

PRESS RELEASE FOR DANBURY NEWS-TIMES
September 20, 2010

Tropical Storm Floyd... the nor'easter of April 2007... and powerful thunderstorms of the last few years... Are severe weather events and flooding occurring in your neighborhood? Summer storms, winter storms, spring nor'easters and other natural events can cause wind, flood, and fire damage that can tax municipal resources, damage critical infrastructure and personal property, and put residents at risk. The Bridgeport tornado and Hurricane Earl recently provided a reminder that powerful storms can occur in or near Connecticut.

The City of Danbury has received a planning grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to prepare a pre-disaster natural hazard mitigation plan. The plan will discuss the likelihood, geographic extent, and effects of various natural hazards in the City. Hazards to evaluate include floods, hurricanes and tropical storms, severe winter storms, tornadoes, earthquakes, dam failures, and wildfires. Once approved by FEMA, the plan may be used to apply for mitigation grants to address these natural hazards. Potentially funded projects may include culvert replacements, stormwater management, floodproofing of critical facilities or historic structures, acquisition of floodprone residential and commercial properties, underground relocation of overhead utilities, retrofits of critical facilities to protect against wind damage, and improvement of fire suppression systems.

To kick off the planning process, the City and its consultant will host a public information meeting on Thursday, September 30 at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held in the City Council Chambers on the third Floor of City Hall at 155 Deer Hill Avenue. The purpose of the meeting is to solicit information from homeowners and businesses regarding the occurrence of recent hazards and disasters, and measures that can be taken to reduce the impacts of natural disasters. For more information about the planning process and hazard mitigation, please contact Mr. Paul Estefan, Director of the Office of Emergency Management, at 203-797-4630. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please send comments to Mr. David Murphy, Milone & MacBroom, Inc. at davem@miloneandmacbroom.com.