



STATE OF FLORIDA

DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

RICK SCOTT
Governor

BRYAN W. KOON
Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Agencies within the Executive Branch of Florida State Government, Water Management Districts, and the Florida Public Service Commission

FROM: Director Bryan Koon, Florida Division of Emergency Management

DATE: August 16, 2017

SUBJECT: Required Participation in the Natural Hazards Interagency Workgroup

The purpose of this memo is to notify all agencies within the Executive Branch of Florida State Government, all Florida Water Management Districts, and the Florida Public Service Commission that HB 181 / SB 464 has passed to create §252.3655 Natural Hazards Interagency Workgroup effective July 1, 2017.

This statute creates an interagency workgroup comprised of a liaison from each agency within the Executive Branch of State Government¹, Water Management Districts, and the Florida Public Service Commission to “share information, coordinate ongoing efforts, and collaborate on initiatives relating to natural hazards².”

The workgroup is to meet on a quarterly basis via teleconference or in person to discuss natural disasters and collaborate on ongoing statewide efforts addressing their impacts.

Previously, the Bureau of Mitigation at the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) coordinated quarterly State Hazard Mitigation Plan Advisory Team (SHMPAT) meetings. The SHMPAT began as a stakeholder group to advise and update the Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP) and identified potential natural and man-made hazards while listing goals, objectives, strategies and actions for reducing future losses.

The SHMPAT team has changed and expanded to include the requirements associated with the new statute, as well as other statewide mitigation efforts, and has transformed into Mitigate FL. This new group will maintain expanded and formalized membership, allowing for better coordination, collaboration and information sharing. Mitigate FL membership will include liaisons from the required state agencies and representatives from federal agencies, local governments, non-profit organizations and academic entities. This more comprehensive team will benefit the State of Florida by allowing for better coordination and collaboration on these important issues. Formalizing and expanding the team to create Mitigate FL will ensure that the group continues to meet quarterly and address natural and man-made hazards well into the future.

¹ <https://www.hg.org/florida-government.html>

² <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2017/0181>

The Mitigation Planning Unit, in the Mitigation Bureau at FDEM, has dedicated a new position to share information with members of the group, coordinate ongoing efforts (including the quarterly Mitigate FL meetings) and collaborate on various initiatives relating to natural and man-made hazards.

To adhere to the newly created §252.3655, the FDEM requests that all Agencies within the Executive Branch of Florida State Government, Water Management Districts, and the Florida Public Service Commission designate a liaison to the Mitigate FL team. An appropriate liaison should be familiar with emergency management and mitigation, as well as their respective agency mission, capabilities, and resources.

Once a representative from each agency is identified, the FDEM liaison will coordinate with them to establish strong working relationships.

We invite you to attend our quarterly Mitigate FL team meetings held the second Tuesday of each quarter (March, June, September and December) from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at FDEM's Kelley Training Room or via webinar.

A final copy of the Bill is attached here for reference. Should you have any questions, please contact Laura Waterman at Laura.Waterman@em.myflorida.com or (850) 815-4512.