



LMS TIMES



Volume 12, Issue 1

Winter: Jan/Feb/Mar 2021

Special points of interest:

- Director's Corner
- CRS Corner
- COVID-19 Mitigation
- Spring Submission Period
- #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:

sratlif1@pbcgov.org

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Director's Corner

By Mary Blakeney,
FPDM, Director,
PBCDEM



As you all know from the last issue of LMS Times, Director of Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management (DEM), Bill Johnson, retired in February after a long and distinguished career in Emergency Management in South Florida. I honor of being appointed as his successor.

For those of you who do not already know me, as I have been with DEM for 13 years, most recently serving as the Senior Manager (Deputy Director). I have lived in Palm Beach County since I was 10 years old, having attended elementary (Kirklane), middle (Conniston), high school (John. I Leonard), and even graduated from college (Palm Beach Atlantic University) in Palm Beach County. Prior to joining the County, I spent 12 years working for the American Red Cross—Greater Palm Beach Area Chapter, serving as the Emergency Services Director where I worked hand in hand with community partners including the County staff at the EOC. Eventually, those I had worked closely with at the County convinced me to come work for DEM. While I was sad to leave such amazing paid and volunteer staff, I really have enjoyed my time with DEM and look forward to the next chapter in our world-class agency.

In my time with DEM, I have worked in multiple areas within emergency management, including overseeing the staff working on the LMS/CRS programs. I understand our LMS, how the process works for the PPL, how funding works with the various grants, as well as the CRS Activities and how they add points to scores, resulting in lower classes and better flood insurance rates. I have seen how well mitigation works and I am committed to advocating for

any and all mitigation funding we can get to help our communities. I encourage all of our communities to look ahead and come up with projects that will mitigate future issues and start working towards funding them now. Get them on the PPL, start applying for funding, and implement those mitigation measures.

I constantly tell my colleagues around the state what a top-notch LMS program we have in Palm Beach County, and mention the 320 points that were gained in the Floodplain Management Planning Activity (Activity 510) by using our LMS as a FMP. That's an achievement not many communities can claim, but one that is due to the hard work of you, our LMS members, our Steering Committee, our LMS Coordinator, and our Revisions Subcommittee. Keep up the good work and maybe we can score even higher next time!

Lastly, I wanted to talk about the upcoming hurricane season. Last year was a record-breaking season for the number of named storms, and this year could be just as active. Now is the time to start making your preparations. Start checking your equipment at home and at work, and make sure any necessary maintenance is completed before a storm hits. Get the word out to your residents about what to do to prepare themselves for the next tropical system. Refer them to our webpage, pbcgov.com/dem to find information on making a plan, building a supply kit, shelter locations, evacuation zones, and other ways to prepare. Put a link on your municipal page to the DEM page if you don't have preparedness information posted. Let's all work together to get the word out to the residents of Palm Beach County that preparation now is key to dealing with the aftermath later.

Thank you all for your continued commitment to mitigation, floodplain management, and making our wonderful community even better. If I can ever be of assistance to you, feel free to contact me at mblakene@pbcgov.org.

CRS Corner: Activity 610

By: Shane Ratliff, FPEM, Emergency Program Coordinator

For many years, Palm Beach County and our municipalities relied on the annual Statewide Hurricane Exercise (HurrEx) to be the bulk of our Activity 610 (Notification and Warning) credit within our CRS Programs. As you well know, beginning in 2020, the State of Florida decided that an annual, statewide hurricane exercise was no longer needed, and instead replaced with regional exercises on various all-hazards topics (i.e., Continuity of Operations, Terrorism). While this is good to switch things up to keep everyone well-versed in a multitude of hazards, it does affect and change the way we have to approach Activity 610 in our communities.

As you recall, in 2020, we overcame this obstacle by holding a local flood exercise, based off of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Herbert Hoover Dike Exercise, that PBC DEM participates in annually. Our LMS/CRS Coordinator and Training & Exercise Coordinator took information for the HHD Exercise and adapted it and did all the planning for a local exercise, and culminated in a "kickoff" webinar, where PBC DEM sent out the Situation Manual and a sample After-Action report (AAR) to all members of our CRS User Group and LMS Working Group. At the conclusion of the kickoff, each individual municipality was responsible to conduct their own local tabletop exercise and complete an AAR on their exercise.

This year, we plan on doing the same thing again. The USACE's Herbert Hoover Dike Exercise is scheduled for **April 29, 2021**. Palm Beach County Emergency Management once again will participate in this exercise with the USACE. Immediately after (at **1:00 pm**), we will do another kickoff webinar with our municipalities. After the kickoff concludes, communities would be expected to conduct their own tabletop flood exercise and AAR. Please note, this does not have to be on the same day, but the kickoff date/time is firm. You can attend the kickoff, then hold your tabletop the next day or even the next week, that's fine. We would caution you not to wait too long, or else you increase the likelihood that something else will come along and your exercise will be forgotten, negating your Activity 610 credit.

Since the USACE exercise last year was delayed till July because of COVID-19, you already have your credit for this cycle, so you may want to wait until after May 1 to do your tabletop, and that's ok. The tabletop and AAR are yours to complete when you are ready.

Upcoming LMS Working Group Meeting

The LMS Working Group will hold its 2nd quarter meeting via Conference Call on the following date:

- June 9, 2021 @ 9:00 am

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.

Sun Sets on PDM Grants Program

By: Ian Ohlin and Kristen Buckingham,
Florida Division of Emergency Management

Since its earliest form as a small congressional pilot project in 1997, the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Grant Program provided states, territories, tribal governments and local communities with annual access to federal funds. Unlike most other federal grant programs, these investments were directly aimed at reducing risk prior to the occurrence of disaster events. Since the project launches in 2017, proactive measures that lessen the impact of disasters have repeatedly proven to be a highly cost-effective way to protect life and property.

As part of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018, FEMA has now fully replaced its legacy PDM program with the newly developed Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program. While FEMA has intentionally left guidance vague to allow the new program to adapt to the needs of the nation moving forward, they have identified the applicant actions that will qualify for funding assistance through BRIC. These include capability-and-capacity building activities, mitigation projects and management costs.

A sense of continuity between the new and the old certainly remains, with some aspects of the new program remaining unchanged from its predecessor. For example, BRIC retains the 3-year performance periods of PDM grants as well as the 75/25 federal/non-federal percentage cost share, with a notable caveat that FEMA will now provide 100 percent of funding for management costs.

Along with the roll-out of BRIC, FEMA also released the Hazard Mitigation Assistance: Mitigation Action Portfolio to introduce the BRIC program, showcase select innovative projects for different hazards and highlight a wide range of possibilities of eligible projects. Among many others, three of the case studies highlighted are from Florida: Mexico Beach Recovery and Resiliency Partnership, Florida Building Codes, and Nicklaus Children's Hospital Hurricane Retrofits. FEMA hopes these project examples inspire stakeholders to think big and bold in addressing natural hazards, while also considering additional benefits that can be achieved beyond reducing economic and human costs from disasters.

Note: Eligible applicants are encouraged to start preparing BRIC applications for fiscal year 2021 in the fall. Visit the link below to find the Mitigation Action Portfolio and more detailed information about BRIC, including available funding, funding caps, and eligibility information.

<https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/building-resilient-infrastructure-communities>

Palm Beach County Conducts Huge Mitigation Outreach Project during COVID-19 Response

By: Shane Ratliff, FPEM, Emergency Program Coordinator

All too often, when we think about mitigation projects, or mitigation outreach, it usually is in the form of hurricane or flood mitigation, particularly here in South Florida. But there are mitigation measures that can be done for any identified hazard, and over the past year, communicable diseases (an identified hazard in our LMS Hazard Identification and Risk Analysis) has been at the forefront of our minds. For many, the entire pandemic was about mitigation, i.e., how do we slow the spread of the virus and eventually stop it from replicating. Well, stopping the virus from replicating is something that the scientific community has been working on, but at the local level, it's been about slowing the spread of the virus and protecting the most vulnerable citizens. That came in many forms, such as the initial statewide lockdown put in place by the Governor, to local ordinances requiring face masks/coverings be worn in public, to the stickers you see in the floors in both private and public buildings reminding you to stay six feet apart. Those were all mitigation measures.

Palm Beach County undertook one of the largest local mitigation measures early on in the pandemic, then again later in the summer, when it decided to send out facemasks to all households in PBC to reach our 1.4 million residents. Envelopes contained 2 cloth masks and 2 paper masks, along with an 8.5 x 11 two-sided flyer (pictured below) with information about how COVID would be addressed during hurricane season in our mass care shelters, a message to our residents with CDC guidance regarding how to slow transmission of the virus, information about the Emergency Order requiring face coverings, information about the Combat COVID app for contact tracing, and where to go to get updates on testing sites, financial help, emergency orders, and other resources.

While we will never know the true impact of sending these out to all of our residents actually had (as is most often the case in mitigation, you can't see what didn't happen because of your mitigation measure), any mitigation measure is better than no mitigation measure, when it comes to reducing the impacts of hazards.

COVID & Hurricane Season:
COVID y Temporada de huracanes: COVID ak Sezon Siklon.

1. MAKE A PLAN
With Your Family
Ready Palm Beach County
www.readypbc.org

2. BUILD A KIT
For Your Household
Ready Palm Beach County
www.readypbc.org

3. GET INVOLVED
Volunteer
Ready Palm Beach County
www.readypbc.org

4. BE INFORMED
Updated Critical Information
at Your Household
Download our FREE app:
PBCDART

Shelter information can be found here:
Aquí puede encontrar información sobre los refugios:
Ou ka jwenn enfòmasyon sou abri li li.

Abri pou Swen Kolektif
Abri pou swen kolektif la bay sèvis ki pwoteje lavi pou sivvan katòchif yo. Menm si abri pou swen kolektif la sòvan bay di, manje, medikaman ak sant sanita debaz, ou dwe planifye pou pran tèt ou an sekirite pou ou ka gen pwovizyon ou bezwen. Abri pou swen kolektif la ka gen ladan yo ak anpil moun nan yo espas ki pi, sa ki ka difisil ak pa enteresan.

Emergency Orders
Decretos de emergencia
Odonans Djans

Testing Sites
Lugares para Pruebas
Sit Tès

Financial Help
Ayuda Financiera
Ed Finansye

Resources
Recursos
Resous

Facial Coverings
Envelopes PPE
Mascarillas Faciales
- PPE Adjunto
Pwoteksyon Fij
- PPE Nan Ankl

2020 Census
- Pwoteksyon Fij yo
- Responde Alons
- Responde Alons
- Responde Alons

Hurricane Season
- Temporada de huracanes
- Preparase
- Preparase
- Preparase

Combat COVID
Combata la propagación del COVID-19
descargando la aplicación Combat COVID;
manténgase informado al instante.

Enfòmasyon se Pouvwa
Lis kont pwograyon COVID-19 li ou telechaje
aplikasyon Combat COVID; enfòmasyon yo
nan plan men ou.

Go to the App Store or Google Play Store for your free download.

Get the Latest Updates >>>

PBCGOV.COM
Your source for current COVID-19
information and important links to
help you stay informed and safe.

Testing Sites
Emergency Orders
Financial Help
Resources

Su fuente para información actualizada
del COVID-19 y enlaces importantes
para mantenerlo informado y seguro.

Lugares de Pruebas
Decretos de Emergencia
Ayuda Financiera
Recursos

Sous ou pou enfòmasyon COVID-19
aktiyel yo ak lyen enpòtan pou ede ou
rete enfòme ak san danje.

Sit Tès
Ed Finansye
Resous

Provided by the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners
Suministrado por la Junta de Comisionados del Condado de Palm Beach
Fourni par Komité Moun Komitasyon Konta nan Konta Palm Beach

STRONGER TOGETHER...

DEAR PALM BEACH COUNTY RESIDENT:
The Board of County Commissioners is committed to protecting the safety and welfare of every resident of Palm Beach County. The COVID-19 outbreak continues to cause disruptions to our daily lives. How long it will be before the health risk passes and our lifestyles settle into a new routine for each of us, we simply do not know. Together we can take steps to reduce the spread of COVID-19 by staying home when you are sick, washing your hands frequently, social distancing by at least 6 feet, and wearing a facial covering when obtaining goods and services. If you suspect you or a family member has been exposed to COVID-19, please visit our testing resources to schedule a test and download our Combat COVID app to stay informed.

Enclosed please find 2 cloth masks and 2 printed masks for your household. This brochure contains important information and checklists to help keep you and your family members safe during this challenging and uncertain time. Be well.

La Junta de Comisionados del Condado está comprometida a proteger la seguridad y el bienestar de todos los residentes del Condado de Palm Beach. El brote de la COVID-19 continúa causando interrupciones en nuestra vida diaria. Simplemente no sabemos cuánto tiempo pasará hasta que podamos regresar a una nueva rutina para cada uno de nosotros. Juntos podemos tomar medidas para reducir la propagación de la COVID-19 y cuidarnos en casa si estamos enfermos, lavamos las manos con frecuencia, mantenemos al menos 6 pies de distancia social y usamos una mascarilla facial cuando obtenemos bienes y servicios. Si sospecha que usted o un miembro de su familia ha estado expuesto a la COVID-19, visite nuestros recursos de prueba para programar una cita y descargue nuestra aplicación Combat COVID para mantenerse informado.

Aquí encontrará dos mascarillas faciales de tela y dos mascarillas impresas para su familia. Este folleto contiene información importante y una lista de verificación que lo ayudarán a que usted y su familia estén protegidos durante este tiempo difícil e incierto. ¡Cúdate!

IMPORTANT:

Facial Coverings
- Envelopes PPE
- Mascarillas Faciales
- PPE Adjunto
- Pwoteksyon Fij
- PPE Nan Ankl

2020 Census
- Pwoteksyon Fij yo
- Responde Alons
- Responde Alons
- Responde Alons

Hurricane Season
- Temporada de huracanes
- Preparase
- Preparase
- Preparase

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Get the Latest Updates >>>

PBCGOV.COM
Your source for current COVID-19
information and important links to
help you stay informed and safe.

Testing Sites
Emergency Orders
Financial Help
Resources

Su fuente para información actualizada
del COVID-19 y enlaces importantes
para mantenerlo informado y seguro.

Lugares de Pruebas
Decretos de Emergencia
Ayuda Financiera
Recursos

Sous ou pou enfòmasyon COVID-19
aktiyel yo ak lyen enpòtan pou ede ou
rete enfòme ak san danje.

Sit Tès
Ed Finansye
Resous

Facial Coverings Required:
Por Palm Beach County Emergency Order 2020-012
View the mandate for all the details and accommodations available.

Se requiere el uso de mascarillas:
Conforme al Decreto de emergencia
2020-012 del Condado de Palm Beach
Consulte la orden para los detalles y
ajustes disponibles.

Pwoteksyon Fij yo
obligatwa:
Dapre Odonans Djans 2020-012
Kontante Palm Beach
Gade odonans lan pou jwenn tout detay ak aranjman li disponib yo

***NEW* Combat COVID App:**
Information Is Power
Fight the spread of COVID-19 by
downloading the Combat COVID app;
stay informed at your fingertips.

***NUEVA* Aplicación Combat COVID:**
Información es Poder
Combata la propagación del COVID-19
descargando la aplicación Combat COVID;
manténgase informado al instante.

***NOUVO* Aplikasyon Combat COVID:**
Enfòmasyon se Pouvwa
Lis kont pwograyon COVID-19 li ou telechaje
aplikasyon Combat COVID; enfòmasyon yo
nan plan men ou.

Go to the App Store or Google Play Store for your free download.

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Your source for current COVID-19
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aktiyel yo ak lyen enpòtan pou ede ou
rete enfòme ak san danje.

Sit Tès
Ed Finansye
Resous

LMS PPL Spring Submission Period

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.

Each year, 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. Our Spring Submission Period will run from March 22, 2021—April 2, 2021. Any projects submitted after 5:00 pm on April 2 will **not** be considered in the Spring Submission period, but will remain as an unranked project until the next cycle this Fall.

Letters were sent electronically to all LMS Working Group members detailing instructions regarding the submission period, but you can go to our LMS webpage at <https://discover.pbcgov.org/publicsafety/dem/Sections/Planning-Local-Mitigation-Strategy.aspx> to view the letter, instructions, guidance documents, etc.

Remember, you can enter a project at any time on our LMS Boards, and please log in to make sure you haven't locked yourself out of your account. Email webeochelp@pbcbgov.org for assistance with passwords.

#MITIGATIONMONDAY OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

Don't forget, we are in the midst of a #MitigationMonday outreach campaign, to make our residents more aware of mitigation actions they can take to better withstand the next disaster. Be sure to follow @PBCDEM on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram for our #MitigationMonday messages, and feel free to use the hashtag for your own mitigation messaging on Mondays!



Photo Credit: The Weather Channel

The latest Mitigation Minute from FEMA had some great information about the Florida Building Code:

To protect its coastline from increasingly strong storms, Florida adopted a statewide building code in 2002 that enacted strict standards to help buildings better withstand the flooding and high winds often associated with hurricanes. According to an analysis done by the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, homes built in the state since the building code's adoption drove total losses from hurricanes down by 72% relative to the homes built in the decade prior to implementing the new code. By having a base statewide building code, communities can then develop building standards that are tailored to mitigate their location-specific risk. Today, according to the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety, Florida has the strongest residential building code among 18 coastal U.S. states.