Fact Sheet

HURRICANE CHARLEY RECOVERY — BY THE NUMBERS

1 Unified Command. Following Hurricane Charley former Florida Division of Emergency Management Director Craig Fugate established “Charley Command.” This unified command system – used for the first time in Florida - merged state and federal response teams to solve problems together. The unified approach led to a faster and more agile response and was pivotal to the success to subsequent statewide responses for Frances, Ivan and Jeanne.

4 Hurricane Charley was a Category 4 storm when it made landfall near Punta Gorda on Aug. 13, 2004. It claimed the title of the fifth costliest storm in U.S. history, according to the Insurance Information Institute.

140 In connection with Charley, FEMA funded 140 projects aimed at making Florida a more disaster-resistant state. Totaling nearly $48 million, the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds were provided to the state for storm shutters, impact-resistant glass, roof strengthening, drainage projects and other improvements to public facilities.

3,800 Patients treated by FEMA Disaster Medical Assistance Teams following the storm.

4,700 Temporary housing units, including travel trailers and mobile homes set up by FEMA to house Floridians.

7,100 State agencies, local governments and nonprofits that received FEMA Public Assistance grants associated with Hurricane Charley.

100,000 People sheltered by the American Red Cross in the first couple of weeks of the disaster.

182,000 Homes inspected to determine eligibility for FEMA housing assistance.

273,000 Individuals who registered for state and federal assistance in Florida.

18 million Cubic yards of debris created by Charley. FEMA funded more than $286 million in debris removal costs.

$50 million In claims paid by the National Flood Insurance Program in Florida. The program is managed by FEMA.

$209 million Approved for Floridians through the FEMA Individuals and Households program. This included nearly $92 million to pay for lodging expenses, rental assistance, and minimal home repairs.
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$503 million  Approved loans through the U.S. Small Business Administration. The loans reached the occupants of more than 11,000 homes and more than 2,100 businesses.

$624 million  Public Assistance funds allocated by FEMA for cities, counties, state agencies and certain nonprofits for nearly 7,100 recovery projects.

$15 billion  With torrential rainfall and maximum sustained winds of 145 mph, Hurricane Charley whipped across the State of Florida and left behind an estimated $15 billion in insured and uninsured losses.

The Florida Four in 2004:  Charley (Aug. 13), Frances (Sept. 5), Ivan (Sept. 16) and Jeanne (Sept. 26)

• Four storms in 44 days caused an estimated $45 billion in damage.

• Each of the storms is still ranked among the top ten costliest hurricanes in the U.S., according to the Insurance Information Institute.

• Florida was the first state to be hit by four hurricanes in one season since Texas in 1886.

• At the time, FEMA’s response to the four hurricanes was the largest in the agency’s 26-year history.

• Because of the 2004 hurricanes, nearly $369 million in federal funds was set aside for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The program funds projects that will protect Florida communities during future storms.

• FEMA received disaster assistance applications from approximately 1.3 million households and businesses in Florida and provided nearly $1.6 billion in grants to state residents.

• The agency sent nearly $2.5 billion in federal aid to the state to reimburse local governments and eligible state agencies for nearly 27,000 recovery and rebuilding projects – that amounts to about half of all public disaster recovery projects nationwide for that year.

FEMA’s mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

For more information on the Florida Division of Emergency Management and to GET A PLAN!, please visit: www.FloridaDisaster.org. All students, teachers and parents can find educational information and free downloadable materials at: www.KidsGetAPlan.com. For the latest flash reports and other preparedness information go to: www.YouTube.com/FloridaSERT.

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For more information on FEMA, go to www.fema.gov. For more information on the Florida Division of Emergency Management visit www.floridadisaster.org.