

NEWS RELEASE: July 21, 2009

Emergency Management seeks public input on disaster planning

The Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management is seeking public input on strengthening Greene County against tornados, chemical spills and other community disasters.

The office is holding two community forums this week to discuss potential hazards and to gather input on possible disaster mitigation projects, such as storm shelters or floodplain improvements, which may qualify for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding. The forums are:

- Thursday, July 23, 6 p.m., Pleasant View School, 2210 E. State Highway AA, north of Springfield.
- Friday, July 24, 10 a.m., Springfield Fire Station #6, 2620 W. Battlefield Road, Springfield.

Ryan Nicholls, Director of the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management, said the community forums are part of the county's disaster mitigation plan, updated every five years.

Representatives from municipalities, school districts and fire protection districts will participate in the forums to help identify and prioritize possible projects. Nicholls encourages members of the public to attend as well, to share their concerns and to learn about how to protect their homes and property from disasters.

“If we can help prioritize projects while educating property owners on hazards they may face, it's a win-win,” said Nicholls.

Each meeting will include a short presentation and an opportunity for discussion.

For more information, call Ryan Nicholls, Director of the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management, at 417-869-6040.

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