

**SURVEYS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL NOVEMBER 1, 2016**

**SURVEY FOR RESIDENTS OF HERKIMER COUNTY AND ITS MUNICIPALITIES**

**Sponsored by the Herkimer County Hazard Mitigation Working Group**

This questionnaire is designed to assist Herkimer County and its municipalities in the development of the *Herkimer County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan* by identifying public concerns about hazards and to better understand public preferences in reducing risk and loss from natural and other hazards. The Hazard Mitigation Plan will serve as the comprehensive, long-term plan to identify hazards that potentially impact Herkimer County, and develop a strategy to implement effective mitigation actions by focusing resources on the greatest risks and vulnerabilities. Please take a few minutes to complete this questionnaire.

The purpose of the Hazard Mitigation Plan is to:

- Identify the most recent data for floods, severe storms and other types of hazards;
- Become eligible for FEMA mitigation grants to fund measures that reduce the threats posed by floods, severe storms and other hazards to important buildings and infrastructure; and
- Help Herkimer County and its municipalities to identify high risk situations and prioritize mitigation actions.

1. Please provide general demographic information about yourself to better assist us in effectively targeting public information related to hazard mitigation: ***(Information in this section is optional and will be used only to identify demographic groups.)***

Jurisdiction in which you live
How many years have you lived in this jurisdiction?
Age Group (age 18 and over)    ___ 18 - 45    ___ 46 - 65    ___ 66 – 80    ___ 81 or over
Highest Level of Education Completed: ___ Less than 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade    ___ High School    ___ Vocational School    ___ College ___ Graduate/Professional Degree
Do you own or rent your home? ___ Own    ___ Rent
Income range:    ___ <\$10,000/year    ___ \$10,000-\$40,000    ___ \$40,000 – \$60,000    ___ \$60,000 – \$75,000 ___ >\$75,000

2. Within the past five years have you or someone in your household directly experienced a disaster such as an earthquake, severe windstorm, flood, wildfire or other type of disaster?

- \_\_\_ Yes
- \_\_\_ No

If “YES”, what type of disaster(s) did you or someone in your household experience?

\_\_\_\_\_

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3. How concerned are you about the following hazards affecting your community?

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Very Concerned</b>	<b>Somewhat Concerned</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Not Very Concerned</b>	<b>Not Concerned</b>
Avalanche	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drought	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Earthquake	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Epidemic (Animal)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Epidemic (Human)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Extreme Heat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human-Caused (terrorism, civil unrest, cyber attack)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hurricane	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Landslide	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Severe Thunderstorm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Severe Winter Storm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Technological (hazardous materials, utility failure)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tornado	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wildfire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Have you ever previously received information about how to make your home safer from disasters?

If so:

How long ago? \_\_\_\_\_

From whom did you **last** receive information?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> News media                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Elected Official              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Government agency                  | <input type="checkbox"/> American Red Cross            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance agent or company         | <input type="checkbox"/> Other non-profit organization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utility company                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Social media                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> University or research institution | <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neighbor/friend/family member      | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                  |

5. Whom would you **most trust** to provide you with information about how to make your home safer from disasters?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> News media                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Elected Official              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Government agency                  | <input type="checkbox"/> American Red Cross            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance agent or company         | <input type="checkbox"/> Other non-profit organization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utility company                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Social media                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> University or research institution | <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neighbor/friend/family member      | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                  |

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6. What is the most effective way for you to receive information about how to make your household and home safer from natural disasters?

- Newspapers
- Television - \_\_\_News \_\_\_ Ads
- Radio - \_\_\_News \_\_\_ Ads
- Internet –online news
- Email
- Social media

*Other Methods:*

- Schools
- Outdoor advertisement
- Books
- Mail
- Fire Department/Rescue
- Chamber of Commerce
- Employer
- Public meetings/workshops
- Library
- University or research institution
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

7. Prior to receiving this survey, were you aware of your jurisdiction's opportunity to participate in hazard mitigation planning and projects?

- Yes
- No

8. Prior to receiving this survey, were you aware that your jurisdiction must have a Hazard Mitigation Plan, adopted by your jurisdiction's government, in order to be eligible for federal pre- and post-disaster hazard mitigation funds?

- Yes
- No

### **COMMUNITY VULNERABILITIES AND HAZARD MITIGATION STRATEGIES**

In order to assess community risk, we need to understand which community assets may be vulnerable to hazards in the region. Vulnerable assets are those community features, characteristics, or resources that may be impacted by hazards (e.g., populations with functional needs, critical infrastructure, economic components, environmental resources, etc.). The next set of questions focuses on vulnerable assets in your community and your preferred strategies to mitigate risk to those assets.

9. Community assets are features, characteristics, or resources that either make a community unique or allow the community to function. In your opinion, which of the following *categories* are most susceptible to the impacts caused by hazards in your jurisdiction?

***(Please rank the community assets in order of vulnerability, 1 being most vulnerable and 6 being least vulnerable.)***

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<b>Community Assets</b>	<b>Potential Hazard Impact</b>	<b>Order of Vulnerability</b>
<b>Human</b>	Loss of life and/or injuries	_____
<b>Economic</b>	Business closures and/or job losses	_____
<b>Infrastructure</b>	Damage or loss of bridges, utilities, schools, etc.	_____
<b>Cultural/Historic</b>	Damage or loss of libraries, museums, fairgrounds, etc.	_____
<b>Environmental</b>	Damage or loss of forests, rangeland, waterways, etc.	_____
<b>Governance</b>	Ability to maintain order and/or provide public amenities and services	_____

10. Next we would like to know what specific types of community assets are most important to you. **(Check the corresponding box for each asset.)**

<b>Community Assets</b>	<b>Very Important</b>	<b>Somewhat Important</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Not Very Important</b>	<b>Not Important</b>
Elder-care facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools (K-12)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hospitals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Major bridges	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire & Police Stations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Museums/Historic Buildings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Major employers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Small businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
College/University	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
City Hall/Courthouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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11. Hazards can have a significant impact on a community, but planning for these events and taking action prior to a disaster can help lessen the impacts. The following statements will help determine citizen priorities regarding planning for hazards in your county. **Please tell us how important each one is to you.**

<b>Statements</b>	<b>Very Important</b>	<b>Somewhat Important</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Not Very Important</b>	<b>Not Important</b>
Protecting private property	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Protecting critical facilities (e.g., transportation networks, hospitals, fire stations)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Preventing development in hazard areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Enhancing the function of natural features (e.g., streams, wetlands)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Protecting historical and cultural landmarks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Protecting and reducing damage to utilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strengthening emergency services (police, fire, rescue)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disclosing natural hazard risks during real estate transactions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promoting cooperation among public agencies, citizens, non-profit organizations, and businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. Please feel free provide any additional comments related to mitigation in the space below:

**PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR COMPLETED SURVEY IN THE LOCATION INDICATED.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND INTEREST!**