

For Immediate Release

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## **Athens County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update**

*Athens County, Ohio*— Athens County planner Jessie Powers has announced that Athens County is launching an update of the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. The plan process has begun with a public comment survey available to all [here](#).

The current multi-jurisdictional plan was adopted in 2014 and should be updated every 5 years. The plan is being evaluated by Jessie Powers and Bob Eichenberg with the assistance of Donald Gossel Donald Gossel Director of Athens County Emergency Management Agency, Dustin Hube Emergency Response Coordinator at the Athens City- County Health Department, and Athens City Planner Paul Logue. In addition, there is a larger group of stakeholders, including Athens County's 8 villages and 2 cities, being consulted throughout the planning process.

FEMA governs the plan and mandates an update every five years. A compliant plan is extremely important for disaster and mitigation project funding. The multijurisdictional nature offers opportunity for all Athens County residents to participate and help create a safer place to live.

A 5-year update and approved plan is extremely important for funding, to reassess natural hazards and the risks they pose, and the opportunity we all have to create a safer place to live. "The purpose of this Plan is to develop a comprehensive strategy to reduce the impacts of natural hazards in Athens County." We do this by involving many participants, identifying hazards, analyzing what assets are at risk, assessing what goals and actions we can take to reduce those risks, and ensuring that the Plan is monitored so that the goals are achieved and regularly re-evaluated as needs and issues change. View the current plan [here](#).

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