



MEDIA RELEASE

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Franklin County Emergency Management Agency Awarded Federal Grant for Hazard Mitigation Planning

(BENTON-ILLINOIS) The Franklin County Emergency Management Agency has once again been awarded funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) totaling \$24,996.35 for the purpose of hazard mitigation planning. The funds will be used specifically to update and maintain the Franklin County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Hazard mitigation activities reduce loss of life and property by minimizing the impact of disasters. This begins with state, tribal and local governments identifying natural disaster risks and vulnerabilities that are common in their area. After identifying these risks, they develop long-term strategies and list them in a hazard mitigation plan aimed at protecting people and property from similar future events. Mitigation plans are key to breaking the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction and repeated damage.

Franklin County adopted their first FEMA approved Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2008. The plan was valid for a five year period. In 2014, under the leadership of Director of Emergency Management Ryan M. Buckingham and the Greater Egypt Regional Planning Commission, a community based planning team and contractors from Southern Illinois University worked diligently with area municipalities and other partner agencies to formulate an update to the plan to address natural hazards that endanger lives and property of the citizens and visitors of Franklin County. The grant funds awarded this week will allow local officials to once again come together over the next year to ensure the Franklin County plan remains compliant with federal standards and maintains approval from FEMA.

“Having a FEMA approved hazard mitigation plan allows local communities to apply for and obtain federal funds to complete projects that achieve the strategies for mitigation outlined within the plan”, said Director Ryan M. Buckingham. To date, Franklin County entities have been awarded over 8.2 million dollars in hazard mitigation funds. “Our agency will once again partner with Greater Egypt Regional Planning Commission to strengthen our mitigation plan and position our communities to apply for and hopefully receive as much federal hazard mitigation funding as possible”, added the Director. Officials estimate the planning effort will begin in early 2021.

For more information on Franklin County’s Hazard Mitigation Program you can visit www.franklincountyil.gov/mitigation

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