

**Daniel P. Vrakas**  
County Executive



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**County Starts Hazard Mitigation Plan with Municipalities**

Waukesha, WIS. – Waukesha County Executive Dan Vrakas announces the launch of a new hazard mitigation planning process in cooperation with its 37 municipalities to make Waukesha County safer and more resistant to disasters.

Vrakas says, “Hazard mitigation is designed to break the cycle of damage and repair and minimizes recovery efforts when disasters occur. In partnership with each of our municipalities, our comprehensive planning process will identify policies, activities and tools that can be implemented prior to, during or after an incident to ensure that our residents are safe.”

Mitigation actions that are undertaken as part of the plan reduce or eliminate the long term risk to human life and property from hazards. These actions can be as simple as elevating a furnace in a basement that is prone to having water on the floor, or actions can be more extensive in nature, such as relocating buildings out of the floodplain or strengthening critical facilities to prevent wind damage and provide stronger shelter.

Wisconsin incurred disaster related damages totaling nearly \$3 billion in the last three decades, of which almost half of these tragedies occurred in the 1990’s. Like the rest of the state, Waukesha County is vulnerable to a variety of disasters. In an effort to better prepare and manage its vulnerability to them, the County applied for and received a Pre-Disaster Mitigation planning grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency totaling nearly \$64,000. The goal of the grant is to complete a plan for FEMA’s approval that will serve as a roadmap outlining potential cost-effective hazard mitigation activities, some of which may be eligible for future grant funding.

County and municipal elected officials and staff will join with members of the public in a multi-disciplinary workgroup to examine disaster related risks and vulnerabilities within the county, while developing mitigation strategies to reduce future losses.

“The workgroup’s review of initial background information about the county and its assistance in identifying mitigation strategies will be of great value to the county, municipalities, businesses and residents,” announces Emergency Management Coordinator William Stolte. “We are deeply appreciative to receive FEMA’s grant funding for this important process.”

If you would like more information about the process or have interest in providing your input, please contact Waukesha County’s Emergency Management Coordinator William Stolte at (262) 548-7580.

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