



NEWS RELEASE

Public invited to learn about countywide Hazard Mitigation Planning and Encouraged to Comment on Draft Plan

(San Miguel County, Colo.) - The San Miguel County Office of Emergency Management will present and give details on the County's planning process for updating its All Hazard Mitigation Plan (AHMP) during public meetings both in Telluride on January 13th at the County Commissioner's meeting room from 4:30-6:00pm and Norwood at the Lone Cone Building on Tuesday January 18th from 4:00-5:30pm. The County is also seeking public input on a draft of the plan.

Residents, elected officials, emergency responders and other interested stakeholders are encouraged to attend. The purpose of the meeting is to present and discuss the County's approach to hazard mitigation planning. The San Miguel County All Hazard Planning Group has been working to steer the process and consists of representatives from County departments, incorporated municipalities, special districts and fire districts. The initial draft of the San Miguel County All Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies and profiles the natural and manmade hazards to which the county is vulnerable, assesses the vulnerability of the more significant hazards (e.g., flood and wildfire), and includes goals and actions intended to mitigate the effects of these hazards.

The AHMP has been prepared to better protect people and property within San Miguel County from the effects of hazard events such as natural and manmade disasters and is a result of a collaborative planning process that has been underway since June of this year to update the County's currently adopted plan. The AHMP identifies hazards that could affect the county and their potential impacts and outlines what steps can be taken now to reduce future impacts. The plan will allow the County to be eligible for mitigation grant funds from FEMA and potentially lower flood insurance rates for residents.

The draft plan can be accessed on the County website: www.sanmiguelcounty.org/plan. Hard copies can be referenced at the following locations:

Wilkinson Public Library 100 W. Pacific Telluride, Colorado 970-728-6613	Norwood Public Library 1110 Lucerne Norwood, Colorado 970-327-4833
County Commissioners Office 333 W. Colorado Ave Telluride, Colorado 970-728-3844	County Finance Office 1120 Summit Street Norwood, Colorado 970-327-4885

Comments on the draft are welcome as are questions regarding the planning process if you are unable to attend the meeting. The public comment period is from January 12th through the 26th.

For more information, contact Jennifer Dinsmore at the San Miguel Office of Emergency Management, 970-728-9546 or jenniferd@sanmiguelcounty.org.