



## **Ashfield's Updated Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Ready for Comment**

The Ashfield Local Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee, in partnership with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) Planning Department, has updated the Ashfield Hazard Mitigation Plan. Funding for the update has been provided through a grant from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The next steps in the process are to provide a public comment period, finalize the plan, and seek approval from the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA).

Once the updated Plan is approved by FEMA and adopted by the Town, Ashfield will be eligible for state and federal grant monies to fund pre- and post-disaster mitigation projects to reduce the impact of future natural and man-made disasters. These funds are co-administered on behalf of FEMA by MEMA and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The Plan can also help communities obtain credit in the form of reduced flood insurance premiums for policy holders under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System, or CRS.

The draft updated plan is available for review and public comment at the Ashfield Town Hall located at 412 Main Street and on the Town's website. The comment period ends on March 28, 2014.

The update of the multi-hazard mitigation plan included identifying hazards that may impact the community, such as floods, winter storms, and spills of hazardous substances; conducting a risk assessment to identify infrastructure at the highest risk for being damaged by hazards; inventorying and assessing current Town hazard mitigation policies, programs, and regulations; and identifying action steps to prevent damage to property and loss of life. The planning process also provided opportunities for public comment and included the review and incorporation of existing relevant documentation.

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