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**** PRESS RELEASE ****

Re: 2024 Blount County Hazard Mitigation Plan
BLOUNT COUNTY, TN

Blount County – Blount County Emergency Management Agency will present a draft of the 2024 Blount County Hazard Mitigation Plan in a public workshop scheduled at 5 p.m., Thursday, September 19th in room 433 at the Blount County Courthouse.

The workshop will begin with a 20-minute Powerpoint presentation by Michael Lamphere, planner with Tennessee Emergency Management Agency. Afterwards the public will have an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the plan. The program should conclude by 6 p.m. ahead of the regularly scheduled Blount County Commission meeting at 6:30 p.m. in room 430.

The state requires each county to have an up-to-date hazard mitigation plan that outlines the natural hazards in the county as well as the projects to mitigate those hazards. Once FEMA-Atlanta approves the plan and the legislative bodies of the six municipalities and the Blount County Commission adopt it, each is eligible to apply for federal hazard mitigation grants.

Since 2019, FEMA-Atlanta has approved \$1,033,000.00 in hazard mitigation grant dollars for projects in Blount County such as \$903,000.00 for back-up generators for the Alcoa Water filtration plant (contract pending), \$120,000.00 for a flood mitigation project on Caldwell Road (contract pending) and \$10,000.00 for fire departments to assess a home's ability to survive wildfire (completed). Updating the 2019 Blount County Hazard Mitigation Plan is the first step in ensuring Blount County as well as Maryville, Alcoa, Rockford, Townsend, Louisville and Friendsville are eligible to apply for these grant funds.

For more information, email Blount County Emergency Management Agency Director Lance Coleman at lcoleman@blounttn.org.



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