

Polk County, Iowa
PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Polk County Planning Committee Seeks Public Input

Polk County, IA — A planning committee comprised of representatives from Polk County, the incorporated cities and public school districts is currently updating the comprehensive Polk County Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Polk County Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee is seeking public input for the plan update. A summary of the plan update effort underway, as well as a questionnaire to capture public opinion and comments, is available online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PolkCountyHMP> from September 1 to December 16, 2013. Hard copies of the questionnaire will also be available at City Halls and Public Libraries in the County during normal operating hours during this time frame. The purpose of this outreach effort is to provide information to the public on the plan that is being updated as well as gain public input.

The plan update will address a comprehensive list of hazards—ranging from tornadoes and flooding to winter weather and hazardous materials incidents—and will assess the likely impacts of these hazards on communities and school districts in Polk County. This effort will also update current strategies and identify additional strategies to reduce the vulnerability of people and property in the participating jurisdictions from the impacts of hazards as well as maintain eligibility for participating jurisdictions for mitigation funding programs administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Polk County Emergency Management has taken the lead in coordinating the update of this plan under the direction of Emergency Management Director, A.J. Mumm. Mr. Mumm has drawn on the expertise of consultants with AMEC Environment & Infrastructure, Inc., a firm that specializes in hazard mitigation and emergency management.

Feedback from the public will be incorporated into the draft plan, which will be available for public review and comment in early 2014. Upon approval by the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division and FEMA, the plan will be presented to the Polk County Board of Supervisors, City Councils, and School Boards of each participating jurisdiction for formal adoption. For more information on this project, contact the Polk County Emergency Management Agency at 515-286-2107 or via e-mail at emergency.management@polkcountyiowa.gov.