

# Kosciusko County Mitigation Public Opinion Survey

This is a public opinion survey. The survey is about public perceptions and opinions regarding natural hazards in Kosciusko County. In addition, we would like information regarding the methods and techniques you prefer for reducing the risks and losses associated with these hazards. The survey should be completed by an adult, preferably the head of household. The information you provide will be used to help improve public/private coordination, mitigation, and risk reduction efforts in Kosciusko County. The survey should take less than 30 minutes to complete. Participation in this survey is voluntary. The Survey is not intended to contribute to “generalized knowledge” and none of the information you provide will be attributed to you directly. If you have questions regarding this survey, please contact Ed Rock, Director of the Kosciusko County Emergency Management at 574-371-2602.

## Natural Hazard Information

First, we would like to know about your experience involving natural hazards and your exposure to preparedness information.

1. During the past five years in the county, have you or someone in your household directly experienced a natural disaster such as a tornado, winter storm, flood, or other type of natural disaster?  
☐ Yes  
☐ No (If no skip to Question 2)

If “YES”, which of these natural disasters have you or someone in your household experienced in the past five years?

(Please check all that apply)

- ☐ Drought
- ☐ Winter storm
- ☐ Flood
- ☐ Drought
- ☐ Earthquake
- ☐ Wildfire
- ☐ Other (specify)\_\_\_\_\_

2. How concerned are you about the following natural disasters affecting your county?  
(***Check the corresponding box for each hazard***)

Hazards	Very Concerned	Somewhat Concerned	Neutral	Not very Concerned	Not Concerned
Drought	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Infectious Disease	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Earthquake	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground failure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wildfire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Winter Storm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Have you ever received information about how to make members of your household and your home safer from natural disasters?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No (If NO skip to Question 5)

If “YES”, how recently?

- ☐ Within the last 6 months  
☐ Between 6 and 12 months  
☐ Between 1 and 2 years  
☐ Between 2 and 5 years  
☐ 5 years or more

4. From whom did you last receive information about how to make members of your household and your home safer from natural disasters?

**(Please check only one)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> News Media                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Elected Official                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Government agency               | <input type="checkbox"/> American Red Cross                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance agent                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other non-profit                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utility company                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Social media (Facebook, Twitter)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neighbor /Friend/ Family member | <input type="checkbox"/> University or research institution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure                           |

5. Whom would you most trust to provide you with information about how to make your household and home safer from natural disasters?

**(Please check up to three)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> News Media                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Elected Official                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Government agency               | <input type="checkbox"/> American Red Cross                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance agent                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other non-profit                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utility company                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Social media (Facebook, Twitter)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neighbor /Friend/ Family member | <input type="checkbox"/> University or research institution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure                           |

6. What is the most effective way for you to receive information about how to make your household and home safer from natural disasters?

**(Please check up to three)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> News paper                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Elected Official            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Television                      | <input type="checkbox"/> American Red Cross          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Radio                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Responders (fire, |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Internet                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Brochure                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mail                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Schools                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Government agency               | <input type="checkbox"/> Public workshops/meetings   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance agent                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor advertisement       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utility company                 | <input type="checkbox"/> (billboards)                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neighbor /Friend/ Family member | <input type="checkbox"/> Other                       |
7. Prior to taking this survey, were you aware of the county's Hazard Mitigation Plan?
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
8. Prior to taking this survey, were you aware that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires the county to update the Hazard Mitigation Plan every five years in order for the county to be eligible for federal pre-and post-disaster hazard mitigation funds?
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

## **COMMUNITY VULNERABILITIES AND HAZARD MITIGATION STRATEGIES**

In order to assess community risk, we need to understand which community assets may be vulnerable to hazards. Vulnerable assets are those community features, characteristic, or resources that may be impacted by natural hazards (e.g. populations, with functional needs, economic components, environmental resources, etc.) The next set of questions will focus on vulnerable assets in the community and your preferred strategies to mitigate risk to those assets.

9. Community assets are features, characteristics, or resources that either make a community unique or allow the community to function. In your opinion, which of the following categories are most susceptible to the impacts caused by natural hazards in the county? **(Please rank the community assets in order of vulnerability, 1 being most vulnerable and 6 being least vulnerable)**

Community Assets	Potential Hazard Impact	Order of Vulnerability
------------------	-------------------------	------------------------

10. What specific types of community assets are most important to you?  
(Check the corresponding box for each asset)

11. A number of activities can reduce your community's risk from hazards. These activities can be regulatory and non-regulatory.  
(Please check the box that best represents your opinion of the following strategies to reduce the risk and loss associated with disasters).

[illegible]

approach to reducing risk						
I support a mix of both regulatory and non-regulatory approaches to reducing risk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I support policies to prohibit development in areas subject to hazards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. Hazards can have a significant impact on the community, but planning for these events can help lessen the impacts. The following statements will help determine citizen priorities regarding planning for hazard in the county.  
**(Please tell us how important each one is to you)**

Statements	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Not Important
Protecting Private Property	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Protecting critical facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Preventing development in hazard prone areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Enhancing the function of natural features (e.g. streams, wetlands)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Protecting historical and cultural landmarks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Protecting and reducing damage to utilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strengthening emergency services (e.g. police, fire, ambulance)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promoting cooperation among public agencies, citizens, non-profit organizations, and businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Providing training on developing an emergency preparedness plan for families and businesses.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## **MITIGATION AND PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD**

Households can mitigate and prepare for hazards in order to prevent loss of life, injuries, and damage to property. The precautions you take and the training you receive can make a big difference in your ability to recover from an emergency or disaster. Access to basic services, such as electricity, gas, water, telephones and emergency care may be cut off temporarily, or you may have to evacuate at a moment's notice.

The following questions focus on your household's preparedness for disaster events.

13. In the following list, please check those activities that you **have done** in your household, **plan to do** in the near future, **have not done**, or are **unable to do**.  
( Please check one answer for each preparedness activity)

Have you or someone in your household	Have Done	Plan To Do	Have Not Done	Unable To Do
Attended meetings or received written information on disasters or emergency preparedness?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Talked with members in your household about what to do in case of an emergency or disaster?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Developed a "Household/Family Emergency Plan" in order to decide what everyone would do in the event of a disaster?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prepared a "Disaster Supply Kit" (stored extra food, water, and other emergency supplies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In the last year, has anyone in your household been trained in First Aid or CPR?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you prepared your home by having smoke detectors on each level of the house?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you discussed or created a utility shutoff procedure in the event of a natural disaster?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

14. Please indicate the jurisdiction you live in

<input type="checkbox"/> In the un-incorporated area of the County	<input type="checkbox"/> Burket
<input type="checkbox"/> Claypool	<input type="checkbox"/> Etna Green
<input type="checkbox"/> Leesburg	<input type="checkbox"/> Mentone
<input type="checkbox"/> Milford	<input type="checkbox"/> North Webster
<input type="checkbox"/> Pierceton	<input type="checkbox"/> Sidney
<input type="checkbox"/> Silver Lake	<input type="checkbox"/> Syracuse
<input type="checkbox"/> Warsaw	<input type="checkbox"/> Winona Lake

15. How long have you lived in Kosciusko County?

<input type="checkbox"/> Less than one year	<input type="checkbox"/> 10-19 years
<input type="checkbox"/> 1-5 years	<input type="checkbox"/> 20 years or more
<input type="checkbox"/> 5-9 years	

16. Do you own or rent your home?

- ☐ Own
- ☐ Rent

***This completes the Survey***  
***Thank you very much for providing this information***

**For more information, please contact Mr. Ed Rock, Director of the Kosciusko County  
Emergency Management Agency located at 100 W. Center Street – Room 121 Warsaw, IN.  
46580  
Office Number: (574) 371-2602**