



Florida SHMPoints

Providing insightful mitigation news and information from around the State of Florida.

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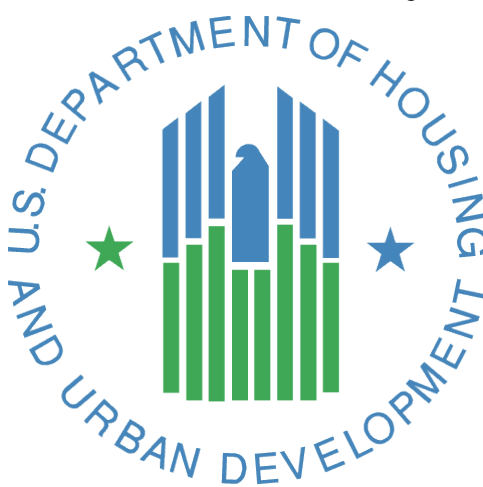
HUD's National Disaster Resilience Competition An opportunity for mitigation innovation in Florida

By: Vanessa Castillo

A very exciting opportunity for mitigation and resilience activities in Florida! The U.S. Department for Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced the National Disaster Resilience Competition in June. The program will allocate almost \$1 billion in funds from the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) appropriation to communities that have experienced natural disasters in recent years. **The competition seeks to promote innovative mitigation strategies that better prepare communities for the potential effects of climate change, such as more erratic weather, severe storms, and sea level rise.** Communities recently affected by a disaster may compete for funding to create plans to help them rebuild and increase their resilience to future disasters. According to a HUD announcement in July, there are 67 eligible applicants, including 48 states, Puerto Rico, Washington DC, and 17 local governments. **In Florida, 45 counties experienced a presidential declaration in 2011, 2012 or 2013 and thus are eligible for funding.** To see a complete list of eligible grantees, please visit <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=ElgbAppNatReslnceComp.pdf>

The competition specifically prioritizes mitigation strategies based on “sound science” and “forward-looking risk analysis to address recovery, resilience, and revitalization needs.” It is an opportunity to address climate impacts that affect Florida residents and infrastructure with increasing severity. This competition builds on HUD’s earlier project, the “Rebuild by Design” competition, which funded planning proposals to reconstruct and strengthen communities that were affected by Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

The winning proposals addressed concerns such as protecting food supply from flood hazards; improving drainage infrastructure in dense urban environments; and mitigating damage from storm surge, storm water runoff and sea level rise in waterfront neighborhoods. Many of our Florida communities have already begun to address similar issues and the National Disaster Resilience Competition could serve as a prime opportunity to reinforce and advance their efforts.



The competition will be a year-long program with two phases: 1) risk assessment and planning; and (2) design and implementation. Many communities will be eligible for funding and technical assistance during Phase 1. However, only a subset of these communities will be invited to continue in Phase 2 to design and implement solutions for recovery and future resilience. The best proposals will receive funds for implementation. We hope that those winning proposals may demonstrate to the rest of the country how vulnerable communities can build capacity to withstand and recover effectively from natural disasters. We await a forthcoming

Notice of Funding Availability from HUD for specifications on application requirements and further program details. Florida communities, keep this opportunity on your radar!

For more information, please refer to the following fact sheet: [National Disaster Resilience Competition](#) or contact your state liaison in the Mitigation Bureau.

Rebuild by Design Competition information: <http://www.rebuildbydesign.org/>

Best Practice: Wildfire Mitigation

By: Michael Wallick

Baker County contains approximately 27,000 people and is located in the northern part of Florida. The county is 92% forested, leaving it highly vulnerable to wildfires. Additionally, much of the Osceola National Forest is located inside of the county. Within Baker County lies Taylor, a small, rural community comprised of approximately 400 homes. As a result of mitigation actions within the past ten years, the community of Taylor has been recognized as a Firewise and Fire Adapted Community by the National Fire Protection Association.

After fires affected the community in 2004, residents of Taylor decided to implement a community wildfire protection plan, which was completed in 2006 and funded by FEMA Fire Prevention and Safety Grants. As part of this funding, the Florida Forest Service provides capacity to local wildfire mitigation specialists to assist local government agencies in the development of policy, planning and construction regulations for inclusion in the community wildfire protection plan. The Taylor Community Wildfire Protection Plan of 2006 called for fuel treatments, such as prescribed burns and the construction of a 30 foot wide perimeter control line to surround the town. These measures proved to be a vital success during the Bugaboo Fire of 2007, which greatly affected Baker County and surrounding counties in Florida and Georgia. The control line allowed firefighters to conduct burnout operations and direct the fire around the town, without loss to a single structure. Funding for the upkeep and maintenance of the control line is provided by the Florida Forest Service and in-kind contributions to Taylor Firewise Community. When combined with volunteer time of local residents, Taylor has been able to continue its recognition as a Firewise Community USA and has maintained its Firewise status for the past six years and has already met requirements for 2015 eligibility.

The continued success of Taylor's wildfire mitigation initiatives can be attributed to a number of things. Baker County has approached wildfire preparation and mitigation from a cooperative approach, collaborating with other groups

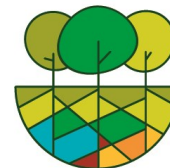
like residents, numerous volunteers, the Baker County Fire Department, Florida Forest Service, and the US Forest Service. This collaboration effort, along with the creation of the Taylor Community Wildfire Protection Plan of 2006, has proved to be a great success for the community.

Mitigation actions proved to be crucial in Taylor's fight against the 2007 Bugaboo Fire and its continued support of wildfire preparedness and mitigation initiatives have proved it is a community committed to resiliency. As a result of the community's successes, the Baker County Firewise Community has been selected as a Pilot Community by the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network, one of 18 new ones and one of three east of the Mississippi River. To find out more about wildfire mitigation in Taylor, contact Nancy Oliver, Taylor Firewise Coordinator.

To learn more about the Firewise Communities program, contact Doc Bloodworth, Wildfire Mitigation Specialist with the Florida Forest Service.



The Bugaboo Fire burned much of Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia in 2007.



**FIRE ADAPTED COMMUNITIES
LEARNING NETWORK**

Best Practice: Regional Collaboration

Response Exercise in Glades County

By: John Gibbons

Predicting disasters or hazardous incidents is impossible. The next major event can come at any moment. Preparation and planning for the unexpected is the only course of action.

On June 11, 2014 more than 70 emergency responders from the region joined forces with Glades County Public Safety, Local Emergency Planning Council, Florida Department of Health in Glades County and Wedgworth Fertilizer, Inc. to participate in an "Emergency Response Exercise". After months of planning, Glades County Public Safety (along with support from responders in the region) demonstrated the ability to operate in response to a major incident that included scenarios involving real people with simulated serious injuries.

The Planning Team worked closely together with responders and the private industry to provide a learning environment that mirrored a realistic incident. The Florida Department of Health in Hendry and Glades Counties coordinated "actors" by enlisting the help from sixteen Nursing Students at Florida Gulf Coast University. Some of the students role-played as "victims", while others assisted with rapid triage. The simulated incident occurred at Wedgworth Fertilizer, Inc. in Moore Haven but also included the Florida Department of Health in Glades County, which was used as a "medical staging site".



The responders and other exercise participants trained in areas that focused on emergency management, healthcare, the fire service, law enforcement, emergency medical services and hazardous materials. Following a hazardous event, response organizations specializing in a variety of skills are mobilized to assist in the rescue and recovery.

"This type of training allows responders to deploy to an unfamiliar location and into an unknown situation and manage the incident on arrival," said

John Gibbons, Planner/Program Manager for Hazardous Waste/Materials Program of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council.

"This was as realistic as you can make it. You respond like you train," said Bob Kosiba, Exercise Facilitator and Regional Planner/Regional Consultant for the Florida Department of Health. "If you don't have reality in training, when something happens you're not going to be as prepared. We learned from each other and shared ideas. This training exercise provided the opportunity to learn together, get a common picture and spend time strengthening professional relationships."



Hazard Profile: Erosion

By: Chad Dumas

With over 2,270 miles of tidal coastline, Florida is home to some of the most beautiful beaches in the country. Most of the Sunshine State's beaches are made up of quartz sand brought to the coast by rivers draining from the Appalachian Mountains. Various types of sediment, rocks, shells, shell fragments, mangroves, marshes and other types of vegetation are also part of our sandy shores and coastlines. Erosion is defined as a process where materials of the earth's crust are loosened, dissolved, or worn away and simultaneously moved from one place to another. In Florida we are most familiar with coastal and beach erosion, which affect our shores and beaches every day. With 35 out of Florida's 67 counties located on the coast, erosion is a major concern.

Beach erosion is a natural, dynamic process. Currents running parallel to the shore gradually remove sand in one location and deposit it in another. Barrier islands are constantly shifting, as sand is transferred off and around islands. Effects of beach erosion can be amplified by hurricanes and strong storms, flooding, strong wave action, and inappropriate land use. Jetties, piers, sea walls, and navigational inlets can block the transfer of sand as currents work to relocate sand along shorelines. As these structures block the movement of sand, this creates a build-up of sand in some locations, and a depletion of sand in other locations. As currents move along areas of depleted sand, and with no sand to replace it, the coast begins to shrink. Coastal recession rates of a few feet per year are common along most Florida beaches; however, barrier islands are the most susceptible to beach erosion with recession rates of up to 25 feet per year.

The beach and sand dune structures are the first defense against hurricanes, absorbing strong waves that hammer



In this October 2012 photo sand has been pulled away from the beachfront of Ocean's Edge by high surf.



Singer Island Beach shows extreme erosion in 2009 after the storms from the 5 years prior.

shorelines. As we have seen over the past decade, powerful storms can sweep away beaches within hours, putting homes, businesses, and public infrastructure at risk of being damaged or destroyed. It only takes one storm to make a difference! Even with one storm impacts on the coast can be disastrous.

Over time as coasts and beaches become weakened by the erosion process, homes and buildings along the coast can quickly become exposed to a critical eroded shoreline. Condominiums under a weakened foundation can begin to tilt and homes can become uninhabitable. During a major storm, roads can be damaged to the point of inoperability, which can create evacuation and other safety problems. In the U.S., erosion is responsible for nearly \$500 million in coastal property loss each year, including structural and land loss. According to a study completed in 2000, erosion may claim one out of four houses within 500 feet of the shoreline by mid-century.

Impacts of beach erosion go beyond life and property. Tourism drives Florida's economy, with our sandy beaches being one of the main attractions. Mitigating the damaging effects of a shrinking coastline will help keep our beaches "open for business." Our coasts are also home to numerous species of turtles, birds, and many other types of marine wildlife. A wide beach will create a thriving environment for marine wildlife to live long and prosper.

Over the past eleven years, the state has spent in excess of \$393 million on beach re-nourishment projects. Seawalls,

Continued from page 4

breakwaters, and revetments can be constructed to slow the loss of sand along beaches and are effective solutions under some circumstances. However, man-made structures are usually costly and sometimes make erosion problems worse downdrift. While disrupting natural shoreline processes, man-made structures can also harm natural habitats and create problems for turtles. Depending on the situation, natural shoreline stabilization techniques are an effective alternative. Mangroves and other types of vegetation are excellent at trapping sand, maintaining natural habitats, and lessening the effects of storm surge. Building up sand dunes will help mitigate the damage done by hurricanes and strong storms. Dredging is a popular way to replace sand on beaches; however, in some areas of South Florida, there is almost no offshore sand left to dredge. Most solutions to coastal and beach erosion are short term as shorelines are always eroding due to its natural processes. Beaches and wetlands will continue to be squeezed between a shrinking coast and coastal

development.

Currently, there are many ongoing beach conservation projects that are working to mitigate loss of life and property while protecting natural coastal resources. Follow this link to learn more:

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/beaches/>

Local mitigation strategy working groups should keep up with local coastal and beach conservation projects to stay up to date on all hazards that can affect their counties. Shoreline change rate estimate reports (per county), critical erosion reports, and other technical reports can be found by visiting:

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/beaches/publications/tech-rpt.htm>

To learn more about the state of our coast, visit this link for interactive, data-driven maps created by NOAA:

<http://stateofthecoast.noaa.gov/>

Pin Point Announcements

Pasco County recently completed the LMS update process.

Their new plan has been approved until 2019!
CONGRATS!!!



We want to share your mitigation successes!
Please send info to

DEM-SHMPAT@em.myflorida.com

Under the new PAS, the FDEM Mitigation Planning Unit now approves LMS plans on behalf of FEMA!

LMS updates can now be uploaded to SharePoint. Ask your LMS Liaison for your unique log in info.

New in your inbox from your LMS Liaison:

First Monday LMS Tips, Hints, and Tricks!

FDEM held 3 pilot workshops in September on assessing public facilities for flood risk and mitigation options. Final manuals coming soon!

Want to know more about the topics in this issue? Contact us!

Jamie Leigh Price
jamie.price@em.myflorida.com

Michael Wallick
michael.wallick@em.myflorida.com

Vanessa Castillo
vanessa.castillo@em.myflorida.com

Chad Dumas
chad.dumas@em.myflorida.com

Nancy Oliver
904-259-7061 or double00@nefcom.net

Doc Bloodworth
386-758-5706 or Doc.Bloodworth@FreshFromFlorida.com

John Gibbons
jgibbons@swfrpc.org



The Bureau of Mitigation

Mitigation is an integral part of the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM). 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 both the citizens and government.

Under the direction of State Hazard Mitigation Officer, Miles E. Anderson, and Division Director Bryan Koon, the Bureau of Mitigation administers several federal mitigation grant programs including the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program, and the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program. The Bureau also administers a state funded mitigation program called the Residential Construction Mitigation Program.

If you would like to know more about mitigation in Florida please visit: www.floridadisaster.org/mitigation.



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I DON'T THINK WE CAN ACCEPT, "WE GOT STUFF DONE," AS A SUBMISSION FOR BEST MITIGATION PRACTICES.

You're Invited!

The next SHMPAT Meeting will be held on:

**December 9th, 2014
1:00- 4:00PM
Kelley Conference Room
Sadowski Building
2555 Shumard Oak Blvd
Tallahassee, FL**