

Community Risk Assessment

Village of Sheridan

Risk Assessment								
Communities	Tornadoes	Floods	Winter Storms	Extreme Temps.	Dangerous Winds	Lightning	Drought	Hail
LaSalle County	Medium	Medium	High	Medium	High	Low	Medium	Medium
Sheridan	Low	Low	High	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium	Low

Location: The Village of Sheridan is located 18.4 miles (via Illinois Route 71) from the City of Ottawa in LaSalle County.

Population: 2,137 (2010 Census), 2,529 (2018 estimate)

Major Storm Events since February 2008:

- Specific dates were not provided, but the village has experienced several snowstorms resulting in road closures and several dangerous winds events that knocked down trees.

Tornado Risk: The Village of Sheridan has a “Low” risk of tornadoes. There have been 60 reported tornadoes and funnel clouds in LaSalle County in the past 50 years. The village has tornado sirens that provide full coverage within the village’s corporate boundaries. There are no tornado shelters within the village.

Flood Risk: The Village of Sheridan has a “Low” risk of flooding. Heavy Rain July 18, 2019.

Type(s) of Flooding: Riverine Flooding

Area of Risk: The Fox River runs along west and north boundaries of the village. The village’s FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) identifies the 100-year floodplain for the river. A campground utility building and accessory structures are located in the floodplain.

Critical Facilities at Risk: None. The village’s waste water treatment plant (WWTP) is located near the Fox River on the west edge of town. The WWTP is not located in a 100-year floodplain, but is considerably close.

National Flood Insurance Program Participant: Yes (since 1983)

Community Rating System Participant: No

Winter Storm Risk: The village has a “High” risk of experiencing winter storms including blizzards, heavy snowstorms, and ice storms. Early frost and freeze events are another form of winter weather that are factored into determining the winter storm risk level. There have been 61 weather events in LaSalle County in the past 50 years.

Extreme Temperatures Risk: Extreme heat and cold can have detrimental effects on the human body including illness and death. Exposure to extreme heat can lead to heat rash, exhaustion, and stroke. When exposed to extremely cold temperatures, the human body loses heat quickly. Unable to replace

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utilized energy, the body is susceptible to hypothermia and frostbite. Extreme heat and cold can be problematic for public water systems. Although water main breaks are thought to occur more frequently during the winter, they can happen anytime of the year. According to AccuWeather.com, prolonged hot and cold temperatures cause the ground to shift more abruptly, which leads to water main breaks. The age and condition of water mains can also play a factor. The Village of Sheridan has a “Medium” risk for extreme temperatures.

Dangerous Winds Risk: This category includes thunderstorm winds, high winds, and strong winds. LaSalle County has a “High” risk of having dangerous winds that can lead to property damage and crop damage. During high winds, people are at a greater risk for injury and death as a result of flying debris and falling trees and power lines. LaSalle County reported 313 dangerous wind events in the past 50 years that caused approximately \$972,000 in property damage. The Village of Sheridan has a “Medium” risk of dangerous winds.

Lightning Risk: Lightning is caused by the buildup and release of atmospheric electricity. Whenever there is a thunderstorm, lightning has occurred. Lightning can strike anywhere and has the potential to cause fatalities, injury, and property damage. The Village of Sheridan has a “Low” risk of lightning that could result in property damage or bodily harm.

Drought Risk: Drought is caused by a lack of precipitation over an extended period of time. A prolonged drought can have a devastating impact on a region’s economy and quality of life. LaSalle County’s last reported drought was between June 2005 and February 2006. The impact of the drought is not known. The Village of Sheridan and LaSalle County have a “Medium” risk of drought.

Hail Risk: Hailstones can be found within the middle and upper portions of most thunderstorms. Hailstones are compacted layers of ice and snow that look like snowballs. Hailstones may be as small as marbles or as large as softballs. Hailstones cause damage to property and crops. Between 1970-2019 there have been 145 hail events that caused property damage totaling \$1 million in LaSalle County. The Village of Sheridan has “Low” risk of hail.

Additional Information:

- The village’s comprehensive plan was adopted in 2000 and amended in 2006. It addresses floodplain issues.
- The village’s zoning ordinance was adopted in 2007 and has had several subsequent amendments. It addresses floodplain issues.
- All new streets must be elevated above the 100-year flood level.
- The village has several building codes in place including: the National Electrical Code (1999), the International Mechanical Code (2000), the Illinois State Plumbing Code (2004), the International Building Code (2000), and the International Residential Code (2000).
- All new buildings are inspected, except where exempt by code.
- The village has reduced flooding issues by lining sanitary sewers and replacing storm sewers.
- Diseased trees pose a risk to the community. The village is in the process of cutting down trees that have been overtaken by the Emerald Ash Borer.
- Backup generators are located at the police station, fire department, and village hall.
- The American Legion is ADA compliant and can be used as a heating or cooling center.

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- Completed mitigation activity of removing trees from village property that were effected by Emerald Ash Borer.
- Completed mitigation activity of purchasing backup generators for emergencies.
- Village is able to sound sirens via cell phone.

Mitigation Activities:

- 1. Mitigation Strategy:** Develop and implement an Emergency Operations Plan for snow removal.
Hazard Addressed: Winter Storms, Dangerous Winds, and Extreme Temps.
Responsible Entity or Person: Village Board
Benefit/Cost: Medium/High
Priority: Medium, no change since 2015 Plan
Cost: Staff Time
Revenue Source: Local Funds
Resources: Illinois Emergency Management Agency
Benefits: A plan to efficiently remove snow will ensure that emergency responders can access all parts of the village during and after a snowstorm.
Deadline: 1 Year (continue to work on this)
Mitigation Type: Local Plans and Regulations
Activity Status: Carried over into the activities list for this plan.
- 2. Mitigation Strategy:** Develop emergency shelter plans.
Hazard Addressed: Extreme Temperatures and Winter Storms
Responsible Entity or Person: Village Board/ Emergency Responders – Fire, Police, Ambulance
Benefit/Cost: High/Low
Priority: Medium, no change since 2015 Plan
Cost: Staff Time
Revenue Source: Local Funds
Resources: Illinois Emergency Management Agency
Benefits: Having a procedure in place for when a natural disaster occurs.
Deadline: 2 Years
Mitigation Type: Local Plans and Regulations
Activity Status: Village continues to work on and carried over into the activities list for this plan.
- 3. Mitigation Strategy:** Consider utilizing CodeRed, an emergency alert notification system, to increase awareness and preparedness of severe weather. **Hazard Addressed:** Tornadoes, Flood, Extreme Temperatures and Winter Storms
Responsible Entity or Person: Village Board/ Police Department
Benefit/Cost: High/Low
Priority: Medium, no change since 2015 Plan
Cost: Staff Time/ Annual user fees
Revenue Source: General Fund
Resources: CodeRed/LaSalle County Emergency Management Agency/ Bureau County Sheriff's Department

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Benefits: Increase public awareness of severe weather.

Deadline: 2 Years

Mitigation Type: Education and awareness

Activity Status: Carried over into the activities list for this plan. (Continue to find best avenues for this)

- Mitigation Strategy:** Purchase new sirens, network with others and engage in a regional discussion on the implementation of best practices for activating early warning sirens during storm events.

Hazard Addressed: Tornado and Dangerous Winds

Responsible Entity or Person: A regional group consisting of County Emergency Management Agency, Local Fire Departments, Fire Protection Districts, County Sheriff's Departments, Local Police Departments, and Local Officials

Benefit/Cost: High/High

Priority: Very High

Cost: Staff Time

Revenue Source: Local Funds

Resources: NOAA/ Illinois Emergency Management Agency/ Policies for other communities

Benefits: Regional guidelines on activating early warning sirens can lessen public confusion and save lives.

Deadline: 1 Year

Mitigation Type: Structure and infrastructure projects

Activity Status: New mitigation activity for this plan.

- Mitigation Strategy:** Improve local hazardous weather operations by becoming a StormReady community.

Hazard Addressed: Tornadoes, Floods, Winter Storms, Extreme Temps, Dangerous Winds, Lightning, Hail

Responsible Entity or Person: Village Board

Benefit/Cost: Medium/Medium

Priority: Medium, no change since 2015 Plan

Cost: Staff Time

Revenue Source: Local Funds

Resources: Weather Spotters/ Emergency Responders –Fire, Police, Paramedics/ Emergency Management Personnel

Benefits: Immediate disbursement of information to residents during severe weather.

Deadline: 1 Year (working on)

Mitigation Type: Education and awareness

Activity Status: Carried over into the activities list for this plan.

- Mitigation Strategy:** Participate in the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System to help residents save on flood insurance premiums.

Hazard Addressed: Floods

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Responsible Entity or Person: Village Board/ Village Building and Zoning Official/ Village Engineer

Benefit/Cost: High/High

Priority: Medium, no change since 2015 Plan

Cost: Varies depending on activities pursued

Revenue Source: Local Funds

Resources: Insurance Services Office/ Illinois Department of Natural Resources/ Illinois Emergency Management Agency

Benefits: Lower flood insurance premiums for residents/ Activities reduce the impact of flooding.

Deadline: 1 Year

Mitigation Type: Local Plans and Regulations

Activity Status: Carried over into the activities list for this plan.

- Mitigation Strategy:** Identify best measure to protect WWTP from flooding and apply for funding to implement.

Hazard Addressed: Floods

Responsible Entity or Person: Village Board/ Village Building and Zoning Official/ Village Engineer

Benefit/Cost: High/High

Priority: High

Cost: Varies depending on activities pursued

Revenue Source: Local Funds, State and Federal Grants as available

Resources: Engineers/ WWTP operators and examples from other communities

Benefits: Prevent damage to critical facility and potential ongoing cost of repairs from flooding

Deadline: 2-3 Years

Mitigation Type: Structure and infrastructure projects

Activity Status: New mitigation activity for this plan.

Village of Sheridan 2020

Source: Federal Emergency Management

