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Reducing Damages Caused by Severe Weather in Clay County

Flora, IL (June 1, 2026) — The frequency of severe weather events and damages caused by them and other natural hazards will be discussed when the Clay County Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee meets at the Clay County Health Department, 601 E. 12th St., in Flora, at 1 p.m. on Monday, June 22.

This Committee, comprised of County, municipal, healthcare, education, fire protection district, and emergency services representatives, as well as technical partners and stakeholders, will meet over the next several months to update the Clay County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. All Committee meetings are open to the public.

“The goal of this Committee meeting is to identify how often severe weather events occur within the County and what kinds of damages have resulted. Based on this information we will compile lists of activities and projects to reduce damages caused by these events,” said Steve Lewis, Flora-Clay County Emergency Services and Disaster Agency Coordinator.

The focus of this effort is on natural hazards — severe thunderstorms with damaging winds or hail, tornadoes, snow and ice storms, floods, drought, extreme cold, and excessive heat. Interested persons can provide input at these Planning Committee meetings or submit their comments and questions to their municipal or County representatives.

Participants to date include the County, four municipalities, 10 townships, two school districts, three fire protection districts, the Clay Electric Cooperative, Clay County Water, and Clay County Hospital. Jurisdictions who have yet to participate in a committee meeting are strongly encouraged to attend this meeting.

“This Plan will be our best resource for determining how to mitigate damages from storms and other natural hazards. After the Plan is updated, comprehensive information will be available in one document to help guide those who are making decisions about how to better protect residents,” added Lewis.