complex, 401 W. Washington Street, East Peoria. The meeting is open to the public.

The Planning Committee includes representatives from the counties, municipalities, schools, and health care services, as well as technical partners and other stakeholders. Meetings of this committee will be conducted over the next year as working sessions so that any interested residents can attend and ask questions. The purpose of these working sessions is to gather and discuss information that will be used to update the plan.

“This mitigation plan is different from an emergency response plan because it focuses on ways to reduce and prevent damages before they occur,” added Abi-Akar.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX