



# COLUMBIA COUNTY

Emergency Management Office

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Date: November 29, 2018

CITY OF LODI, WI

DEC 10 2018

RECEIVED

Lodi City Clerk  
Dawn Collins  
130 S. Main St.  
Lodi, WI 53555

Re: Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Plan

Dear Clerk Collins,

Columbia County, like the rest of the State of Wisconsin, is vulnerable to a variety of disasters. Wisconsin has incurred disaster-related damages totaling \$3 billion in the last three decades but future losses can be reduced through mitigation activities. A recent study by the Multi-hazard Mitigation Council shows that each dollar spent on mitigation saves society an average of four dollars. Since 1993 more than 400 disasters have occurred in the United States, affecting communities in all 50 states, costing the country over \$500 million dollars per week and killing over 24,000 people.

Mitigation actions reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from hazards. These preventative actions can be as simple as elevating a furnace in a basement that sometimes has water on the floor. Mitigation can also have a comprehensive approach such as relocating buildings out of the floodplain or strengthening critical facilities to prevent wind damage and provide stronger shelter.

In an effort to better prepare Columbia County to manage its vulnerability to disaster, Columbia County Emergency Management applied for and received a PDM planning grant to update the County-wide All-Hazard Mitigation Plan currently in effect. This goal of this grant is to complete an update for an approvable plan, which will serve as a roadmap that outlines potential cost-effective hazard mitigation activities, some of which might be available for future grant funding. The plan is designed to look at the risks and vulnerabilities that the county faces from natural disaster and to highlight mitigation strategies that might reduce future losses to life and property. As part of this planning process, **I need your help.**

The first step is asking that you please place an item on your **next** municipal meeting agenda to complete the enclosed survey. This very short survey will help us to identify the concerns that you have in your municipality and to capture ideas that you have for making your community safer and more disaster resistant. Please return your completed surveys to Kathy Johnson at 711 E. Cook St., P.O. Box 132, Portage, WI 53901 Fax: (608) 742-0598 or email: [Kathy.Johnson@co.columbia.wi.us](mailto:Kathy.Johnson@co.columbia.wi.us) as soon as possible but no later than **January 31, 2018.**

After receiving your surveys, the information will be incorporated into the draft plan, which is being guided by a workgroup of interested agencies and public members. I would like to extend an offer for anyone from your leadership council, public works or utility, police, fire, EMS, municipal staff, or your general community to contact me if they would like to join the workgroup. The first meeting is scheduled for **December 19<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM until 12:00 PM** at the Columbia County Law Enforcement Center at 711 E. Cook St., Portage, WI.

Finally, after the workgroup has a final draft, we will be sending copies of the plan to each of you for final review and adoption. It is important to note two things:

Adoption of this plan will not cost your community anything. You will not be committing to completing any of the projects listed; instead it is a list of triaged ideas that can be accomplished should the funding and will to complete them become available.

If you do not adopt this plan, your community will not be eligible to apply for and receive mitigation project funding in the future.

Let me thank you in advance for the assistance that you are providing. This small investment of your time will help make our community a safer, healthier and more disaster-resistant community for years to come.

If you are interested in more information about the plan or would like to provide input into the plan, please feel free to contact me at (608) 742-4166 ext. 1308.

I have also enclosed a copy of a "Pre-Disaster Mitigation Planning" brochure for you to post. Please let me know if you need more copies to distribute.

Sincerely,



Kathy Johnson  
Columbia County Emergency Management Coordinator