

# NEWS RELEASE

## Whitman County Emergency Management

Department of Emergency Management  
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**Whitman County Department of Emergency Management**  
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**September 9, 2019**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **WHITMAN COUNTY AND ITS PLANNING PARTNERS TO UPDATE THE WHITMAN COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTION HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

Whitman County, its jurisdictions, and special purpose districts are embarking on a planning process to prepare for impacts from natural disasters. Responding to federal mandates in the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390), Whitman County Department of Emergency Management will update its 2013 Hazard Mitigation Plan to enhance resilience throughout the County.

This planning process is being led by Bill Tensfeld, Director of Whitman County's Department of Emergency Management, and Robin Cocking, Deputy Director of Whitman County's Department of Emergency Management, with support from Beverly O'Dea of Bridgeview Consulting, LLC, the hired technical consultant. This project is funded by a planning grant from FEMA, and will take approximately six to nine months to complete.

During this process, local citizens will be asked to contribute by sharing knowledge of the area's vulnerability to hazards based on past occurrences. Public involvement will be solicited via a multi-media campaign that will include public meetings, web-based information, questionnaires, maps, and updates on the plan's progress via a website. This process will be led by a Planning Team made up of representatives from local jurisdictions, special purpose districts, citizens, and other stakeholders from within the planning area. Meetings will occur as needed throughout the process, with notice of the date, time and locations of the meetings posted on the County's website well in advance of the meeting dates.

An informational website on the plan and purposes for planning has been established at: <http://whitmancounty.org/Page.aspx?pn=Emergency+Management>

The Whitman County Emergency Management website will serve as the primary means for the public to gain information on the plan, as well as to gain information on ways to participate in the planning process. The public is highly encouraged to provide input on all phases of this plan's development.

Any questions or comments regarding this process are encouraged and should be directed to Bill Tensfeld - [Bill.Tensfeld@whitmancounty.net](mailto:Bill.Tensfeld@whitmancounty.net), Robin Cocking - [RobinC@whitmancounty.net](mailto:RobinC@whitmancounty.net) or to Bev O'Dea, Bridgeview Consulting, LLC at (253) 301-1330 or email: [bevodea@bridgeviewconsulting.org](mailto:bevodea@bridgeviewconsulting.org)

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