



## OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **WELD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS APPROVED 2016 MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

WELD COUNTY, CO – The Weld County Board of Commissioners approved the 2016 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan this month. The plan, written by the Weld County Office of Emergency Management (OEM), is the first Weld County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Previously, Weld County was a part of the Northeast Colorado Regional Plan through the Northeast Colorado Emergency Management Association, a group of ten northeast Colorado counties.

The primary goals of the plan are to re-evaluate local risks and vulnerability to hazards, develop cross-jurisdictional partnerships and public outreach processes, and to develop a new county-specific hazard mitigation strategy. Currently, Ault, Brighton, Dacono, Erie, Evans, Firestone, Fort Lupton, Frederick, Garden City, Gilcrest, Greeley, Hudson, Keenesburg, Kersey, LaSalle, Mead, Milliken, Pierce, Platteville, Severance and Windsor are participating in the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

“Developing ongoing relationships and collaboration related to the hazard mitigation plan remains a high priority for Weld County,” said Commissioner Chair Barbara Kirkmeyer. “The better we can work together, the better prepared we will be.”

Prior to writing the plan, the Weld County OEM actively encouraged participation from all jurisdictions within the county and met one-on-one with local jurisdictions to identify possible mitigation actions, help with action prioritization and to discuss the results of the risks assessment.

The purpose of the 2016 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan is:

- To protect life and property by reducing the potential for future damages and economic losses that result from natural disasters
- To qualify for additional grant funding, in both the pre-disaster and post-disaster environment
- To provide quick recovery and redevelopment following future disasters
- To integrate other existing and associated local planning documents
- To demonstrate a firm local commitment to hazard mitigation principles
- To comply with state and Federal legislative requirements tied to local hazard mitigation planning
- To increase local and regional resilience to hazards

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"Investing in preparing for a disaster significantly reduces the demand for post-disaster assistance," said Commissioner Sean Conway, coordinator for OEM. "Having our own Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan allows the county to determine how to best minimize and manage risks."

In order for Weld County to be eligible for funding and technical assistance from state and Federal hazard mitigation programs, the 2016 plan has been prepared to meet the requirements of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM). To remain a current and effective planning tool, the plan will continue to be updated and maintained on an annual basis.

For more information about the Weld County Office of Emergency Management, visit [www.weldoem.com](http://www.weldoem.com).

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