

# News Release



## For Immediate Release

**July 5, 2016**

### Shelby County Hazard Mitigation Plan Approved

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness announced today that the Shelby County Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan has been approved and is in compliance with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requirements. It includes Bartlett, Germantown, Lakeland, Memphis, Millington, Arlington and Collierville, as well as the neighborhoods in the unincorporated area.

**“Our communities are better prepared for disasters with the approval of the local hazard mitigation plan. It provides long-term strategies to reduce the vulnerability to natural disasters,”** said Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr. The plan identifies existing and potential hazards to help Shelby County officials make decisions that may ultimately protect lives and property. Some average annual hazard occurrences in Shelby County include:

- Severe Thunderstorms (Wind, Hail, Lightening)-10
- Floods/Flash Floods-9
- Extended Freeze/Severe Weather Storms-3
- Prolonged Excessive Heat Episodes-2
- Tornadoes-1
- Possible damage from a moderate/severe earthquake

The plan also outlines strategies for implementing mitigation projects to lessen the financial impact of future disasters. History shows that the physical, financial and emotional losses caused by disasters can be reduced significantly through hazard mitigation planning.

**“The planning process encourages communities to integrate mitigation with day-to-day decision making regarding land-use planning, floodplain management, site design, and other activities,”** said Dale Lane, Director of the Shelby County Office of Preparedness.

Local mitigation plans are required by FEMA as a condition for states and communities to receive certain types of disaster assistance. Shelby County’s mitigation plan must be approved at least once every five years.

**(End of Release)**