



LMS TIMES



Volume 16, Issue 1

Winter: Jan/Feb/Mar 2022

Special points of interest:

- Director's Corner
- HMGP Update
- Coastal Resilience Workshop
- HMA Programs
- HLMP

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:

rheen@pbcgov.org

Director's Corner

By Mary Blakeney,
FPEM, Director,
PBCDEM



Another hurricane season is quickly approaching. Promoting preparedness is the best way we can assist our family, friends, community, co-workers, and ourselves to not only be more resilient but to alleviate stress. In order to be here for others we need to be here for ourselves as well. Take this time to focus on your personal mitigation measures and make sure you are ready to recover.

With increasing issues within the insurance industry, we may see a very different landscape during the next disaster. We need to be ready for the potential of greater

numbers of un-insured and under insured residents. Some of these concerns could be resolved with a focus on individual mitigation activities.

We may need to look at mitigation at an individual level by mitigation through education. Educating our community to learn about their home and its' construction. Learning about mitigation measures they can take to be ready for the next disaster. Every action we can take to mitigate today may save us dollars in recovery tomorrow.

If I can ever be of assistance to you, feel free to contact me at mblakene@pbcgov.org.

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Department of
Public Safety
Division of Emergency
Management
20 South Military Trail
West Palm Beach, FL
33415

PH: 561-712-6400
Fax: 561-712-6464

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) 90/10 cost share for DR-4564 and DR-4486



On March 18, 2022, FEMA released an advisory regarding President Biden's signing into law "H.R. 2471, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022."

This law will effectively raise the minimum federal cost-share to 90 percent for those emergencies or major disaster declarations with an incident period beginning between,

January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2021. For the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program in Florida, this includes Hurricane Sally (DR-4564) and the COVID- 19 Pandemic (DR-4486).

The Florida Division of Emergency Management (Division) plans to release further information and guidance on this new development so that those impacted applicants know what to expect and how to proceed. However, the Division is currently awaiting additional instructions from FEMA to incorporate into our administration of the HMGP.

Any future developments will be shared with our local stakeholders and the affected applicants and recipients.

CRS Corner: Recertification Tips for Activity 320

By: National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

Activity 320 (Map Information Service)

Purpose: To credit specific actions taken by communities that provide inquirers with information about the local flood hazard and flood-prone areas that need special attention/protection.

How it's accomplished: Community staff provides map information from Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and locally-produced maps on seven possible creditable elements such as basic FIRM information, other local flooding problems not shown on the FIRM, flood depth data, historical flood information, etc. (see the 2017 CRS Coordinator's Manual for a full list of creditable elements) to inquirers either over the phone, in person, or from email/hotline requests.

Annual documentation requirements

Publicity: This service must be publicized annually to the community so citizens know it is available and who to contact. Publicity for this service must disclose all elements for which the community staff is providing information on (FIRMs, other local flooding areas, flood depth data, etc.) and tell them who to contact for assistance. The publicity must go to either:

1. All residents in the community (i.e., newsletter, utility bill insert);
2. All members of the three common users of this service physically located in the community:
 - a. Lenders (banks, credit unions);
 - b. Insurance Agents; and
 - c. Real Estate Agents;
3. The audience described as beneficial as part of a Program for Public Information (PPI) as credited in Activity 330.

Documentation of Service: The provision of this service must be documented annually. Examples of how to document the provision of service could include a log of the service, individual letters to inquirers, or print outs from a database that tracks inquiries/complaints/etc. The documentation must note:

1. The date of inquiry;
2. The address of location of the property in question;
3. The FIRM Zone; and
4. Whether the inquirer was advised of the credited element. For example, if the community is using a log to record the service and is being credited for M16 (historical flood information), the log should contain a column for "historical flooding information" and show when the information was offered.

If using a log, be sure a minimum of all four items under "Documentation of Service" are covered in the log and each element is clearly shown. The log should cover the entire year. The same applies to a print out from an inquiry/complaint database. If using individual letters or "determination" forms, be sure all elements are shown on the template. Only three of these need to be submitted with the recertification each year.

Upcoming LMS Working Group Meetings

The Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Working Group will hold its meetings on the following dates:

- June 8, 2022 @ 9:00 am
 - Juno Beach, FL
- September 14, 2022 @ 9:00 am
 - West Palm Beach, FL
- December 14, 2022 @ 9:00 am
 - Wellington, FL

The public is highly encouraged to attend.

For more information, contact:

Ronnie Heen

(561) 712-6481

rheen@pbcgov.org

Florida Silver Jackets Coastal Resilience Workshop

By: Florida Silver Jackets



The Florida Coastal Resilience Workshop is an initiative designed to aid planners and engineers in increasing community resilience to coastal storms and sea level rise.

The workshop will educate participants on various state statutes, and requirements, and provide hands-on training with tools developed by state and federal agencies to assess, communicate, and address risk to Florida communities.

Participants will also be able to receive training credits for ASFPD Certified Floodplain Managers and AICP Planners. The workshop will be held over two weeks based on two location specific regions (Gulf Coast and Atlantic Coast). A third technical training will be offered and focus on publicly available tools. The workshop will be held on:

- **April 19-21 (Gulf Coast region)**
- **May 24-26 (Atlantic Coast region)**
- **June 7 (Technical workshop)**

Workshop Objectives:

1. Center training on State of Florida laws and requirements associated with coastal resilience to facilitate compliance.
2. Provide background and basic training on publicly accessible tools and resources to be used within the context of state statutes to assess, communicate, and address risk.
3. Provide hands-on training with tools developed by the State of Florida and federal agencies.

For questions about the Florida Silver Jackets team, please contact Kristin Lentz at:

Kristin.Lentz@em.myflorida.com

Hazard Mitigation Assistance Programs

By: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

HMGP provides funding to rebuild communities in a way that mitigates future disaster losses in those communities. Funding is made available after the President issues a major disaster declaration. It is based on up to 15% or 20% of the estimated federal assistance provided.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – Post Fire (HMGP Post Fire)

The HMGP Post Fire program provides funding after a Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) is declared, and helps communities implement hazard mitigation measures after wildfire disasters. State, local tribal, and territorial governments are eligible to apply for funding. The funding amount is pre-calculated and based on historical FMAG declarations and is reassessed every fiscal year.

Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)

FMA is a competitive grant program that provides funding to states, local communities, tribes, and territories. Funds can be used for projects that reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings insured by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The program is funded by an annual congressional appropriation and since 2016 has made \$160 million available for mitigation projects.

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)

BRIC is a competitive grant program that provides funding for mitigation projects to reduce the risks from disasters and natural hazards. The amount of funding is based on a 6% set-aside of the assistance FEMA provides following major disaster declarations through the Public Assistance and Individuals and Households Program. The BRIC program was designed to foster innovation and provides a yearly grant cycle offering applicants a consistent source of funding.

Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM)

PDM is a grant program that helped state, local, tribal, and territorial governments plan and implement hazard mitigation projects. For 20 years, PDM funded mitigation projects, but in FY 2020 BRIC replaced PDM for any new funding. Any grant awarded in FY 2019 will continue to be managed under PDM for any new funding.

Examples above are just a few of the available resources that can assist the community and its stakeholders in improving mitigation knowledge. This information increases the ability to identify actions to reduce losses from those hazards identified within the LMS documents and mitigation projects.

Additional information can be found at <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation>.



Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Prioritized Project List (PPL)

Our Spring Submission Period will run from March 23, 2022–April 6, 2022. Any projects submitted after 5:00 pm on April 6 will **not** be considered in the Spring Submission period, but will remain as an unranked project until the next cycle this Fall. The submitted projects will be evaluated from April 15, 2022–April 29, 2022.

Each year, the LMS provides two (2) opportunities to submit projects for the PPL. The LMS Steering Committee, on the 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 adopting and continuing to follow Palm Beach County's (PBC) LMS participation rules.

All LMS stakeholders have an opportunity to submit new projects to be scored and ranked on the PBC LMS PPL.

The current Fall 2021 PPL is available for request and at the website listed below.

Information regarding the PBC LMS, PPL, or previous LMS meeting minutes is available on our LMS webpage at:
www.ReadyPBC.com

MITIGATION OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program

The Florida's Division of Emergency Management created the Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program (HLMP) to act as a specialized, state-funded mitigation program aimed at minimizing damages caused by hurricanes. The program began as an active response to the devastation brought by Hurricane Andrew, specifically to the insurance market in the State of Florida. With an annual budget of \$7 million, provided by the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Trust Fund, the program is funding activities that promote property resiliency through retrofits made to residential, commercial, and mobile home properties, the promotion of public education and public information, and through hurricane research activities.



Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program Retrofit Grant

Up to \$3.4 million is to be used on improving community resiliency through the Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program Grant. Through partnering with local housing authorities and non-profit organizations, the Division has been able to promote wind and flood mitigation and provide hazard mitigation retrofitting to residential and commercial properties. Funded activities include retrofits, inspections, and construction or modification of building components designed to increase a structure's ability to withstand hurricane-force winds and flooding. The Retrofit Program utilizes the Florida Building Code as its standard for all retrofitting.

Information regarding the HLMP is available at:

<https://www.floridadisaster.org/dem/mitigation/hurricane-loss-mitigation-program/>