



**State Emergency
Response Team**

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
FEMA Region IV
Florida Recovery Office



FEMA

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FIVE YEARS LATER: TREASURE COAST STRONGER FOLLOWING 2004 HURRICANES

\$47 million investment makes region better able to withstand future disasters

ORLANDO, Fla. — As Florida’s Treasure Coast begins to commemorate five years since the landfall of Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne, federal and state emergency managers said record funding triggered by the 2004 hurricanes has made the region more ready to face future disasters.

On top of the hundreds of millions of dollars provided to rebuild Treasure Coast infrastructure like public buildings or roads, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) set aside more than \$47 million in additional funds for Treasure Coast schools, fire stations, and other public facilities.

The additional federal dollars, approved for public agencies in Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee counties, funded measures that go far beyond simply rebuilding. Measures included roofs upgraded to withstand 140 mph winds, and adding storm shutters where none previously existed. Statewide, a total of \$420 million in projects were approved.

“By rebuilding to higher standards, we’re preserving our most important public services,” said Ruben D. Almaguer, Interim Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management. “Instead of making repairs to damaged buildings after a future disaster, we hope hospitals will be treating patients, schools will quickly reopen, and police will be on the streets serving the public.”

In a typical disaster, schools, fire stations and other public facilities are rebuilt to meet current building codes. Improvements made with hazard mitigation dollars provided through FEMA’s Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Grant programs far exceed these standards.

“Looking back on five years of recovery, we’re proud that local and state officials took to heart our goal of rebuilding a stronger Treasure Coast,” said Robert Ives, Director of the FEMA Florida Recovery Office. “By working side by side with the state, we’ve helped Florida communities seize the opportunity to better protect their citizens.”

The FEMA-state partnership was further solidified during the 2004 storm season when former Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management Craig Fugate formed a unified command. This system – used for the first time in Florida in 2004 – merged state and federal response teams to solve problems together. Fugate is now the Administrator of FEMA.

FEMA’s strong partnership with the State of Florida has continued since 2004. Federally funded hardening projects were cooperatively reviewed and approved by state and federal teams at the shared Florida Recovery Office in Lake Mary, Fla.

(MORE)

TREASURE COAST STRONGER FOLLOWING 2004 HURRICANES – Pg. 2

FEMA's investment should also save money for all in the long run. An independent study by the National Institute of Building Science's Multihazard Mitigation Council found that every dollar spent on mitigation can save as much as four dollars in response and recovery costs.

Selected examples of hazard mitigation on the Treasure Coast

Applicant	Description	Dollar Amount
Palm Beach County School District	To protect against windborne debris and water intrusion, the Palm Beach County Fulton Holland Education Center was approved for impact-resistant windows.	\$2,110,220
West Palm Beach	Hurricane shutters were approved to protect the downtown West Palm Beach Police Department building.	\$516,941
Boca Raton	This project involves a roof upgrade and storm shutters to improve the wind resistance of the Public Safety Complex, including the emergency operations center, fire administration, and 911 dispatch center.	\$924,335
Delray Beach	Hundreds of impact-resistant windows will protect the building and contents of the Old School Square Cultural Arts Center and National Historic Site.	\$485,524
Lake Worth	Concrete protective jackets for the fishing pier pilings will harden the pier against wave action and storm surge.	\$902,880
Martin County	Eighteen flood-prone homes and businesses in the St. Lucie Settlement area were approved for elevation to prevent future flooding from the St. Lucie River.	\$1,401,202
St. Lucie County Fire District	To strengthen against wind damage, fire stations 1, 3, 5, 7, 8-12, 14 and 15 will receive reinforced roofs and bracing for station doors.	\$1,172,315
Fort Pierce	Extending a seawall will better shield the shoreline at the Riverwalk.	\$250,000

(MORE)

TREASURE COAST STRONGER FOLLOWING 2004 HURRICANES – Pg. 3

Fort Pierce Housing Authority	To protect the homes of more than 200 seniors at the Park Terrace Apartments along with the housing authority's administrative offices, high-impact windows and hurricane barriers were approved.	\$965,216
Fort Pierce	This project includes a heavy duty system of impact-resistant windows with aluminum framing to protect Fort Pierce City Hall from flying debris and water intrusion.	\$1,049,918
Port St. Lucie	Hurricane shutters were approved to protect Port St. Lucie City Hall.	\$690,642
Indian River State College	Roof strengthening for numerous buildings on the Indian River Academy campus in Fort Pierce and the Mueller Center in Vero Beach.	\$869,150
Okeechobee County	To add additional protective measures to the soon-to-be-constructed emergency operations center, FEMA-approved funds for storm shutters and other hardening measures.	\$588,807

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. And for the latest daily situation and flash reports go to: www.YouTube.com/FloridaSERT.

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