

PUBLIC MEETING ON *Vermillion* COUNTY MULTI-HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

The *Vermillion* County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee will host a public information and strategy planning session at 2:00 p.m. and a later on beginning at 6:00 p.m. on 1/29/2014 at *Vermillion County Annex 2nd floor meeting room, located at 6 Vermillion Street, Danville, IL.* Through a grant, *Vermillion* County EMA has formed an alliance with Southern Illinois University-Carbondale (SIUC) and the Polis Center of Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) to identify potential natural hazards and to produce a mitigation plan to address the issues. The ongoing efforts of the partnership will result in a Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (MHMP), which will seek to identify potential natural hazards for *Vermillion* County, and then establish mitigation measures that are intended to reduce or eliminate the negative impact that a particular hazard may have on the locality.

Over the last several months the planning team has been working with staff from the SIUC Department to develop a Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (MHMP) for the county to submit to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for approval.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) now requires each unit of government in the United States to have a FEMA-approved MHMP, so completion of the *Vermillion* County plan is critical. The MHMP's will serve as framework for developing hazard mitigation projects that will reduce the negative impacts of future disasters on the communities and unincorporated areas of the county. Examples of projects that have been completed by some communities include storm shelters, warning sirens, flood walls, and fire protection enhancements.

The planning team has identified the following hazards: *Flooding, Tornado, Thunderstorms, Winter Storms, Hazardous Materials Release, Extreme Drought or Heat, Earthquakes, Fire, and Subsidence.* The planning team then selected hazards for SIUC to model with Hazus-MH, a GIS-based risk mitigation tool developed by FEMA. Hazus-MH is capable of predicting the probable impacts of specific disasters in terms of financial, human life, and safety impacts, as well as various others.

Once the plan is completed, the planning team will submit it to FEMA for approval. The planning team will also work to develop funding for any mitigation activities that are identified.

The public is invited to attend the 1/29/2014 meeting and the planning team is interested in receiving public input on the plan.

For more information about the Multi-Hazard (Pre-Disaster) Mitigation Plan, please see <http://www.state.il.us/iema/planning/planning.htm>