



EMA Director,  
Kevin Schott

Vol. Dep. Director,  
Joe Gasparich

Deputy Director,  
Dan Hough

120 North Main  
Hillsboro, IL 62049

E.O.C. Phone Mon-Fri 8 am to 4 pm: 217-532-9560

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Contact: Kevin Schott, EMA Director  
217-313-4153  
[kevins@montgomerycountyil.gov](mailto:kevins@montgomerycountyil.gov)

**Reducing Damages Caused by Severe Weather and Other Hazards  
Hillsboro, IL (May 8, 2023) — Identifying projects and activities that can protect  
Montgomery County residents, property, and critical infrastructure from natural hazards  
while maintaining vital services when severe weather hits will be discussed at the  
Montgomery County Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee meeting at the at the  
Montgomery County Board Room, 2nd Floor of the Historic Courthouse, 1 Courthouse  
Square in Hillsboro, at 6:30 p.m., on Wednesday, May 24.**

“Severe weather frequently damages buildings, crops, roads, and other critical infrastructure in this area. Since 2002, the County has been a part of four federal disaster declarations. In addition, there have been at least four fatalities, 22 injuries, and \$77.8 million in verified property and crop damages caused by hazard events in the County,” said Montgomery County Emergency Management Agency Director, Kevin Schott. “Identifying preventative steps that can be taken to reduce the dollar damages as well as protect public health before a natural hazard event occurs is the goal of this planning process.”

The Committee began work in October 2022 to update the County’s Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. Committee meetings are open to the public.

“Other emergency plans are directed at responding after a storm or disaster strikes. With this Plan, we will identify actions that can be taken to reduce damages caused by natural hazards for each participating jurisdiction before they occur. This Plan also helps assure each participating jurisdiction is eligible to receive federal grant money for mitigation projects,” added Schott.

Building community safe rooms, retrofitting critical infrastructure to better withstand hazard events, installing back-up power supplies, resolving drainage issues, and developing public information materials are a few of the more frequently encountered mitigation projects in Illinois.

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