

Little Blue NRD to Participate in All-Hazard Mitigation Planning

Public entities face a continuous threat from natural disasters such as severe thunderstorms, intense winds and tornados, flooding, dam failures, winter snow and ice storms, drought and others. These catastrophic events can cost a community millions of dollars in property damages and have the potential for loss of human lives.

The Little Blue NRD Board of Directors took action in December to team up with the Lower Big Blue and Upper Big Blue NRD, and nine counties, including all cities, schools and other local government entities to prepare regional All-Hazards Mitigation Plans.

This planning effort will help local entities assess community hazards and risks, prepare them for local disasters and position them for financial resources to aid them in projects which reduce the potential for damage and loss of live.

New rules of the Federal Emergency Management Agency require that an entity must be a part of a All-Hazard Mitigation Plan to be eligible for Federal funding for cleanup and restoration from a natural disaster.

Entities may also identify projects that they wish to initiate right away to prevent potential damage or reduce risks. The list of eligible projects is broad, and may include: weather radio distribution to critical facilities, emergency electrical supplies, emergency tornado shelters, storm water projects, acquisition of flood prone facilities, bridge protection, and flood plain mapping.

The cost of the planning is being covered by a 75% grant from the FEMA and 25% from the local sponsors, however, much of the local cost will be achieved through in-kind services. It is a great way to accomplish needed community planning and position them for financial aid in the event of a natural disaster.