



April 13, 2015  
#150413- MITPLAN

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## ***County Undertakes Mitigation Planning Update -Public Input Needed-***

Santa Rosa County is seeking public involvement and participation as it undertakes the process of updating its hazard mitigation plans. The Local Mitigation Strategy Task Force is conducting a comprehensive update to the Local Mitigation Strategy multi-hazard plan. They will also be updating the county's flood mitigation plan, which is part of the multi-hazard plan but also a stand-alone plan. Mitigation planning can lead to activities that lessen the impacts of disasters and reduce the loss of life and property for residents, governments and businesses. Additionally, effective flood mitigation planning can result in additional discounts for flood insurance policy holders.

Community input is vital to creating an effective plan and there are two ways in which the public can participate in this process:

- ***Attend one of two public meetings***
  - Tuesday, April 28 at 6 p.m.  
Tiger Point Community Center Meeting Room  
1370 Tiger Park Lane, Gulf Breeze
  - Thursday, April 30 at 6 p.m.  
County Administrative Center/Commissioner's Board Room  
6495 Caroline Street, Milton
- ***Serve on the Local Mitigation Task Force or Flood Mitigation Plan Task Force*** - Volunteers are needed for both the Local Mitigation Strategy Task Force and the Flood Mitigation Task Force. Volunteers should expect to participate in one to two meetings per month for the next six months and provide assistance and input regarding mitigation planning.

A Local Mitigation Strategy is a plan developed by the county to reduce and or eliminate the risks associated with natural and man-made hazards. These plans must be in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. Without an approved LMS a county will be unable to apply for many federal grants. The LMS must be updated every five years to remain compliant.

The county's Multi-Jurisdictional Flood Mitigation Plan, is one of the top scoring plans in the U.S. The plan's score plays a large role in reducing the county's community rating system class, which in turn can mean larger discounts in flood insurance premiums for Santa Rosa residents.

Visit [www.SantaRosa.fl.gov/LMS](http://www.SantaRosa.fl.gov/LMS) to learn more about the LMS Task Force or to review the current hazard mitigation and flood plans. For more information about volunteering or the county's mitigation planning efforts, please contact Sheila Fitzgerald, Grants & Special Projects Director at (850) 983-1848 or [sheilaf@santarosa.fl.gov](mailto:sheilaf@santarosa.fl.gov).

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