

# NEWS



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## **Managing Director's Office of Emergency Management**

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**January 9, 2012**

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**For Immediate Release:**

### **Reducing Risks from Natural Hazards: Rollout Continuation of Philadelphia's Draft Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan**

The Managing Director's Office of Emergency Management invites the public to learn about the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan being developed for Philadelphia. The plan will be rolled out on Tuesday, January 24 2012, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Mercy Eastwick Wellness Center in Southwest Philadelphia. (Snow Date: Thursday, January 26, 6:00-8:00 p.m.)

At the rollout, residents will view a series of poster displays featuring the natural hazards and have an opportunity to provide their feedback and concerns about natural hazards in their community.

The Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan will address a comprehensive list of natural hazards -- droughts, floods, extreme temperatures, earthquakes, wind storms and tornadoes, hurricanes and tropical storms, Nor'easters, and severe winter storms -- that may impact Philadelphia. In addition, the Office of Emergency Management will provide a risk assessment, which includes prioritizing the natural hazards that have the potential of impacting Philadelphia. The purpose of the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan is to reduce or eliminate long-term risks to human life or property from natural disasters through cost-effective and sustained mitigation actions.

The Office of Emergency Management will continue to hold a series of meetings through mid-February around Philadelphia to rollout the various components of the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. Future components of the plan will focus on identifying short and long-term mitigation strategies for reducing risks associated with the natural hazards.

Deputy Managing Director for Emergency Management Liam O'Keefe encourages the public to attend meetings. "It's important for us to hear about Philadelphians' concerns about natural hazards that could impact their neighborhoods, so we welcome them to attend any of the upcoming meetings."

Two additional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan public meetings will be held:

**Wednesday, February 8, 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

Free Library of Philadelphia – Central Branch  
1901 Vine Street  
(No Snow Date)

**Thursday, February 16, 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

Salvation Army Tabernacle Corps  
3150 North Mascher Street  
(No Snow Date)

The public is encouraged to visit [www.phila.gov/ready](http://www.phila.gov/ready) to:

- Find more information about natural hazards that can affect Philadelphia;
- Get a copy of the Natural Hazards Plan Questionnaire;
- Obtain a listing of future public meetings about the plan;
- Learn how to prepare for natural hazards; and
- Sign up for emergency text alerts from ReadyNotifyPA

The public can submit comments about the plan through several options:

- Attending a public meeting and completing a Natural Hazards Plan Questionnaire
- Sending an email to [oem@phila.gov](mailto:oem@phila.gov)
- Calling 3-1-1 to request a copy of the Natural Hazards Plan Questionnaire
- Mailing the questionnaire to Philadelphia Office of Emergency Management, 240 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123  
ATTN: Hazards Mitigation Plan

Questionnaires must be completed and submitted to the Office of Emergency Management by February 16, 2012.

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