

PRESSRELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Date: April 14, 2005

How Do Tornadoes, Floods and Severe Winter Storms Affect You?

Michigan City, IN (April 14, 2005) - The Michigan City Emergency Management Agency, in cooperation with City of Michigan City and LaPorte County safety officials, is preparing a multi-hazard Mitigation Plan, and your input is very important to the planning process.

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) requires communities to prepare a Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan in order to be eligible for any future mitigation funding through the State and Federal Emergency Management Agencies. The intent of this planning process is to plan for a disaster before it occurs in order to reduce the physical, social and economical impact of that disaster.

Michigan City has had its share of natural disasters in the past. Every year, severe winter and summer storms affect Michigan City. Early March storms of 1998 produced waves estimated as high as 16-20 feet, knocked out power for approximately 138,000 customers, and damaged coastal areas along 45 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline.

The Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee would like your input regarding natural hazards in Michigan City. Information about your experience with severe winter storms, tornado/windstorms, coastal storms, coastal erosion, hailstorms, waterspouts, floods, extreme temperatures, seiches and earthquakes (both of which are extremely rare in our area), would be particularly helpful.

Please respond to the following questions and send your response to John Jones, Director, Michigan City Emergency Management Agency, 100 E. Michigan Blvd., Michigan City, IN 46360, or via email to jjones@emichigancity.com.

1. While in Michigan City, have you ever experienced severe winter storms, tornadoes, windstorms, coastal storms, coastal erosion, hailstorms, waterspouts, floods, extreme temperatures, seiches (weather-induced tsunami) and/or earthquakes? Please identify all that apply; include dates and specific locations when possible.
2. Did your experience result in a personal or financial loss? If so, to what extent was the damage?
3. The FEMA plan requires your input regarding your thoughts and opinions on the likelihood of a severe winter storm, tornado/windstorm, coastal storm, coastal erosion, hailstorm, waterspout, flood, extreme temperature, seiche and/or earthquake occurring in Michigan City in the near future. Please identify all those you believe apply.
4. Please include any other comments you may have regarding local hazards in Michigan City, whether they are weather-related or not.

The Michigan City Emergency Management Agency will host a public meeting in summer 2005 to present the draft-version of the Michigan City Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan to the public and gather additional public input. The meeting date and time has not been determined but will be widely published in the near future.

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