



LMS TIMES



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Special points of interest:

- Director's Corner
- CRS Corner
- COVID-19
- Prioritized Priority List (PPL)
- #MitigationMonday

The LMS Times is a quarterly publication that seeks to provide residents of the Palm Beach County community with key information in the areas of mitigation and public safety. If you have stories that would benefit the community, please contact us. We want YOU involved. Send articles to:

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Director's Corner

By Bill Johnson, RN,
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2020: it's almost over...what will 2021 bring?

Did any of us wake up on New Year's Day and think to ourselves, "We are going to have a worldwide pandemic this year, and on top of that, a record hurricane season just for fun?" No? Me either. 2020 has been one of those years people will talk about for decades to come. But it has also taught us some valuable lessons, and stretched us just a bit to see what we were able to accomplish when all odds were against us.

I never thought I would see our EOC activated for over 6 months, much less as long as it has been now (with no definitive end in sight). And, on top of that, we had two (2) hurricane activations during our COVID activation, which made it all the more interesting. But #TeamPBC and our municipalities continue to amaze me with their dedication to getting the job done. Maybe if we are lucky, 2021 will bring us back to some semblance of normalcy once again and let us all have some well-deserved stability.

With that said, I wanted to let you know that I have announced my retirement from DEM effective in February of 2021. While during my tenure, #TeamPBC has made many accomplishments, I wanted to highlight a couple that I am most proud of in the area of mitigation:

1) The relationships that have been built along the way between our municipalities and county government have been instrumental in addressing the many disasters we have been impacted by over the years. They say the absolute wrong time to

exchange business cards is during a disaster. Well, I've been fortunate to give out very few cards when we've been activated. Primarily due to the day-to-day collaboration our countywide team maintains throughout the year. In spite of COVID's distancing, we've maintained this collaboration, and I believe we are better off because of these efforts.

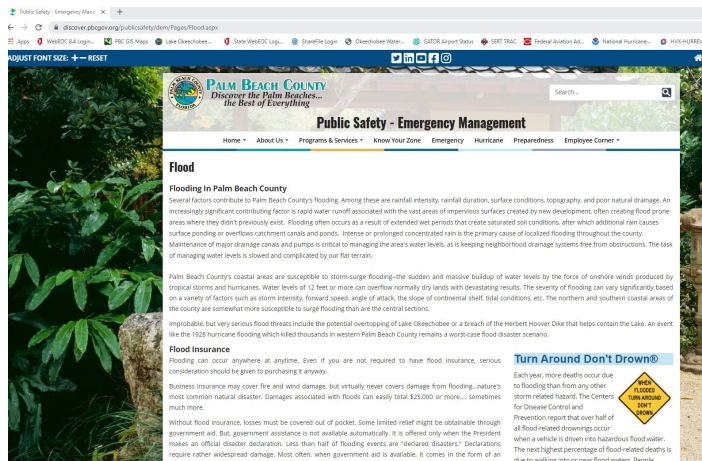
2) The coordination and cooperation within our LMS and CRS groups has been particularly astounding, with tens of millions of dollars awarded through various grant programs due to the hard work our members have put into mitigating against our hazards. Our LMS groups have currently submitted over \$200 million in projects to the PPL, a testament to the power of mitigation and the eagerness to serve our community. #TeamPBC is seen as a national leader in mitigation. In fact, recall that I was asked to testify at the U.S. Capitol at a hearing of the House of Representatives' Rules Subcommittee on Legislative & Budget Process regarding disasters, mitigation, and resiliency in September 2019. In my testimony I highlighted our tremendous local multijurisdictional, multidisciplinary mitigation efforts and how "...building materials matter, building codes work, and mitigation works!"

It has been a great ride and I will sincerely miss each and every one of you. Keep up the good work and keep fighting for those mitigation dollars! Please stay safe and be well!



CRS Corner: PBC Flood Webpage

By: Shane Ratliff, FPDM, Emergency Program Coordinator



One of the strengths we have in Palm Beach County (PBC) is the ability to get information out to the public quickly. The PBC DEM has created a flood information page (<http://pbcgov.com/flood>) that has been active for several years, but has recently been updated to follow along with Activity 352c (WEB) in the CRS Coordinator's Manual to gain as many points as possible in this activity. According to Activity 350, "local communities can receive credit for a county or regional website, as long as there is a link from the community's website and that information is locally pertinent" (page 350-6 of the *2017 CRS Coordinator's Manual*). This means that if our municipalities (particularly those smaller ones who don't have large IT departments and individual websites for each department/division, may "piggyback" off of our county flood information page simply by placing a link prominently on your municipality's webpage and then design an education campaign (outreach project) around it for your community, informing them to go to your page to be linked to flood information. Since the county's webpage is designed with information that is relevant countywide, you should be able to get some credit for pointing your webpage to our flood information site (please consult with your ISO/Verisk representative for detailed guidance).

So feel free to put a link on your municipal webpage for flooding information to go to <http://pbcgov.com/flood>

Upcoming LMS Working Group Meeting

The LMS Working Group will hold its 1st quarter meeting via Conference Call on the following date:

- March 10, 2021

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the LMS Steering Committee has decided that all future meetings will be via conference call or Webinar until we are able to meet in person once again. Stay safe and keep mitigating!

The public is highly encouraged to attend.

LMS2020 Scores Sky High in CRS Activity 510

By: Shane Ratliff, FPDM, Emergency Program Coordinator

Sponsored by the PBC Division of Emergency Management, the Local Mitigation Strategy, titled as **LMS2020**, was submitted to Verisk/ISO to be scored as the Floodplain Management Plan (Activity 510) for Palm Beach County and any adopted municipality that did not have their own separate plan. The 2015 LMS received a score of 91 out of 387, and our initial score for the LMS 2020 was 293, a huge improvement. After looking over the assessor's notes, DEM's Planning Manager and the LMS Coordinator decided to appeal a couple of elements that were scored low, but all the documentation proved a higher score should have been given. After discussions with the Verisk/ISO representative, and writing a justification that the LMS2020 deserved a higher score, he submitted back to the assessor for a second look. Apparently no one had ever "appealed" a score before according to the representative. A couple of weeks later, we received our final score for LMS2020, a whopping 320 out of a possible 387...one of the highest scores for an LMS document acting as a Floodplain Management Plan in the country!

I would like to recognize all the hard work put into updating the LMS2020 over an 18 month period back in 2017-2019, particularly by our Revisions Subcommittee, made up of LMS members from the City of West Palm Beach, Boynton Beach, South Bay, Northern Palm Beach County Improvement District, and the City of Greenacres.

Now, each LMS member municipality may submit with their CRS Verification, a copy of the Activity 510 scoring sheet from Verisk and automatically receive those points. If you have not already received a copy, please contact SRatliff1@pbcgov.org and this office will ensure you have a copy to submit.



STRONGER TOGETHER...

6 FEET APART

#PBCStrong #TeamPBC #TeamPBCTogether

COVID-19 Pandemic: Will it end?

By: Shane Ratliff, FPEM, Emergency Program Coordinator

Have we reached the end yet? That's the thought I have when I think about the year we have had so far in the biggest pandemic to hit the United States since the Spanish Flu in 1918. The Novel Coronavirus (known as COVID-19) is thought to originate in the Wuhan Province of China in the last quarter of 2019. By the 2nd quarter of 2020, it had spread worldwide and deaths were soaring. As of 12-10-2020, almost 70 million people have been infected globally with over 1.5 million deaths, and in the United States we have had over 15.4 million infected with just under 290,000 deaths. But what mitigation strategies are available? After all, Communicable Diseases IS one of our identified hazards in our LMS.

Since March, Palm Beach County and our municipalities have been focused on this pandemic, how to slow the spread of the virus, and how to keep moving forward in the midst of it. It's been difficult, as studies have revealed that some things folks thought would not work actually did (i.e. cloth masks), and things we thought worked well didn't really do much (i.e. wiping down surfaces multiple times per day...turns out spread from touching surfaces is very low compared to through the air without face coverings). This being a new virus, one that didn't have a test or any treatments in the beginning, the death rate was really high, particularly in vulnerable populations. But now, the first vaccine has been approved by the FDA to be released this week (starting with healthcare workers and the most vulnerable populations), shown to be around 95% effective, and developed in record time.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has listed many mitigation strategies on its webpage at [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/community-mitigation.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/community-mitigation.html), such as ways to promote behaviors the prevent spread, maintain healthy environments, maintain healthy operations, and prepare for when someone gets sick. Please take a moment to review these, and determine if they are applicable in your home and/or workplace. Also use the power of your social media accounts to spread information to your citizens, as reinforcement of good habits will yield positive results.

At the end of the day, our best mitigation strategies are still washing our hands, covering our faces, and socially distancing. If we do that until vaccinations provide immunity to the population, we will get through this sooner rather than later.

Even though it looks bad now, we will get through this. We will reach the finish line, and those of you who have worked non-stop fighting this pandemic will finally get a good rest. Until then, stay safe!



LMS Prioritized Project List [PPL]

The purpose of the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) is to develop and execute an ongoing methodology for reducing a community's vulnerability to identified natural, technological, and human caused hazards. The strategy provides a rational, managed basis for considering and prioritizing hazard-specific mitigation options, and for developing and executing sound, cost-effective mitigation projects. The LMS also provides a basis for justifying the solicitation and use of local, state, federal, and other funding to support hazard mitigation projects and initiatives.

In such efforts, the LMS provides opportunities to submit projects for the Prioritized Project List (PPL) by which the LMS Steering Committee, on recommendation of the LMS Evaluation Panel, will approve a single, ranked, prioritized project list, which is one of the ultimate goals of the LMS effort. In order to remain eligible to submit projects, each local government or agency must remain in good standing with the LMS, which includes following and continuing to follow PBC's LMS participation rules.

All LMS stakeholders have an opportunity to submit new projects to be scored and ranked on the PBC LMS PPL. The Fall 2020 PPL submission/ranking process was the only process for the year due to COVID-19 cancelling the process in the Spring. The results of our Fall 2020 submission process are below:

- ◆ There were 23 project submissions in total, 2 were rejected for not being eligible mitigation projects
- ◆ We had a net gain of 8 new projects added to the PPL in Fall 2020
- ◆ Well over \$200,000,000 in potential projects reside on our current PPL.

You can go to [https://discover.pbcgov.org/publicsafety/dem/PDF/Fall%202020%20PPL%20\(Oct%202020\)%20FINAL.pdf](https://discover.pbcgov.org/publicsafety/dem/PDF/Fall%202020%20PPL%20(Oct%202020)%20FINAL.pdf) to see the Fall 2020 (most current) PPL for PBC's LMS.

#MITIGATIONMONDAY OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

Each week, PBCDEM is planning on posting something mitigation-related across our Social Media channels (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) to partner with the State of Florida's Mitigation Bureau on bringing back #MitigationMonday, to get our citizens thinking about ways to prepare for and mitigate their homes for any future disaster that could occur.

Palm Beach County's DEM Mitigation Team is also asking our LMS members to post something with the hashtag #MitigationMonday on their social media pages each week, to promote mitigation to our citizens.

Be sure to follow @PBCDEM on Twitter to see what our Mitigation Monday message is and be sure to retweet!

