



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPOKANE COUNTY AND ITS PLANNING PARTNERS TO UPDATE THE SPOKANE COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Spokane County, its jurisdictions, tribal partners, and special purpose districts are embarking on a planning process to prepare for impacts of natural disasters. Responding to federal mandates in the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390), the Spokane County Department of Emergency Management will update its 2015 Hazard Mitigation Plan to enhance resilience throughout the County.

This planning process is being led by Gerry Bozarth of Spokane DEM, with support from Beverly O’Dea of Bridgeview Consulting, LLC, the project’s technical consultant. This project is funded by a planning grant from FEMA; and the planning process will take approximately 12 months to complete.

During this process, local citizens will be asked to contribute by sharing knowledge of the area’s vulnerability to hazards based on past occurrences. Public involvement is essential, and will be solicited via a multi-media campaign that will include public meetings, web-based information, questionnaires, maps, and updates on the plan’s progress via a website. This process will be led by a Planning Team made up of representatives from local jurisdictions, tribal partners, special purpose districts, citizens, and other stakeholders from within the planning area. Meetings will occur as needed throughout the process, with notice of the date, time and location of the meetings posted on the County’s website in advance of the meeting dates.

An informational website on the plan and purposes for planning has been established at:

<https://www.spokanecounty.org/4451/2019-Mitigation-Plan-Update>

This website will serve as the primary means for the public to access information on the Plan, as well as to find options and opportunities for participation in the planning process. The public is highly encouraged to provide input on all phases of this Plan’s development.

Any questions or comments regarding this process are encouraged and should be directed to:

Gerry Bozarth, email: gbozarth@spokanecounty.org or at 509-477-7613.

Bev O’Dea, Bridgeview Consulting, LLC email: bevodea@bridgeviewconsulting.org or at (253) 301-1330

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