

Media Release

For Immediate Release

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Earthquakes, Tsunamis, and Flood, Oh My! What local hazard events are you most worried about and what are you doing to get ready?

A coalition of Humboldt County cities and special services districts has embarked on a planning process to update the Humboldt Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan. The members of this Partnership want to know more about the public's perception of risk to specific hazards and their willingness to take and support mitigation action. Local governments need assistance from the citizens of Humboldt County to identify and plan for future natural disasters with an emphasis on identifying projects that will reduce/avoid future loss. To this end, a survey has been set up to gather information that will help coordinate activities and identify projects that will reduce the risk of injury or damage to people and property during future hazard events.

All residents of Humboldt County, including those residing in any one of the seven cities, are invited to fill out the survey! The process is entirely anonymous and should take less than 5 minutes to complete. To take the survey visit: surveymonkey.com/s/HumboldtCohazmit. In addition, Humboldt County's web site has a function called "Open Humboldt" which provides a forum for public comment on current issues. Open Humboldt will also be posing the hazard mitigation planning survey at: co.humboldt.ca.us/openhumboldt/.

Natural disasters can have significant impacts on communities. They can destroy or damage life, property and infrastructure, local economies, and the environment. Exposure to natural hazards is inevitable but, with appropriate mitigation, such occurrences do not have to be disasters. Hazard mitigation is any action taken to permanently eliminate or reduce long-term risks to human life and property from natural hazards. This is an essential element of emergency management, along with preparedness, response, and recovery.

The Humboldt Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan update will focus on the following hazards and will include a risk assessment and identify appropriate mitigation actions for each:

1. Earthquake
2. Flood - including Coastal Flooding, Levee Failure, Sea-level Rise, Sediment Build-up, and Urban Flooding
3. Wildfire - Including Smoke impacts
4. Landslide and other Mass Movement
5. Severe Weather
6. Tsunami
7. Dam Failure
8. Drought

9. Other Hazards of Concern such as Fish Losses, Marine Invasive Species, Oil Spills and more...

A 14-member Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee comprised of representative stakeholders has been formed to guide the hazard plan update process. The Steering Committee helped create the hazard mitigation survey and encourages everyone to fill one out. The Steering Committee also encourages residents to “Save the Date!” for one of two possible community workshops coming up this summer. There will be two public workshops held in July to introduce the public to the finding of the hazard mitigation plan risk assessment. One meeting will take place on the evening of July 10 in Fortuna at the River Lodge and another on the evening of July 11 in Arcata at the Community Center. More details will be provided soon!

This program has a web page where informative documents and links, meeting agendas and minutes, and important announcements are posted. Look for a link to the FEMA Local Hazard Mitigation Program on the Natural Resources Planning home page at: co.humboldt.ca.us/natural-resources.

If you have questions contact Cybelle Immitt of the Humboldt County Public Works, Natural Resources Planning Division at: 707-268-3736 or send an email to: hazardplan@co.humboldt.ca.us.

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