



Florida SHMPoints

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

SEPTEMBER, 2011

What's This All About?

This newsletter seeks to provide insightful mitigation news and information from mitigation planners. By spreading information about hazard mitigation, we hope to better shield Florida against the next natural disaster.

LMS Update

Approved	66
At FEMA	1
At FDEM	0
Expired	0
Completed	66/67

This table shows the status of LMS plans for Florida Counties

Improving Flood Safety for Floridians

By: Brent C. Pesta

The ongoing collaboration between Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) and Florida State University Planning and Development Lab, focusing on Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) and Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) integration, is bearing fruit. After eight months of research and brainstorming with assistance from many county partners and state technicians, the draft publication titled, "Recommended Integration Practices: Strengthening the FMP Portions of the LMS," is ready for distribution to pilot counties.

The publication entered the proof of concept phase in early August and was shared with thirteen Florida counties. The participation of these counties affirms their commitment to improving flood safety and mitigation and provides a vital service to the State of Florida.

The final publication is intended to be released in digital and print formats at the beginning of 2012. The purpose of this work is to reduce redundant planning efforts so that plans can be more focused, efficient, and effective.

The publication also suggests specific actions and methods for improving jurisdictional mitigation efforts. Although, many of the recommendations can be taken outside of Community Rating System (CRS) participation, all of the recommendations are compatible with CRS and considerable effort was made to ensure that recommended planning processes and methods would be compliant with both the CRS and the LMS planning processes.

Most of Florida's counties have recently completed their LMS updates and the actions of pilot counties respecting the implementation of this proof of concept phase are particularly notable.

As counties annually update and re-enter their LMS planning cycle during the next five years, please reference this publication and consider incorporating some of the collective wisdom between its covers into your plan and planning process. For more information please see pg.4 for contact information. We're here to serve you.

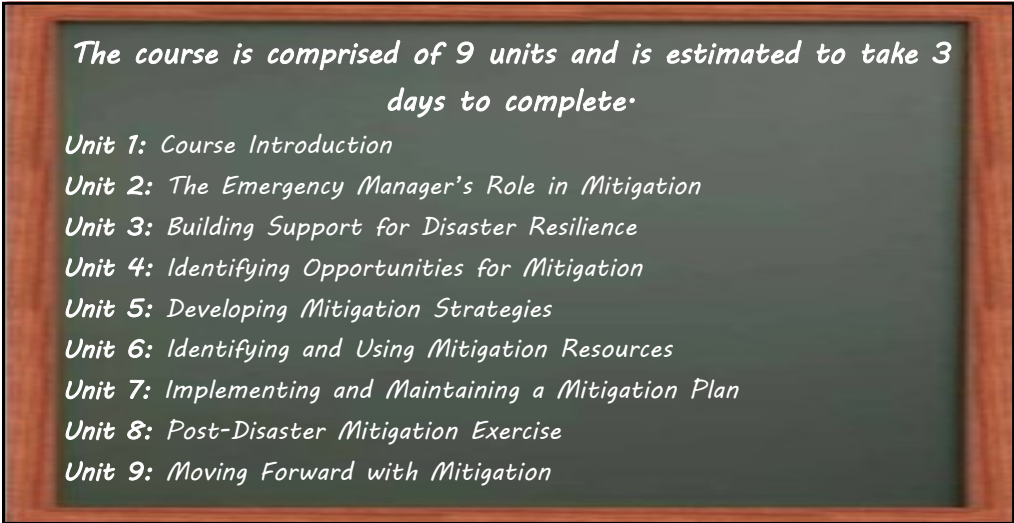
G-393 and G-318 APS Changes

By: Laura Herbert

On May 1, 2011 the list of required courses for FEMA's Advanced Professional Series (APS) got a new look. Mitigation Planning for Local Government, G-318, originally one of the 5 required courses, was replaced by Mitigation for Emergency Managers, G-393.

The new course focuses less on the

specific requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and more on the broad overall concepts of mitigation at the local level. Class attendees have the opportunity to learn about hazard mitigation plans as well as participate in a number of facilitated discussions and group activities as they relate to mitigation in their community.



Fret not, the G-318 course is still available by request for communities that would like to learn the specific ins and outs of mitigation planning. For more information or to schedule a class, please contact the State Training Office at: FDEM.STO@em.myflorida.com.

Have You Heard About The Florida Silver Jackets?

By: Devan Leavins

According to the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), "The Silver Jackets program provides a formal and consistent strategy for an interagency approach to planning and implementing measures to reduce the risks associated with flooding and other natural hazards."

This program is a way for multiple state and federal agencies to come together and share information and resources prior to a disaster.

Since last October the Florida Division of Emergency Management has been working closely with the USACE and other state agencies to put together a Florida Silver Jackets team.

The Florida team has recently finalized their charter and will hold the signing October 21, 2011 in Highlands County.

The program's primary goals of the Florida team are to:

- Identify resources that will help achieve comprehensive solutions
- Share information on individual agencies,

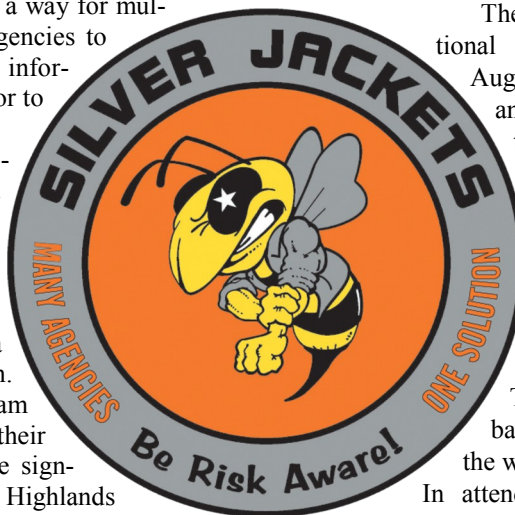
current projects, and initiatives.

- Identify gaps in or duplication of efforts.
- Promote public education and best practices for flood mitigation
- Work cooperatively on pre- and post-disaster planning, support, and action, including emergency response

The USACE held their National Silver Jackets Workshop August 15th -18th in Nashville and I had the privilege of attending. The benefits of this gathering were very much in line with the benefits of the Silver Jackets Program. The idea behind the Silver Jackets is to bring together, "many agencies for common solutions."

This was very apparent based on the participation in the workshop.

In attendance were representatives from the USACE, FEMA, state agencies, local agencies, private sector agencies, and non-profits. This venue provided an opportunity, on the national level, for agencies to get together and share information about what their state teams are involved in.



Flood Mitigation and Health

By: Emily Suter

Thankfully, the past two hurricane seasons have not caused any significant flooding in Florida. However, places like Iowa have not been so fortunate. This past June, areas of western Iowa experienced severe flooding after several days of rain which caused the Missouri River's levees to be breached.

The floodwater inundated communities near the Missouri-Iowa border. Many communities were urged to evacuate and thousands of people were left without a home, a job and unsure of future conditions.

Today, three months after the event, the effects of the flood are still being felt. Many people are still displaced and indirect health effects are beginning to emerge. According to the Iowa Department of Health, the stress levels of residents are rising, bacteria and mosquitoes are multiplying from stagnant floodwater, and mold is flourishing in destroyed buildings.

These health effects are common for communities that have been similarly affected by severe floods.

Iowa is currently rebuilding with an em-

phasis on flood protection. Additionally, Iowa policy is being reviewed to ensure that measures are in place to discourage new construction in flood-prone areas.

This example shows us that protecting public health is one of the fundamental reasons for having an emergency management system and adequate mitigation strategies. In order to prevent the loss of life, injury and spread of disease it is vital that communities plan for disaster by utilizing proper mitigation techniques.

Floods are one of the greatest threats to public health, safety and welfare in the United States, and especially in Florida. While the sunshine state has been fortunate to not have recent severe flooding, it is important to take mitigation actions to prevent loss of life.

FDEM's Bureau of Mitigation continues to review flood ordinance codes and local mitigation strategy plans to ensure that Florida communities are better mitigated for the next flood disaster.



Residents remove belongings from a flooded home along the Skunk River in central Iowa.

SHMPoint Funny



©2011- All Rights Reserved- By Jared A Jaworski

Haha, I was calling to see if you felt that quake, but it turned out it was just my wife stomping around upstairs!

Want to know more about an article? Contact us!

Laura Herbert

Laura.herbert@em.myflorida.com

Jared Jaworski

Jared.jaworski@em.myflorida.com

Devan Leavins

Devan.leavins@em.myflorida.com

Brent C. Pesta

Brent.pesta@em.myflorida.com

Emily Suter

Emily.suter@em.myflorida.com



The Bureau of Mitigation

Mitigation is an integral part of the Division of Emergency Management. Mitigation actions reduce or eliminate the loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters. Due to Florida's weather, geography, and miles of coastline the state is highly vulnerable to disasters. Disasters can be very costly to citizens and government.

The Bureau of Mitigation administers several federal mitigation grant programs including the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program, Flood Mitigation Assistance Program, Severe Repetitive Loss Program and the Repetitive Flood Claims Program. The Bureau also administers the Residential Construction Mitigation Program, a state mitigation grant program.

If you would like to know more please visit:

<http://www.floridadisaster.org/Mitigation/index.htm>