

## **Press Release**

### **Eastland County Multi-jurisdictional FEMA Hazard Mitigation Action Plan**

#### **To Be Reviewed by Eastland CO and Surrounding Cities**

Eastland County along with the cities Cisco, Carbon, Eastland, Gorman, Ranger, and Rising Star, will be reviewing their FEMA Hazard Mitigation Action Plan at their individual city council/commissioner court meetings in February.

Independent school districts of Cisco, Gorman, Ranger and Eastland will also be reviewing their plans at the board meetings along with Eastland County WSD.

*The Eastland CO Multi-jurisdictional HAZMAP plan can be found on-line at [www.tinyurl.com/EastlandCO](http://www.tinyurl.com/EastlandCO).*

*Hard copies of the plan can be found at the fore mentioned city halls, public libraries, county court house, ISD office and Eastland County WSD office.*

All of these participating jurisdictions have been working with Langford Community Management grant consultant, once FEMA funding was acquired, in order to develop a plan to offer practical approaches and examples for how the communities can engage in effective planning to reduce long-term risk from natural hazards and disasters.

Under the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires communities to develop a mitigation plan to minimize or eliminate the long term risk to human life and property from known hazards.

Mitigation is defined by FEMA as sustained actions taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from hazards and their effects. Hazards that may pose risk and potentially result in disaster include but not limited to drought, flood, hurricane, tornado, and wildfire.

Communities with a FEMA-approved plan are eligible for certain grant funding under the Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) program to fund critical projects such as buyouts and structural elevation of repetitive flood loss structures, drainage

projects and hardening critical facilities to minimize future damage from natural disasters that affect the Eastland County planning area.

Initial public meetings were held in April, 2017 in order to assist the Local CORE Planning Team to identify and analyze potential hazards affecting residents and recommend possible actions to reduce their impact throughout Eastland County and the planning area.

*Public meetings will be held in March at each of the fore mentioned participating jurisdictions in order to solicit final input from citizens.* Once the final public input is obtained, the plan will be submitted to FEMA for approval. It normally takes from 3-6 months for FEMA review. Upon FEMA approval, the plan will come back to each jurisdiction for final adoption to become the official FEMA Multi-jurisdictional Eastland County Hazard Mitigation Action Plan. The plan is required by FEMA to be reviewed and updated every five years.