

## *Table of Contents*

<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>4.3</b>
<b>4.1 Hazard Mitigation Goals and Objectives .....</b>	<b>4.4</b>
<b>4.2 Agency Capability Assessment .....</b>	<b>4.6</b>
<b>4.2.1 State Agency Capabilities.....</b>	<b>4.6</b>
<b>4.2.2 Non-Governmental Agency Capabilities .....</b>	<b>4.54</b>
<b>4.3 Local Capability Assessment .....</b>	<b>4.68</b>
<b>4.3.1 Local Policies, Programs, and Capabilities.....</b>	<b>4.68</b>
<b>4.4 Coordination of Local Mitigation Planning .....</b>	<b>4.71</b>
<b>4.5 Local Plan Review and Integration.....</b>	<b>4.73</b>

## *List of Figures*

<b>Figure 4.1 FWC Headquarters and Regional Offices.....</b>	<b>4.42</b>
<b>Figure 4.2 Regional Planning Councils.....</b>	<b>4.44</b>
<b>Figure 4.3 Florida’s Five Water Management Districts.....</b>	<b>4.49</b>

*Page intentionally left blank*

## Introduction

**Requirement §201.5(b)(4)(i-vi):** *[The Enhanced Plan must demonstrate] that the state is committed to a comprehensive state mitigation program, which might include any of the following:*

- *A commitment to support local mitigation planning by providing workshops and training, state planning grants, or coordinated capability development of local officials, including emergency management and floodplain management certifications.*
- *A statewide program of hazard mitigation through the development of legislative initiatives, mitigation councils, formation of public/private partnerships, and/or other executive actions that promote hazard mitigation.*
- *To the extent allowed by state law, the state requires or encourages local governments to use a current version of a nationally applicable model building code or standard that addresses natural hazards as a basis for design and construction of state sponsored mitigation projects*
- *A comprehensive, multi-year plan to mitigate the risks posed to the existing buildings that have been identified as necessary for post-disaster response and recovery operations.*
- *A comprehensive description of how the state integrates mitigation into its post-disaster recovery operations.*

As a part of Florida's continued commitment to mitigation at both the state and local levels, **Section 4: Goals and Capabilities** identifies the work of the state's mitigation partners and serves to guide the work of the State Hazard Mitigation Plan Advisory Team (SHMPAT) over the upcoming years. The updated section has been reorganized from its prior version based on decisions of the Strategy Sub-group and internal staff recommendations in hopes for a more streamlined approach with less duplication of material. The reorganization also hopes to ease the burden on staff during future plan revisions. Section 4 of the 2013 plan contains the following subsections:

- **Section 4.1: Hazard Mitigation Goals** help direct the mitigation efforts of SHMPAT for the upcoming years. The SHMPAT agreed upon goals represent the long term vision for mitigation initiatives, while, the objectives serve as more specific actions which would help attain the goal.
- **Section 4.2: Agency Capability Assessment** discusses Florida's comprehensive ability to mitigate hazards and guide development in hazard prone areas in accordance with existing policies and goals. It explains what activities agencies and non-profit organizations are capable of at the state and regional levels. Examples of interagency cooperation and coordination can be found intermingled in the capability assessments.
- **Section 4.3: Local Capability Assessment** describes policies, programs, and capabilities designed to help mitigate the impacts of hazard events at the local level. These policies, programs, and capabilities range from laws and policies like the Florida Building Code to recommended planning procedures like the Post Disaster Redevelopment Plans.

- **Section 4.4: Coordination of Local Mitigation Planning** explains the state's role in coordinating mitigation efforts at the local level including technical assistance, training, plan review, and plan integration.
- **Section 4.5: Local Plan Review and Integration** explains the process the Mitigation Planning Unit uses to review local mitigation plans, including the projected timeframes. This section also provides an overview of how plans and programs are integrated between the state, local and federal levels.

## 4.1 Hazard Mitigation Goals and Objectives

**Requirement §201.4(c)(3)(i):** *[The State mitigation strategy shall include a] description of state goals to guide the selection of activities to mitigate and reduce potential losses.*

**Requirement §201.4(d):** *Plan must be reviewed and revised to reflect changes in development, progress in statewide mitigation efforts, and changes in priorities...*

Goals and objectives help capture the overall purpose of the plan and assist with determining possible new directions for hazard mitigation efforts. Setting goals and objectives ensures that the state is headed in the right direction when it comes to hazard mitigation planning by providing ways in which success can be measured. It is important that both the goals and objectives are reviewed for continuing relevance to the vision of the state regarding hazard mitigation.

For the 2013 update, the SHMPAT felt it was important to develop working definitions of goals and objectives. This was done to explain the differences between the two and to provide a consistent measure when establishing the new goals and objectives. The following definitions were used:

- **Goal:** A broad, long term vision that the state would like to accomplish with regard to hazard mitigation.
- **Objective:** The approach the state will take in order to achieve the goals.

The following list represents the newly revised goals and objectives by SHMPAT for the 2013 State Hazard Mitigation Plan and beyond. Further clarification of changes made from the 2010 State Hazard Mitigation Plan can be found in **Appendix A: Reviewed, Revised and Changed Materials**.

- **Goal 1: Implement an effective comprehensive statewide hazard mitigation plan.**
  - **Objective 1.1:** Provide training opportunities and encourage staff to pursue professional development.
  - **Objective 1.2:** Pursue methodologies that will enhance mitigation successes.
  - **Objective 1.3:** Integrate mitigation practices throughout all state plans, programs, and policies.

- **Goal 2: Support local and regional mitigation strategies.**
  - Objective 2.1: Maintain up-to-date risk assessment information in coordination with local communities.
  - Objective 2.2: Assist in integrating hazard mitigation concepts into other local and regional planning efforts such as comprehensive plans, local mitigation strategies, and comprehensive emergency management plans.
  - Objective 2.3: Ensure that all communities are aware of available mitigation funding sources and cycles.
  - Objective 2.4: Assist in the integration of climate change and sea level rise research into state, local and regional planning efforts.
  - Objective 2.5: Conduct all possible actions to mitigate severe repetitive loss properties.
  
- **Goal 3: Increase public and private sector awareness and support for hazard mitigation in Florida.**
  - Objective 3.1: Work with other state and regional entities to incorporate mitigation concepts and information into their outreach efforts.
  - Objective 3.2: Educate Florida's private sector about mitigation concepts and opportunities.
  - Objective 3.3: Develop and integrate hazard mitigation curriculum into higher education.
  - Objective 3.4: Educate state risk management entities on mitigation incentives.
  - Objective 3.5: Support hazard mitigation research and development.
  
- **Goal 4: Support mitigation initiatives and policies that protect the state's cultural, economic, and natural resources.**
  - Objective 4.1: Support land acquisition programs that reduce or eliminate potential future losses due to natural hazards and that are compatible with the protection of natural or cultural resources.
  - Objective 4.2: Support restoration and conservation of natural resources wherever possible.
  - Objective 4.3: Seek mitigation opportunities that reduce economic losses and promote responsible economic growth.
  - Objective 4.4: Retrofit existing state-owned facilities.
  - Objective 4.5: Participate in climate change and sea level rise research that will further the state and local government's ability to plan for and mitigate the impacts of future vulnerability.
  - Objective 4.6: Coordinate effective partnerships between state agencies for floodplain management.

## 4.2 Agency Capability Assessment

**Requirement §201.4(c)(3)(ii):** *[The state mitigation strategy shall include a] discussion of the State’s pre-and post-disaster hazard management policies, programs, and capabilities to mitigate the hazards in the area, including: an evaluation of state laws, regulations, policies, and programs related to hazard mitigation as well as to development in hazard-prone areas [and] a discussion of state funding capabilities for hazard mitigation projects ...*

Many departments, agencies, and private organizations perform roles valuable to state government disaster resistance efforts. Some seemingly unrelated programs are often complimentary to reducing the human and economic cost of disasters. It is a goal of the SHMPAT and the State of Florida to educate its citizenry (both public and private sectors) on the importance of mitigation. The state continually reaches out to residents and business groups concerning mitigation best practices and how-to’s. Training and education are essential to Florida’s ability to respond to hazards and must remain a priority within the constraints of lower budgets. Public education reduces the burden on the state by increasing citizen capacity.

The previous plan identified a separate section for outreach and partnerships. During this plan update, the outreach and partnership activities have been intertwined with each agency’s capability assessment. The agency capability assessments included in the 2013 plan demonstrate Florida’s comprehensive ability to mitigate hazards and guide development in hazard prone areas in accordance with policies and goals.

This section includes a review of pre- and post-disaster hazard management capabilities and development guidance offered through agencies’ roles and programs. At the end of each agency summary is a listed conclusion which briefly outlines which policies the agency’s role and programs promote along with the hazards and goals they address.

During the 2013 plan update, the SHMPAT invited participating agencies to identify and update their mitigation related activities. Due to the breadth and scope of national/federal agencies involved in mitigation, the national agency capability piece from the 2010 plan has been removed. However, tasks that include coordination with federal mitigation partners have been described throughout the plan.

### 4.2.1 State Agency Capabilities

The following agencies are discussed throughout **Section 4.2.1: State Agency Capabilities** (acronyms included to facilitate reading):

- Florida Division of Emergency Management (DEM)
- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACCS)
- Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO)
- Florida Department of Education (DOE)

- Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
- Florida Department of Financial Services (DFS)
- Florida Department of Transportation (DOT)
- Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA)
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)
- Regional Planning Councils (RPCs)
- State Board of Administration (SBA)
- Board of Governor's State University System (BOG SUS)
- Volunteer Florida (VF)
- Water Management Districts (WMDs)

## **I. Florida Division of Emergency Management**

The State Emergency Management Act, outlined in **Appendix G: Governing Policies and Legislation**, gives the Florida Division of Emergency Management (DEM) responsibility to create and maintain a comprehensive statewide program of emergency management. Interagency cooperation is a key component of this responsibility. The statewide emergency management program must ensure that the state can adequately prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards to which the state is vulnerable. DEM prepares and implements a State of Florida Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP), a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP), Catastrophic Plan, and Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), just to name a few, and routinely conducts extensive exercises to test state and county emergency response capabilities.

The Division functions with five bureaus:

- Preparedness
- Response
- Recovery
- Mitigation
- Finance and Administration

While the other bureaus are interlaced with mitigation holistically, the Bureau of Mitigation directly administers the mitigation planning and assistance programs. As such, the activities within the Bureau of Mitigation are the focus of this section. The mitigation bureau consists of five units that will be described below:

- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
- Non-Disaster Grants Program
- Mitigation Finance Unit
- State Floodplain Management Office
- Mitigation Planning

The HMGP and Non-Disaster Grants Program units administer six mitigation programs to cover both residential and non-residential properties. The grant programs can also assist with the improvements or mitigation of local infrastructure, such as drainage projects or lift stations. Of the six hazard mitigation programs that the Division manages, five are federally funded through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Without this financial and programmatic support, mitigation efforts across the state would be greatly reduced. These six programs, described within their respective units below are as follows:

- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
- Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM)
- Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA)
- Repetitive Flood Claims Program (RFC)
- Severe Repetitive Loss Program (SRL)
- Residential Construction Mitigation Program (RCMP)

Additional information and detail of recent fund allocation for these programs can be found in **Section 5.1: Funding Source Identification and Usage**. Recent projects funded by these programs are listed in **Appendix N: State Managed Projects**.

DEM's Mitigation Bureau operates out of two locations—Tallahassee and Orlando. Although the Orlando offices house only a few staff members, a second location has been beneficial to the outreach and technical assistance needs of south Florida. The Bureau acts as one functional unit to execute risk-reduction projects on behalf of the local communities, as well as regional and statewide agencies. Grant specialists research appropriate funding sources to leverage dollars effectively for maximum mitigation efforts. Sometimes this includes working with other agencies on joint projects or separating projects into smaller eligible components that individually solve mitigation problems.

### **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Unit**

This unit administers the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). This program makes federal funds available post-disaster for mitigation projects in communities participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and that have an approved Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS). The overall goal of HMGP is to fund cost effective measures that reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of damage from natural hazards. Information about how HMGP money is distributed in Florida can be found in **Appendix F: HMGP Administrative Plan**.

Florida has an approved Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan; therefore, FEMA provides 20 percent of total disaster costs from a presidentially-declared disaster. These funds have a 25 percent match requirement and are distributed as grants to affected communities. They are used to execute mitigation projects identified in each respective LMS.

As a part of the Division's post disaster mitigation coordination efforts, the HMGP unit offers application development workshops to the affected areas. At the workshops, general information about the program and technical assistance is provided along with an opportunity to



receive specific answers relating to potential applications. Since 2010, four workshops have been held with at least two more planning to be held in the beginning of 2013.

- After Tropical Storm Debby, FEMA DR 4068, 4 workshops were held in affected communities (October-November 2012).
- After Hurricane Isaac, FEMA DR 4084, DEM plans to conduct at least 2 workshops in affected communities.

### **Non-Disaster Grant Programs Unit**

This unit administers the remaining five annual grant programs outlined below. In the coming years, these federal programs will undergo changes that will impact program results; comments on the current status (late fall 2012) of these evolving programs have been included below.

#### **Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM)**

The PDM program is a competitive federal grant program developed to assist state, local, and tribal governments to plan and implement cost-effective hazard mitigation activities. The intent of the program is to reduce overall risk to people and property while also minimizing the cost of disaster recovery, and was developed especially to aid states that rarely receive disaster declarations and the mitigation funding that follows. Only the state emergency management agency or a similar office assigned the primary responsibility of emergency management may apply to FEMA for funding under this program. DEM reviews submitted projects to verify appropriateness, consistency with state and LMS plans, cost-benefit, eligibility, technical feasibility and completeness before submitting them to FEMA.

Communities generally submit wind retrofit and drainage projects. The program provides a maximum of \$3 million per project in federal funding. The program has a required non-federal match of 25 percent, all of which is locally acquired. All PDM projects are vital to meeting the state's primary goal of reducing the loss of life and property.

Unfortunately, the PDM program is in jeopardy (2012). Congress views the relatively large unobligated fund balances as an indication that the program is not necessary, while states argue that the grant process inhibits their ability to spend down the balances. In the 2012 federal grant cycle, new PDM funding was not made available because FEMA was attempting to eliminate previously allocated funds and to evaluate whether or not PDM should remain a mitigation option. Florida will continue to utilize the maximum amount of PDM funding available in the interim, and hopes that the program will remain in place in the future.

#### **Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA), Repetitive Flood Claims (RFC), and Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) Programs**

Since the last plan update, Florida has utilized these three flood mitigation assistance programs in an aggressive fashion throughout the state, but particularly in areas where severe repetitive loss properties are found. Obviously, the goal of these programs is to reduce risk of flood damage through building modifications, drainage projects, and floodplain management planning activities. FEMA's continued attempt to unify program elements such as project

eligibility, application requirements, and grant process guidance is admirable, and Florida looks forward to the new evolution of the programs as established in the 2012 National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Reform Act.

The Act (called the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012, found in H.R. 4348) consolidates the three NFIP funded mitigation programs into a single program. The combined “National Flood Mitigation Fund” is to be funded at \$90 million per year. The old FMA and pilot SRL programs were each funded annually at up to \$40 million per year and the RFC program was funded at up to \$10 million annually. Unfortunately, the SRL program was never fully utilized, in part due to its complexity. The new program simplifies and combines the three previous programs and includes the following elements:

- Encourages flood mitigation planning to be integrated into a community’s multi-hazard mitigation plan
- Adds demolition/rebuild (mitigation reconstruction) as an allowable mitigation activity under all programs
- Caps the use of mitigation grant funds for mitigation planning activities at \$50,000 to states and \$25,000 for communities
- Provides for denial of grant funds if not fully obligated in 5 years
- Restructures the federal share requirement:
  - Up to 100 percent for severe repetitive loss structures (4 or more claims of over \$5000 or 2 or more claims exceeding value of structure)
  - Up to 90 percent for repetitive loss structures (2 claims over 10 years averaging at least 25 percent of the value of structure)
  - Up to 75 percent for other approved mitigation activities

It is this last piece that most interests Florida, as this change demonstrates an encouraging federal focus on mitigating properties that most frequently and severely experience flood damages.

More information on Florida’s efforts to reduce properties that frequently experience flood damages can be found in **Section 6: Severe Repetitive Loss Outreach Strategy**.

### **Residential Construction Mitigation Program (RCMP)**

In 1999, the Florida Legislature passed the Bill Williams Residential Safety and Preparedness Act. This created the Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program, (Chapter 215.559, Florida Statutes), with an annual appropriation of \$10 million. This statute is detailed in **Appendix G: Governing Policies and Legislation**.

The RCMP program statutorily receives \$7 million of the total \$10 million annual Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund appropriation. \$3.5 million is designated for wind mitigation of residential structures and outreach programs to Florida homeowners and local governments, \$2.8 million is designated for the Mobile Home Tie-Down Program administered by Tallahassee Community College, and the remaining \$700,000 is designated for hurricane research conducted by Florida International University.

The overall goal of the program is to fund activities that will improve the wind resistance of residences and mobile homes. Other efforts are designed to prevent losses or reduce the cost of disasters as well as to reduce the cost of rebuilding after a disaster and its associated impact on the insurance industry.

### **Mitigation Finance Unit**

The fiscal unit manages all financial aspects of pre and post-disaster mitigation grant programs. This unit has been strengthened in recent years to provide a more comprehensive tracking system for mitigation efforts statewide. The unit has been instrumental in the development of [floridamitigation.org](http://floridamitigation.org),<sup>1</sup> which tracks all project and financial information for the Bureau of Mitigation. For more information on project tracking and financial procedures, please see **Section 5.2.1: Project Management and Tracking**.

### **State Floodplain Management Office (SFMO)**

This unit coordinates the NFIP by assisting local communities with the implementation of NFIP regulations, by supporting FEMA's mapping efforts, and by educating floodplain managers. The office promotes higher standards across the state by encouraging local officials to become certified and by supporting the inclusion of higher standards into local ordinances. The State Floodplain Management Office (SFMO) staff also coordinates with state planners and grant specialists as they implement flood mitigation projects across the state. Floodplain management staff shares data with other mitigation staff and with local communities for a greater understanding of flood risk. Below includes a description of the NFIP program in Florida.

Through funding from FEMA's Community Assistance Program - State Support Services Element (CAP-SSSE), the floodplain office conducts Community Assistance Visits and Community Assistance Contact interviews, and offers general technical assistance to Florida communities. The office supports FEMA's Map Modernization and Risk MAP processes throughout the state, and provides training for local officials. The training is conducted primarily through an agreement with the Florida Floodplain Managers Association (FFMA). For more information about work conducted under the most recent CAP-SSSE grants, please see **Appendix I: Community Assistance Program Work**.

### **NFIP Flood Insurance Policy Status**

As of October 15, 2012, Florida had 2,058,967 National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policies, equaling approximately 38 percent of all policies in the nation. Total premiums on that date equal an annual amount of \$1,017,691,027. These policies cover more than \$475 billion in property. As with much of the nation, flooding represents the most damaging natural hazard in the state. Per FEMA's records on September 30, 2012 the state had 16,814 repetitive loss properties listed (this list includes mitigated properties). Of these, 610 were listed as severe repetitive loss properties.

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://floridamitigation.fleoc.org/Login/>

There are now 458 Florida communities (local governments) that participate in the NFIP. There are an additional 14 listed on FEMA's Community Status Book (October 18, 2012) as non-participating with special flood hazard areas. The SFMO continues to enroll new communities in the hopes of increasing the 97 percent participation rate. In the three years since the last plan update (and as of November 9, 2012), the state has enrolled five new communities in the NFIP. The newly enrolled communities are:

- December 30, 2009 in the City of Oakland Park, Broward County
- June 4, 2010 in the City of Midway, Gadsden County
- November 1, 2010 in the Town of Gretna, Gadsden County
- November 15, 2010 in the Town of Penney Farms, Clay County
- July 29, 2012 in the City of Hawthorne, Alachua County

The SFMO also promotes the enrollment of communities in the Community Rating System (CRS). CRS is a federal program that provides insurance premium rate reductions to policy holders in recognition that their communities implement activities that work toward its three goals. The main goals of the CRS program are to reduce flood damage, support the insurance part of the NFIP, and pursue a broad approach to floodplain management. Florida exceeds the national rate (11 percent) of communities enrolled in the CRS. Florida's current rate with 216 communities enrolled is 48 percent (as of November 9, 2012).

In 2011, Florida's SFMO was awarded the national "Association of State Floodplain Managers Tom Lee Award", given to recognize a state-level outstanding floodplain management program. Florida's SFMO has been able to secure funding for four full-time floodplain management specialists and one State Floodplain Manager. Major accomplishments of the SFMO are described below.

#### **Revisions to the Florida Building Code (FBC)**

On February 17, 2009 the state received a FEMA award (HMGP planning grant #1785-03-P) to make substantive revisions to the Florida Building Code (FBC). This work included the incorporation of the 2009 International Building Code flood-resistant provisions into Florida's statewide building code. The state developed a companion flood damage prevention ordinance, and provided outreach and training for local building officials and floodplain managers. The integration of these International Building Code flood standards into Florida's Building Code is an excellent example of Florida's continuing commitment to reduce losses from flood. Please see **Section 5.4: Exemplary Projects** for more on the FBC initiative.

Florida additionally supports structural and building materials research through several of its universities to discover new building materials and techniques that will create a stronger built environment across the state. The code itself is discussed in **Appendix G: Governing Policies and Legislation and Rules**.

#### **Technical Assistance**

The SFMO created and maintains an e-distribution list that includes all floodplain managers across the state, as well as many local building officials and other local officials who desire to receive information about the NFIP program and other floodplain management issues.

This venue of distributing information is referred to as the “Floods” list. Since its inception in 2010, the SFMO has used this tool to distribute more than a hundred messages about training opportunities, NFIP program changes, insurance notifications, grant or award opportunities, networking groups and conferences, FEMA bulletins or publications, and more.

The SFMO offers assistance also through typical telephone and email inquiries, of which it receives literally thousands each year. Recorded numbers for these activities as well as for the Community Assistance Visits and contact interviews are available in the CAP-SSSE reports in **Appendix I: Community Assistance Program Work**. The SFMO has also developed several “tech topic bulletins” on the following subjects:

- Pools, Outdoor Kitchens & Bars (November 2010)
- Guidance for Additions (March 2011)
- A “white paper” on the Real Estate Disclosure Law in Florida (pertaining to flood history) (December 2011).

The SFMO also delivers training and technical expertise in conjunction with many outside events such as the Building Officials Association of Florida’s (BOAF) online “bulletin board,” training sessions, conferences and workshops across the state, and local events. See the list of these and other SFMO activities in the CAP-SSSE reports found in **Appendix I: Community Assistance Program Work** and **Appendix J: Outreach Activities**.

### **FFMA Partnership**

The Florida Floodplain Managers Association (FFMA) is the state chapter of the national Association of State Flood Plain Managers (See agency summary below in **Section 4.2.2 Non-Governmental Agency Capabilities**). The SFMO has developed a good relationship with this organization in the pursuit of three goals:

- To offer effective floodplain management training to local officials across the state
- To work with FFMA on floodplain management conceptual activities that address Florida-specific issues
- To help FFMA become a model organization for floodplain management resources and assistance.

### **The National Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM)**

Florida’s SFMO has become more involved at a national level, both in participation at national level conferences and workshops, but also with its relationship to the ASFPM. In 2012 the state NFIP coordinator was elected secretary of this organization, and has participated in board-level work to further floodplain management excellence and a broader understanding of NFIP issues and goals.

All of this work demonstrates Florida’s continuing and comprehensive commitment to mitigation and better floodplain management across the state.

## Mitigation Planning

The mitigation planning unit is responsible for reviewing:

- Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) plans
- Disaster Resistant University Plans (LMS plans developed for colleges or universities)
- Mitigation components of other plans such as local Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans (CEMP) and various state strategies
- Floodplain Management Plans
- Planning criteria of submitted mitigation projects

The mitigation planning unit also:

- Works on the continuous update of the SHMP
- Works with mitigation grant units on outreach activities and local partnerships
- Works with SFMO on the integration of floodplain management concepts, plans and practices into other planning mechanisms
- Oversees mitigation planning and education grants
- Coordinates state mitigation activities of the Florida Silver Jackets team in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Coordinates and teaches mitigation trainings across the state

This integrated approach gives the DEM's planners a strong understanding of mitigation applications and opportunities as well as local needs. Working closely with FEMA planners and program experts also strengthens Florida's mitigation program.

Since 2008, the mitigation planning unit has grown to four full-time planning positions, and planners have been able to fully assist local communities in their LMS efforts. This includes 5-year updates to Florida's 67 LMS plans as well as annual updates required by Florida Administrative Code 27P-22 (more information about 27P-22 can be found in **Appendix G: Governing Policies and Legislation**). Between 2009 and 2012, the planning unit successfully assisted all counties in the completion of their 5-year updates.

Mitigation planners are trained through the use of FEMA's G-318 course and materials, study of FEMA's 386 "how to" series, various FEMA independent study courses and on-the-job training by seasoned mitigation planners. New mitigation planners are provided opportunities to "shadow" experienced planners wherein they follow them to meetings with local communities, other state agencies, and other bureaus within the Division to learn programs, policies, and practices within the mitigation unit and its partners.

Mitigation planners may also seek in-depth training in specific areas such as risk assessment, GIS work, floodplain development, or man-made hazards mitigation. Florida's mitigation planners serve the Bureau, LMS working groups, and the general citizenry with technical assistance, guidance, and outreach materials and information.

## Staff Training

Mitigation staff is cross-trained for a greater understanding of comprehensive mitigation work and maximum ability to serve statewide mitigation needs. Planners learn about grant programs and train in basic benefit-cost analysis, eGrants, floodplain issues, and other technical pieces. Grant specialists work with planners for effective outreach. They also learn about public assistance opportunities for mitigation after disaster.

Floodplain management specialists work closely with planners during the update process of Local Mitigation Strategies. Throughout all areas of mitigation effort at DEM, engineers and finance staff receive formal training in their specific areas in order to perform project analysis and provide technical assistance and review for compliance and accuracy.

The mitigation staff performs regular outreach activities in order to educate local communities about mitigation opportunities and also to share new findings, practices or technical assistance. These efforts include meetings with LMS working groups, meetings with local officials and other stakeholders, local grant workshops, presentations to local, state or national groups, and targeted postal or e-mailings. In addition, the mitigation staff supports mitigation training and workshops that are funded and put on by other organizations throughout the state.

When possible, the Bureau of Mitigation sends a staff member to offer support and answer specific programmatic questions at activities around the state. **Appendix J: Outreach Activities** contains a chronological listing of all the outreach activities attended by mitigation staff over the previous three years.

## Contractor Services

The State of Florida utilizes contractors when needed to augment and support mitigation programs. Scopes of work often include technical services, mitigation program consulting, mitigation planning activities, national and statewide programs support, and post-incident mitigation activities. During periods of disaster activation or other workload surges, DEM utilizes outside expertise to assist with the continuing implementation of their programs.

## Silver Jackets

The mitigation planning unit currently coordinates the Division's role in the Florida Silver Jackets team. This U.S. Army Corps (USACE) initiative provides a formal and consistent strategy for an interagency approach to planning and implementing measures to reduce the risks associated with flooding and other natural hazards.

In Florida, the Silver Jackets team is comprised of DEM, USACE, FEMA, the Florida Division of the Federal Highway Administration, the Florida Department of Transportation, the U.S. Geological Survey, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service and each of Florida's five Water Management Districts.

The group began to come together under USACE initiative in December of 2010. After meeting regularly to draft a state charter, the core members finally signed a formal charter establishing the Florida Silver Jackets team on October 21, 2011. The group meets regularly throughout the year, generally in Tallahassee, but sometimes in other Florida locations. Meetings are always open to all, and a conference call and/or webcast accompany the meeting for those who cannot travel.

The primary goals of the Florida Silver Jackets team are to:

- Identify resources that will help achieve comprehensive solutions
- Share information on individual agencies, current projects, and initiatives
- Identify gaps in or duplication of efforts
- Promote public education and best practices for flood mitigation
- Work cooperatively on pre- and post-disaster planning, support, and action, including emergency response

The team's desired outcomes include reducing flood risk, better understanding and leveraging of member programs, increasing collaboration and coordination, providing comprehensive solutions, serving as a multi-agency technical resource for state and local agencies, and providing a mechanism for establishing relationships to facilitate integrated solutions post-disaster.

Florida's Silver Jackets team is looking for ways to bring funding and other resources together to combat flooding. A good example of this is the High-Watermark Strike Team developed after Tropical Storm Debby. In July 2012 after Tropical Storm Debby, the Silver Jackets team responded to the need for recording high water marks (HWMs) by initiating the development of a plan. Copious amounts of rain fell in less than 24 hours in Suwannee County alone, causing major flooding of both public and private facilities. As of December 2012, the HWM Strike Team plan remains under development. One possible outcome of the plan is that DEM will be the central repository for the collection, review and potential map development of HWM data.

The Silver Jackets team has been successful in funding one pilot project so far. This is the System Wide Improvement Framework (SWIF) and evacuation plan for the levees in the southern part of the state, which hopes to achieve the following:

- Engage levee sponsors (primarily water management districts) and identify levee risk/evacuation solutions that optimize available resources
- Develop and test a process for levee screening at the district level
- Develop an evacuation plan and risk education outreach program for potential levee breach

The SWIF will basically layout an investment plan above and beyond what the state is already spending on operations and maintenance to bring the levees up to the Corps' criteria, while at the same time educating area residents about the levee risk.



As of December 2012, other project proposals that are under consideration for potential funding include:

- Sea Level Rise and Storm Surge Communication for Northeast Florida: This effort will leverage the work of Florida’s 2010 Statewide Regional Evacuation study, SLOSH model results, storm surge maps, critical infrastructure vulnerability data and LIDAR to more readily enable communities to assess potential sea level rise scenarios. It will create a mapping tool for baseline, intermediate and high levels of sea level rise for northeast Florida.
- Flood-Inundation and Levee Overtopping Risk Assessment of the L-73 Levee forming the Jane Green Detention Area (JGDA): The objective of this pilot project is to setup a dedicated USACE team to work with the State of Florida to assess potential structural flooding as a result of changing the operation of the S-161A structure at the JGDA in the Upper St. Johns River Basin which is located west of the City of Melbourne in Brevard County. A detailed floodplain analysis is proposed, which would include survey information of finish floor elevations for approximately 152 structures located at or below the FEMA 100-yr floodplain elevation for eastern Lake Washington in Brevard County.
- Dam Safety Project Proposals: The State of Florida Dam Safety Officer at the Department of Environmental Protection submitted the following proposals for program assistance in 2012:
  - National Inventory of Dams (NID) Update: A critical need exists to identify NID dams, including the completion of all data categories in the current NID through such methods as satellite identification, GIS search, physical verification of dam location, ownership, size, and condition assessment.
  - Inundation Maps for High Hazard Dams (HHD): HHD’s are a high priority and there is a need to obtain “sunny day and rainy day flood shadows.”
  - Remediation Needs: Once the dam inventory (NID) is updated it will be possible to know which dams have a need for remediation, repair or reconstruction. After dams for remediation are prioritized and owners are contacted, resources must be gathered in order to make the necessary repairs.
  - Regulatory Void: Currently DEP can only require an emergency action plan if a dam owner requests a permit to modify, reconstruct or build a new dam. Dam owners, operators or maintainers are under no rule or statutory mandate to provide any information to the State Dam Safety Officer. This project requests the development of a program plan of action in order to provide the state regulatory mandate to enable the proper management of dam mitigation.
  - Levee Risk Communication to the Public: The goal of the project would be to develop a plan to facilitate enhanced communication for high to medium risk levees. These plans will be coordinated with the Water Management Districts (WMDs), the Florida Department of Emergency Management (DEM), the DEP and the local governments to develop releasable risk communication materials for each of the 4 levees. The intent is that this model Levee Safety Risk Communication Plan will be used as a guide to develop Levee Safety Risk Communication materials for the complete inventory of federal levees within the state (includes 66 levee systems totaling over 1100 miles).

Additional information about DEM is available at [www.floridadisaster.org](http://www.floridadisaster.org). The analysis immediately below includes mitigation goals, hazards, and state policies addressed by DEM.

<i>Policies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance local government capacity to mitigate hazards</li> <li>• Encourage post-disaster redevelopment</li> <li>• Prevent unwise expenditures that hinder mitigation efforts</li> <li>• Pursue mitigation as an ongoing, evolving, research dependent activity</li> <li>• Pursue interagency cooperation as an important means to mitigate hazards</li> <li>• Use design and site criteria as a general means to mitigate hazards</li> <li>• Support and fund beach erosion control activities</li> <li>• Ensure that local comp plans contain hazard mitigation components such as directing development away from high hazard areas, designating appropriate land uses in vulnerable areas, and post-disaster redevelopment planning</li> <li>• Promote vertical consistency among government entities</li> <li>• Guide growth as an important means to mitigate hazards</li> <li>• Promote funding sources and implementation strategies for mitigation</li> </ul>
<i>Hazards</i>	All Hazards
<i>Goals</i>	Goal 1, Goal 2, Goal 3, Goal 4

## II. Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

### Florida Forest Service

Through Chapter 590 of the Florida Statutes, the Florida Forest Service (FFS) is given the primary responsibility for “prevention, detection, and suppression of wildfires (any vegetative fire that threatens to destroy life, property, or natural resources) wherever they may occur.” This includes the state’s entire 34 million acres of both private and public land. The FFS is responsible for authorizing all outdoor burning within the State of Florida (Florida Statutes, 590.125).

FFS uses many tools to communicate information to residents and visitors. Information is constantly supplied to various media sources locally and from the state level to inform the public of current wildfire conditions, wildfire suppression progress, actions homeowners can take to lower risk, and FFS activities.

In 2011, FFS completed a state-wide wildfire hazard mitigation plan to serve as an annex to the SHMP. The wildfire annex has been appended to the 2013 state plan as **Appendix E: Wildfire Mitigation Annex**, and contains valuable information for communities across the state. In addition to creating the annex, FFS recently updated its publication titled *Wildfire Risk Reduction in Florida: Home, Neighborhood, and Community Best Practices*,<sup>2</sup> which covers

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.floridaforestservice.com/wildfire/wf\\_pdfs/Wildfire\\_Risk\\_Reduction\\_in\\_FL.pdf](http://www.floridaforestservice.com/wildfire/wf_pdfs/Wildfire_Risk_Reduction_in_FL.pdf)

many wildfire mitigation strategies homeowners can implement to keep their homes safe. More wildfire risk reduction information is also posted on the FFS website at [www.floridaforestservice.com](http://www.floridaforestservice.com).

### **Florida Wildland Fire Risk Assessment System (FRAS)**

The purpose of the Florida Wildfire Risk Assessment is to identify the potential for serious wildfires and prioritize areas for mitigation options. As of December 2012, the FRAS has been updated to include a new canopy layer and to have the ability to reflect current conditions.

The State of Florida is currently in the process of working with 12 other states to implement an online program that will allow fire managers and the general public to not only access these data, but produce reports based on the data for any size area within the state. This will be very helpful for Florida's counties when working on their fire prevention plans. Results can be used to:

- Locate opportunities for interagency planning
- Identify opportunities for wildfire mitigation measures
- Facilitate communication among agencies. This is helpful to better define priorities and improve emergency response to wildfires
- Develop a refined analysis of a complex landscape using GIS
- Facilitate communication with local residents to address community priorities and needs.

The FFS wildfire mitigation program has two major components designed to reduce risk throughout the state- Fuel Reduction and Information and Education. Programs are coordinated locally through the mitigation specialists located in FFS field offices.

### **Information and Education**

The FFS information and education component has several facets:

- The Florida Firewise Communities Program: This program is a part of the National Fire Protection Association Firewise Communities USA Recognition Program. It is intended to educate residents on their responsibility to help prevent community wildfires. Homeowner workshops and field visits teach homeowners how to increase their home's chances of surviving a wildfire disaster, even if fire services cannot get to them. Communities that adopt and implement Firewise principles are encouraged to pursue recognition as part of Firewise Communities USA.
- Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP): Communities, defined as a "group of residents," are brought together to develop and initiate a CWPP. These groups need representation from the local governing body (e.g., county officials), the local fire service, and FFS. To ensure that the plan is representative of local needs, other stakeholders are invited to participate in the development of the CWPP. These planning groups often involve Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) members.
- Wildfire Risk Assessments: Local FFS field units help communities develop a wildfire risk assessment, which incorporates information generated by FRAS. This informs the community of actions they can take to lower their overall risk.

- **Wildfire Prevention Program:** Since over 75 percent of wildfires in Florida are human caused, FFS has an active wildfire prevention program. Television, newspapers, radio, billboards, movie theaters, and local flyer distribution are used.
- **Policy Changes:** FFS field units work with local governing bodies and LMS groups to change or institute local comprehensive plans, ordinances, and codes that encourage actions and strategies lowering wildfire risk.

### Fuel Reduction

FFS uses prescribed fire and mechanical methods to reduce fuel loading on public and privately owned lands. This reduces wildfire size and intensity. The FFS also provides technical assistance to communities contracting for fuel reduction and is often able to provide fuel reduction activities at little or no cost to homeowners. The FFS has four (4) regional Fire Management Teams equipped to provide fuel reduction services. Local FFS field units also have this capability.

In many areas, pre-suppression firelines can reduce residential wildfire risk. Well maintained firelines significantly reduce chances wildfire will reach populated areas as well as reduce time needed to contain a wildfire. This helps ensure the most effective and efficient use of resources. FFS provides this service to landowners at specified rates.

Additional information about the programs and services provided by FFS can be found on the web at [www.floridaforestservice.com](http://www.floridaforestservice.com). The analysis immediately below includes mitigation goals, hazards, and state policies addressed by FFS.

<i>Policies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage natural resources to reduce impacts of natural and manmade disasters</li> <li>• Enhance local government capacity to mitigate hazards</li> <li>• Pursue mitigation as an ongoing, evolving, research dependent activity</li> <li>• Pursue interagency cooperation as an important means to mitigate hazards</li> </ul>
<i>Hazards</i>	Wildfire
<i>Goals</i>	Goal 1, Goal 2, Goal 3, Goal 4

## III. Florida Department of Economic Opportunity

The 2011 Florida Legislature passed Chapter 2011-142 (SB 2156), which transferred the functions of the Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development (OTTED), portions of the Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) functions, and portions of the Department of Community Affairs (DCA), to the newly created Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO). Additional transfers resulting from the legislation included moving the Florida Communities Trust and Stan Mayfield Working Waterfronts from DCA to the Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Building Commission from DCA to the Department of Business and Professional Regulation.

DEO now serves as the designated lead coordinating agency for state planning, housing and community development and workforce services related issues. Many of its programs and activities directly and indirectly reduce exposure to disasters. Coordination between divisions

and programs of the Department are integral to development and implementation of a statewide mitigation plan. DEO also serves in a supporting role for ESF 6-Mass Care and ESF 14-Public Information and is the lead agency for ESF 18-Business Industry and Economic Stabilization.

A primary goal of the Department is to ensure that its associates and partners are prepared to respond to emergencies, recover from them, and to mitigate their impact. Threat assessments of various emergency situations that could possibly impact the Department's staff and programs have been conducted. These assessments are useful in determining possible risks, severity of damage and occurrence probability. Consequently, the Department developed procedures and established standards for enhancing safe, secure, and healthy workplace practices for its associates and visitors.

The Business Continuity Management Program under DEO provides a resilient framework that will allow business operations to continue under adverse conditions. It will also allow for rapid return to normal operations in the event of a minor interruption or major disaster. Some applicable programs within DEO that are applicable in both pre- and post-disaster situations include:

- Adaptation Planning
- Affordable Housing
- Business Continuity Management
- Coastal High-Hazard Areas
- Community Planning
- Hazard Mitigation
- Home and State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP)
- Post-Disaster Redevelopment Planning
- Florida Small Cities Community Development Block Grant
- Waterfronts Florida

The programs listed above fall under the responsibility of various sub-divisions of DEO. The sub-divisions of DEO discussed herein include the following:

- Division of Community Development, Bureau of Community Planning
- Division of Community Development, Bureau of Housing and Community Development
- Division of Workforce Services

### **Division of Community Development, Bureau of Community Planning**

DEO is designated by Chapter 163, Part II, Florida Statutes, as Florida's land planning agency responsible for guiding the state's growth and development. Department of Community Development (DCD) plays a lead role in implementing the state's Community Planning Act (Chapter 163, Part II, F.S., the *Community Planning Act*), the Developments of Regional Impact (DRI) Program, and the Areas of Critical State Concern (ACSC) Program (Sections 380.06 and 380.05, respectively, of Chapter 380, F.S., the *Environmental Land and Water Management Act*).

When DEO was established, the responsibility for overseeing many of the existing planning laws transitioned to the new organization from DCA. Other laws and policies were amended or abolished by the current administration.

The Florida Community Planning Act (see **Appendix G: Governing Policies and Legislation** for information on Chapter 163, Part II, Florida Statutes) requires all of Florida's 67 counties and 476 municipalities to adopt local government comprehensive plans that guide future growth and development. Comprehensive plans contain chapters, or elements, that address future land use, housing, infrastructure, coastal management, conservation, water supply, intergovernmental coordination, other public facilities, and capital improvements.

The Community Planning Act requires the Department of Economic Opportunity's (DEO), Division of Community Development (DCD) to review and approve comprehensive plans and plan amendments for compliance. Other agencies including the Regional Planning Councils, Water Management Districts, the Departments of State, Transportation, Environmental Protection, Agriculture, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission also review comprehensive plans and amendments and issue recommended objections to the Department.

Section 163.3178(2)(d), Florida Statutes, requires that the Coastal Management Element of the local comprehensive plan contain a component which outlines policies for hazard mitigation and protection of human life against the effects of natural disasters, including population evacuation, which take into consideration the capability to safely evacuate the density of the coastal population proposed in the Future Land Use Element in the event of an impending natural disaster.

For the last several years, DCD has been working with planning and emergency management officials to understand how Florida's communities are implementing hazard mitigation principles and whether these principles in each Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS), Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP), Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan (PDRP), and Long-Term Recovery Plan have been incorporated into local comprehensive plans.

In 2005 DCD prepared hazard summaries and profiles for each county and case studies for 20 municipalities that identified predominant hazards in these communities, hazard mitigation principles in place, and recommended additional hazard mitigation principles to reduce hazard vulnerability and risk. The summaries and profiles were developed to serve as a tool for communities to use in looking at how hazard mitigation and comprehensive planning relate. These profiles also contain suggestions on how to enhance current local mitigation strategies to support long-range planning efforts. The information is now somewhat outdated, but can still be useful in providing guidance to communities looking at the relationships between hazard mitigation and comprehensive planning.

The hazard summaries, profiles and case studies can be found on the DEO website at: <http://www.floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/programs/technical-assistance>.

DEO works closely with DEM, contributing extensively to ongoing mitigation initiatives both directly and indirectly. The Bureau of Community Planning supports the State Hazard Mitigation Plan's goals and objectives through many programs and initiatives including:

- Adaptation Planning
- Coastal Zone Management consistency reviews
- Evaluation and Appraisal Report process
- Hazard Mitigation Planning
- Military Base Encroachment
- Post-Disaster Redevelopment Planning
- Waterfronts Florida Partnerships

DCD has been very successful in promoting mitigation throughout Florida. Several successful products and initiatives that DCD has prepared, or partnered on, in recent years are explained in the following text.

### **Post-Disaster Redevelopment Planning: A Guide for Florida Communities<sup>3</sup>**

The Post-Disaster Redevelopment Planning (PDRP) guidebook represents the culmination of in-depth research of best practices related to post disaster redevelopment as well as the lessons learned from several of Florida's pilot communities.

The guidebook helps communities identify operational strategies as well as roles and responsibilities for implementation that will guide decisions that affect long-term recovery and redevelopment after a disaster. It emphasizes seizing opportunities for hazard mitigation and community improvement consistent with the goals of the local comprehensive plan and full public participation.

Some of the topics addressed in the guide include mitigation, sustainable land use, housing, business resumption and economic redevelopment, infrastructure and environmental restoration, health and social services, and financial considerations. Department staff has been instrumental in the success and implementation of the guidebook. The Department recently helped the following communities develop their own PDRPs:

- City of Kissimmee
- City of Oakland Park
- Hernando County
- Leon County
- Pasco County
- Pinellas County
- Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council
- Walton County

---

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/programs/technical-assistance/community-resiliency/post-disaster-redevelopment-planning/toolkit#RedevPlanLinks>

Although the guidebook has been finalized, distributed, and implemented, DEO remains heavily involved in post-disaster redevelopment planning. Current actions being completed by DEO related to PDRP include:

- Assisting communities with developing new plans and maintaining and updating those that are currently in place.
  - Currently assisting the City of Live Oak with the development of a PDRP in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Debby.
- Conducting discussion groups with interested parties on post-disaster redevelopment planning related topics.
  - Providing technical assistance and training, online and at conferences.
  - Recently conducted a PDRP/Long-Term Recovery Planning Summit in Jacksonville (July 2012).
  - The Department recently assisted Palm Beach County with integrating sea level rise into their Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan and will continue to provide guidance to local governments on adaptation planning in the future.

#### **Post-Disaster Redevelopment Planning: Addressing Adaptation during Long-term Recovery**<sup>4</sup>

Addressing Adaptation during Long-term Recovery is the newest guidance document and serves as an addendum to the original Post-Disaster Redevelopment Planning: A Guide for Florida Communities guidebook.

The purpose of the addendum is to augment the best practices guidance related to coastal communities, provide an assessment of how sea level rise scenarios may alter the impacts of future storms, and provide recommendations for local decision makers to consider when addressing long-term community sustainability in the aftermath of a large scale disaster.

#### **Protecting Florida Communities: Land Use Planning Strategies and Best Development Practices for Minimizing Vulnerability to Flooding and Coastal Storms**

The guidebook is one in a series of “best practices” publications prepared by the DEO and it describes how to create a powerful synergy from what currently are related but often discrete or loosely coupled plans. The guidebook provides information on planning policies and strategies that can be implemented before and after disasters strike to further reduce community vulnerability to coastal storms and related flooding.

By publishing this “best practices” guidebook and identifying ways communities can better integrate hazard mitigation into day-to-day land use decision making through the community’s comprehensive planning process, DEO intends to support local planning efforts to improve public safety and sustainability, without increasing the overall commitment of resources by local governments.

---

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/programs/technical-assistance/community-resiliency/post-disaster-redevelopment-planning/toolkit#RedevPlanLinks>



**Wildfire Mitigation in Florida: Land Use Planning Strategies and Best Development Practices**

The document was prepared by the DEO with assistance from the Florida Forestry Service and examines the role of planning in community wildfire mitigation efforts. It describes planning strategies such as cooperative strategies, comprehensive plan elements, local mitigation strategies, and other planning approaches.

The guide includes guidelines for creating and adopting local wildfire mitigation ordinances to reflect comprehensive plan policies, and explores the relationships and potential conflicts between local ordinances. The guide also discusses neighborhood and landscape design as well as building construction practices and materials for reducing wildfire vulnerability.

**Wildfire Risk Reduction in Florida: Home, Neighborhood, and Community Best Practices**

The manual was a joint effort between the Florida Forestry Service, Normandeau Associates (formerly Pandion Systems Inc.), the DEO and the University of Florida, Levin College of Law. It includes clear guidelines to best protect homes, businesses, neighborhoods, communities, and new developments from the threat of wildfire while protecting forests and natural resources.

Also included are Florida-specific recommendations for planning strategies to reduce wildfire risk, fuel management alternatives, fire-resistant landscaping and building construction, timber management practices, and social/economic cost-benefit analysis results. Case studies are included throughout the guide to give readers a sense of wildfire risk reduction projects that have been successfully completed.

**Guiding the Way to Waterfronts Revitalization: Best Management Practices**

The document is offered by the Waterfronts Florida Partnership Program (WFPP) as a how-to guide for individuals and communities with an interest in preserving or making changes at the local waterfront. This guidebook draws from the ideas and on-the-ground know-how of people who work in citizen groups, state and federal agencies, special topic associations, or non-profit organizations to foster change or protect a way of life in water-dependent districts and communities.

**Disaster Planning for Florida's Historic Resources**

The document was prepared by the DEO with assistance from the Florida Division of Historic Resources and 1000 Friends of Florida. The guidebook describes steps for preparing emergency response plans for individual historic resources, expediting review of repair and reconstruction permits in the event of damage, and improving coordination between emergency management and historic preservation efforts within a community.

**Disaster Mitigation for Historic Structures: Protection Strategies**

The manual is a continuation of coordinated work between the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, the Florida Division of Emergency Management and 1000 Friends of Florida to improve the integration of historic preservation and disaster preparedness. It is a follow up to *Disaster Planning for Florida's Historic Resources* and focuses on actual mitigation options for individual historic structures.

### **Community Resiliency**

In 2012 the Department kicked-off a five-year project to integrate adaptation to potential sea level rise into current planning mechanisms including the local comprehensive plan, local hazard mitigation plan and post-disaster redevelopment plan. This effort is steered by a focus group of statewide experts on planning for sea level rise adaptation and stakeholders in the coastal area. First, the Department will research similar efforts in other states as well as how the "Adaptation Action Area" may be implemented at the local level. Next, it will pilot adaptation planning projects in the state and then compile all lessons learned from the projects. Finally, all lessons learned will be compiled and statewide outreach will be conducted and the program will be offered statewide. The Department has received additional funding to work with the City of Ft. Lauderdale as they integrate Adaptation Action Areas into their local comprehensive plan.

As a part of this initiative, DEO put together a compendium of sea level rise research. The compendium addressed former objective 4.3: "Monitor climate change and sea level rise research; create a compendium of existing studies and data." The compendium also contains efforts and outreach activities completed by the Division of Emergency Management. For the work completed in regards to sea level rise, please see [Appendix K: Sea Level Rise Compendium](#).

### **Waterfronts Florida Partnership Program**

The Florida Coastal Management Program created the Waterfronts Florida Partnership Program in 1997 to address the physical and economic decline of traditional working waterfront areas. Waterfronts Florida continues as a coastal technical assistance program of the DEO, Division of Community Development.

Waterfronts Florida provides technical assistance and training to designated communities as well as other coastal communities involved in the revitalization of working waterfronts. To be designated by the Department as a Waterfronts Florida Community, a community must create a vision and action plan for waterfront revitalization targeting environmental and cultural resource protection, public access, economic health, and hazard mitigation. They must also demonstrate formal support from local governments and form a local committee of stakeholders in the community, including property and business owners, to serve as the steering committee for the effort. Twenty-four Waterfronts Florida Partnership Communities have been designated since 1997. The newest community is Four Mile Creek located in the City of Freeport/Walton County.

Technical assistance is delivered to communities through special projects, visioning assistance, webinars, one-on-one meetings and Program Meetings that occur twice a year in a designated community, featuring guest speakers on topics important to working waterfronts and coastal communities.

The Department recognizes that resiliency and hazard mitigation is an important component of this program, as it is one of the four identified priorities. Several resources have been prepared for Waterfronts Florida Communities focused on how to become more resilient to coastal flooding and storm surge. Furthermore, the Department has begun to integrate aspects of adaptation planning for sea level rise into the technical assistance offered to communities.

Typically, at least one speaker at each Program Meeting focuses on resiliency and hazard mitigation and all vision plans created by designated communities must address this topic. This program is unique in that communities are encouraged to tackle resiliency at the grassroots and community-level, while remaining in coordination with city and county efforts.

### **Areas of Critical State Concern**

The DCP provides oversight and assistance to local governments that have been recognized by the Florida Legislature as having resources of statewide significance through a designation as an Area of Critical State. The following areas have been designated: Big Cypress Swamp (located in portions of Collier, Dade, and Monroe County); the Green Swamp (portions of Lake and Polk County); the City of Apalachicola (Franklin County); and the Florida Keys (Monroe County, Marathon, Layton, Key Colony Beach, Islamorada and Key West).

Within these areas, staff reviews comprehensive plans, land development regulations, and environmental resource permits and development orders for consistency with applicable statutes and rules. Staff provides technical assistance regarding planning matters including hurricane evacuation and mechanisms to implement and improve hazard mitigation.

### **Military Base Encroachment**

Florida is home to 20 major military installations and three unified combatant commands. The Gulf of Mexico is a key training ground for both the Air Force and the Navy, and the state also has two U.S. Coast Guard air stations and another dozen other Coast Guard stations. The military accounts for about 10 percent of Florida's economy.

Recognizing the importance of the military and defense related industry to the State, the Division of Community Development is available to work with local governments and military installations to encourage compatible land use, help prevent encroachment, and facilitate the continued presence of major military installations. DCD also assists with the base missions relating to land preservation and limiting development densities in sensitive coastal areas.

### **GIS Resources**

DCD maintains and updates DEO's geographic information system (GIS) database. Planners use it to evaluate flood and hurricane hazards in land use plan amendments and local government approved Developments of Regional Impact (DRIs). The GIS unit maps are also used during regulatory reviews of comprehensive plan amendments and DRIs. The system also provides planners with storm surge zone and floodplain information and can be used to evaluate the Statewide Hurricane Evacuation Studies.

### **Division of Community Development, Bureau of Local Planning**

DCD has three regional planning teams responsible for conducting reviews of comprehensive plans, DRIs, Florida Quality Developments, sector plans, rural land stewardship areas, and university campus master plans. The local plan review section also reviews development agreements and challenges to local land development regulations to ensure consistency with comprehensive plans, including inherent hazard mitigation policies. This service supports local governments and ensures compliance with state law.

A key component of the Community Planning Act is its concurrency provision that requires stormwater, water and wastewater facilities and services to be available concurrent with the impacts of development. Local governments are not limited in the amount of times they may amend their plan annually. All land development regulations and decisions (development orders) must be consistent with the adopted comprehensive plan.

The Florida Legislature used the Community Planning Act to stress the significance of coastal zone resources. Section 163.3178(1), Florida Statutes, provides that it is the intent of the legislature that local governments restrict development activities where such activities would damage or destroy coastal resources and that such plans protect human life and limit public expenditures in areas that are subject to destruction by natural disasters.

The Coastal Management Element of the comprehensive plan sets forth policies to fulfill this legislative intent. Requirements for the Coastal Management Element state that the future land use map series recognize hurricane evacuation routes and identify Coastal High Hazard Areas (CHHA). The CHHA is the Category 1 storm surge zone as defined by the Sea, Lake and Overland Surges from Hurricanes (SLOSH) Model. Section 163.3177(6)6., Florida Statutes, requires local governments to limit public expenditures that subsidize development in coastal high hazard areas. Many local comprehensive plans have objectives and policies, which limit or restrict residential density, the type of development allowed, establish special building requirements, and that limit the use of public funds within the CHHA.

Future land uses and amendments are based in part on land use suitability, which is in turn affected by environmental constraints, transportation, housing, water and sewer, park and open space impacts, and hazard suitability (vulnerability to natural disaster). Staff in the Bureau of Land Planning identifies the state impacts of large-scale developments (DRIs) and makes recommendations to local governments to approve, suggest mitigating measures, or not approve such proposed developments. The DRI process provides for the incorporation of hazards data and may recommend that hazard mitigation conditions be attached to the development order.

### **Division of Community Development, Bureau of Housing and Community Development**

The mission of the Bureau of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is to invest in communities in ways that affect their strength and economic viability. The Bureau administers grants and programs to meet the needs of local governments and the citizens of Florida. It provides grants to eligible local governments for infrastructure, community improvement, revitalization of commercial areas, housing rehabilitation, and economic development projects. HCD funds community action agencies that assist persons with critical food, clothing, housing, health care, and utility needs. The programs of HCD help Floridians build safe, sustainable communities through local initiatives and public/private partnerships. The Division's programs stimulate community development and revitalization, weatherization services, and affordable housing. The programs described below have mitigation-related impacts.

**Florida Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program**

The Florida Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program provides federal funding for low income housing rehabilitation and community development. The program, regulated by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), assists smaller local governments to provide water and sewer infrastructure, housing rehabilitation opportunities for low income homeowners, commercial revitalization, and economic development projects. Funding is limited to \$750,000, and eligibility depends on the low-to-moderate-income population of the local government. Cities with a population of 50,000 or fewer and counties having a population of 200,000 or fewer are eligible to apply. Since 1983, the state has received \$18-35 million each year to assist eligible local governments with housing rehabilitation, neighborhood and commercial revitalization, and development activities.

**Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Initiative**

Congress began allocating funds to Florida following the 2004 Hurricane Season in response to unusual hurricane activity. Subsequent allocations for 2005 and 2008 storms assist with disaster relief, long-term recovery, and restoration of infrastructure in the most impacted and distressed areas. This includes mitigation. Examples of eligible activities include restoration of affordable housing, rehabilitation, demolition, replacement, acquisition, new construction, transitional housing, emergency shelter facilities, and complementary housing activities.

**Community Assistance Programs****The Community Services Block Grant Program (CSBG)**

The CSBG program works through a network of local governments and non-profit agencies to help low-income households improve their lives. Local agencies determine poverty causes within their communities and design programs to address these issues. These programs help low-income residents attain the skills, knowledge, and motivation necessary to become self-sufficient. Funds from the CSBG also are used to address immediate life necessities such as food, housing, and medicine, as well as to provide a variety of anti-poverty services.

**The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)**

The WAP provides grants to community action agencies, local governments, Indian tribes, and non-profit agencies to fund energy-saving repairs to low-income homes throughout the state. The grants may be used for insulation, weather stripping, water heater wraps, and the reduction of air infiltration. The program may also fund the repair or replacement of inefficient heaters and air conditioners.

**The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**

LIHEAP provides grants to designated local governments and non-profit agencies to help eligible low-income households meet the costs of home heating and cooling. The majority of the funds are used to help individuals pay their utility bills but also can be used for crisis assistance or weather-related emergency assistance. Additional information on these programs can be found on the DEO website at: <http://www.floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development>.

## Division of Workforce Services

DEO is also Florida's lead state workforce agency (Chapter 445, Florida Statutes). The agency administers Workforce Development, Re-employment Assistance, and Labor Market Statistics programs. DEO receives and accounts for federal funds for the workforce system. The Division of Workforce Services is responsible for reporting, monitoring, and providing guidance, training and technical assistance to Regional Workforce Boards. The programs conducted by the Division are not mandated or designed for specific hazard mitigation purposes, but are complimentary to reducing the human and economic costs of disasters.

Additional information can be found on the DEO website at <http://www.floridajobs.org/office-directory/division-of-workforce-services>. The analysis immediately below includes mitigation goals, hazards, and state policies addressed by DEO.

<i>Policies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage natural resources to reduce impacts of natural and manmade disasters</li> <li>• Enhance local government capacity to mitigate hazards</li> <li>• Encourage post-disaster redevelopment</li> <li>• Prevent unwise expenditures that hinder mitigation efforts</li> <li>• Pursue mitigation as an ongoing, evolving, research dependent activity</li> <li>• Pursue interagency cooperation as an important means to mitigate hazards</li> <li>• Use design and site criteria as a general means to mitigate hazards</li> <li>• Support and fund beach erosion control activities</li> <li>• Ensure that local comp plans contain hazard mitigation components such as directing development away from high hazard areas, designating appropriate land uses in vulnerable areas, and post-disaster redevelopment planning</li> <li>• Promote vertical consistency among government entities</li> <li>• Guide growth as an important means to mitigate hazards</li> <li>• Promote funding sources and implementation strategies for mitigation</li> </ul>
<i>Hazards</i>	All Hazards
<i>Goals</i>	Goal 1, Goal 2, Goal 3, Goal 4

## IV. Florida Department of Education

### Office of Educational Facilities

The mission of the Office of Educational Facilities within the Florida Department of Education (DOE) is to provide technical support and information for issues related to education facility planning, funding, construction, and operations throughout Florida's K-20 Education System. The Office of Educational Facilities distributes authorized state funds for construction. The Office is also responsible for maintaining State Requirements for Educational Facilities. These include planning, funding, contracting, maintenance, and facility operations. Construction building code requirements are through the Florida Building Code (DEO) and the Florida Fire Prevention Code (State Fire Marshal).

The activities of DOE apply pre- and post- disaster by mitigating damage to education facilities. These facilities often double as shelters in times of disaster.

The analysis immediately below includes mitigation goals, hazards, and state policies addressed by DOE.

<i>Policies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote funding sources and implementation strategies for mitigation</li> <li>• Pursue mitigation as an ongoing, evolving, research dependent activity</li> <li>• Use design and site criteria as a general means to mitigate hazards</li> </ul>
<i>Hazards</i>	All Hazards
<i>Goals</i>	Goal 1, Goal 2, Goal 3, Goal 4

## V. Florida Department of Environmental Protection

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is the lead state agency for environmental protection, resource management, and stewardship. The department administers regulatory programs and issues permits for air, water, and waste management. It also oversees the state's land acquisition and water management programs. DEP additionally manages the Florida Park Service. The key agency activities discussed below are applicable in both pre- and post-disaster situations.

### Division of Water Resource Management

The Division of Water Resource Management is responsible for protecting the quality of Florida's drinking water, rivers, lakes, wetlands, and beaches. It is also responsible for reclaiming lands once mined for minerals. The Division establishes the technical basis for setting surface and groundwater quality standards. It additionally implements a variety of programs to monitor the water resource quality. The following programs under the Division of Water Resource Management have hazard mitigation implications:

#### Florida Dam Safety Program

The Florida Dam Safety Program (FDSP) receives a grant administered by FEMA to conduct some of the National Dam Safety Program (NDSP) activities. The purpose of the NDSP is to reduce the risks to life and property from dam failure in the U.S.

Dam safety in Florida is a shared responsibility among DEP, the regional water management districts, USACE, local and regional governments, consultants, and private dam owners to assure the safety of dams and related structures.<sup>5</sup> This effort is overseen by the State of Florida Dam Safety Officer, DEP, Division of Water Resource Management, Engineering, Hydrology, and Geology Support Section. The State Dam Safety Officer implements the FDSP activities and serves as the State representative to the Association of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO).

<sup>5</sup> <http://internetdev/water/mines/damsafe.htm>

Florida State regulations on dam safety include the Florida Statutes (Part IV Chapter 373, which is further discussed in **Appendix G: Governing Policies and Legislation**) and can be found in the Florida Administrative Code for the management and storage of surface water. The NDSP provides assistance to the states to establish, maintain, and improve an effective state dam safety program for activities such as the development of regulatory authority for the design, construction, and maintenance of dams; the undertaking of dam inspections; and the development of Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) for dams.

In December of 2010, the FDSP published a guide for dam owners and operators entitled “Emergency Action Plan (EAP) Template for Dams in Florida and Instructions for Developing Emergency Action Plans.”<sup>6</sup> A key responsibility of the FDSP is to update the state dam inventory (which is the source of the USACE’s National Dam Inventory of Florida dams), review draft EAPs, and implement activities to meet the NDSP goals. The current goals include to:

- Reduce the likelihood of dam failures
- Reduce the potential consequences resulting from dam failure
- Promote research and training for state dam safety personnel and other professionals.

Florida’s State Floodplain Manager has developed a working relationship with the State Dam Safety Officer to investigate a more coordinated understanding of Florida’s dams, and their potential risk to surrounding communities. The DEP is an active member of the Florida Silver Jackets team.

## **Submerged Lands and Environmental Resource Coordination Program**

The Submerged Lands and Environmental Resource Coordination Program (ERP) regulates the construction, alteration, maintenance, operation, removal, and abandonment of stormwater management systems, dams, impoundments, reservoirs, works (including dredging, filling, and construction in wetlands and other surface waters), and appurtenant works under Part IV of Chapter 373, F.S. It also processes related authorizations for requests to use sovereignty submerged lands under Chapter 253, F.S., and, if within an aquatic preserve, Chapter 258, F.S.

The program has flood mitigation implications because it addresses both storm water runoff quality and quantity (i.e. storm water attenuation and flooding of other properties).

The ERP program, which is implemented by DEP and the five water management districts, regulates the above activities for the protection of water quality, to prevent flooding, and draining of lands and water resources, and to ensure system structural integrity of constructed systems. The program also provides for post-storm emergency permitting to repair or restore damaged systems.

---

<sup>6</sup> The Florida Emergency Action Plan Template and Instruction Manual are available at the following link: [http://publicfiles.dep.state.fl.us/DWRM/MineReclamation/Florida Dam Safety Program/](http://publicfiles.dep.state.fl.us/DWRM/MineReclamation/Florida%20Dam%20Safety%20Program/)



## **Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems**

The Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems (BBCS) manages activities affecting Florida's beaches, coastal systems, and sovereign submerged lands. These activities include the restoration and management of critically eroded beaches, safeguarding the beach and dune systems from imprudent development, and determining shoreline conditions and trends.

The Bureau consists of five interrelated sections: Beach Erosion Control, Coastal Construction Control Line Permitting, Environmental Permitting, Coastal Data Acquisition, and Coastal Engineering. The Bureau manages a Coastal Construction Control Line permit program (CCCL) and a Beach Erosion Control program. The CCCL program regulates construction seaward of the coastal construction control line to protect the beach and dune system from imprudent upland construction and to ensure that upland construction will withstand storm events to the maximum extent possible.

The beach erosion control program provides ongoing evaluation of erosion trends on the state's 825 miles of sandy beaches and, to the extent funding is available, provides funds for beach restoration and nourishment activities. In addition, the Bureau responds to emergency beach stabilization requests and reviews temporary post-storm coastal armoring for its long term impact on the beach and dune system.

## **Division of State Lands**

The purpose of the Division of State Lands is to:

- Acquire, administer, and dispose of state lands owned by the State Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund.
- Administer, manage, and maintain the records of all such lands.
- Administer and maintain the state geodetic survey requirements.
- Identify and set ordinary and mean high water boundaries for purposes of sovereignty and land title.

## **Florida Forever Program**

In 1999, the Florida Legislature enacted the state's current program for the acquisition of lands, water areas, and related resources for outdoor recreation and natural resource conservation purposes. The program succeeded the Preservation 2000 program, which acquired and preserved more than 1.78 million acres of land, with an additional 682,999 acres by the end of 2012.

The public acquisition of land and conservation easements avoids future developments in timberlands, wetlands, and coastal areas, which in turn reduces or eliminates potential impacts of wildfire, flooding, and coastal storms. Division of State Lands normally receives about \$105 million a year for land acquisition purposes. Florida Forever also funds acquisition of in-holdings and additions to already existing conservation lands, the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) grant program, the Florida Communities Trust (FCT) grant program, the administration of the Stan Mayfield Working Waterfronts (SMWW) grant program within FCT, and the Rural and Family Lands Protection program (within the FFS).

## Florida Geological Survey

The Florida Geological Survey (FGS) has a mission and work plan that shares the common vision and mission of DEP. FGS has additional directives mandated by the Florida Legislature (Section 377.075, Florida Statutes), which include periodically reporting survey progress, findings, and analyses. It also provides technical assistance to the general public, industry, and other local, state, and federal agencies. An FGS project that has hazard mitigation implications is the mapping of depressions, which may be used to support or update the existing map of sinkhole type, development, and distribution in Florida (see FGS Map Series No. 110). The map is available for free download (PDF format) from the FGS webpage at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/geology/geologictopics/sinkhole.htm>.

FGS and DEM have a working relationship that maintains a database of reported statewide sinkhole incidents. The database is available for free download (Microsoft Excel) on the agency's website at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/geology>. Unfortunately, much of the data contained in the database is unverified. DEM and FGS are currently seeking funding for a statewide study on sinkholes. Additional FGS geologic information that has natural hazard mitigation implications includes reports on spring sheds, aquifer vulnerability and subsurface mapping, earthquakes, and flood control.

## Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP)

The Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP) is the unit of DEP responsible for maintaining and updating a program based on existing Florida statutes and rules and submitting applications to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to receive funds under the Coastal Zone Management Act. FCMP supports the State Hazard Mitigation Plan's goals and objectives through support of the program allowing for federal consistency reviews by state agencies; participation in a program to secure competitive federal funds for acquisition of coastal properties to reduce adverse land use and environmental impacts in the state coastal zone; and sub-grant funding of planning initiatives (including DEO's Adaptation, Community Resiliency, Post-Disaster Redevelopment, and Waterfronts Florida initiatives). For more on FCMP's funding efforts, please see the Coastal Partnership Initiative (CPI) Grant Program information in **Section 5.1.2: State Funding**.

The analysis immediately below includes mitigation goals, hazards, and state policies addressed by DEP.

<i>Policies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage land acquisition strategies avoid future development in coastal areas, wetlands, floodplains and timberlands</li> <li>• Manage natural resources to reduce impacts of natural and manmade disasters</li> <li>• Seek to maintain natural vegetation in flood zones and high hazard areas for flood storage and water quality</li> <li>• Pursue mitigation as an ongoing, evolving, research dependent activity</li> <li>• Pursue interagency cooperation as an important means to mitigate hazards</li> <li>• Encourage/require special siting, setback, and design criteria for construction related activities within the coastal building zone</li> </ul>
-----------------	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support and fund coastal erosion control activities as an important mitigation measure</li> <li>• Promote funding sources and implementation strategies for mitigation</li> <li>• Guide growth as an important means to mitigate hazards</li> <li>• Promote regional or basin-wide stormwater management and flood protection infrastructure to mitigate coastal and inland flooding</li> <li>• Operate and maintain water control structures to reduce potential impacts from storm events</li> <li>• Give coastal areas, including barrier islands, beaches and related lands, priority in local, regional and state land acquisition programs</li> <li>• Manage water on a state and regional basis for the conservation, replenishment, recapture, enhancement, development, and proper utilization of surface and ground water to protect against hazards and ensure its presence for future generations</li> <li>• Enhance local government capacity to mitigate hazards</li> <li>• Encourage post-disaster redevelopment</li> </ul>
<i>Hazards</i>	Erosion, Flooding, Drought, Extreme Heat, Sinkholes, Tropical Cyclones, Severe Storms
<i>Goals</i>	Goal 1, Goal 2, Goal 3, Goal 4

## VI. Florida Department of Financial Services

The Florida Department of Financial Services (DFS) is responsible for overseeing the state's finances, collecting revenue, paying state bills, auditing state agencies, regulating cemeteries and funerals, and handling fires and arsons. DFS has 13 divisions, two of which apply to mitigation:

- Division of Consumer Services
- Division of State Fire Marshal

### Division of Consumer Services

Consumer Services helps consumers make informed insurance and financial decisions through its Consumer Assistance toll free helpline or by logging on to the Division's web page to access the on-line educational programs, consumer guides and the Division's Insurance Library. Consumers can file a complaint, ask an insurance question or confirm that a company or agent is licensed to do business in the State of Florida by contacting the helpline or by going to the Division's webpage.

#### Consumer Outreach

The Division of Consumer Services offers programs on a variety of topics that inform Florida consumers about insurance and financial issues in an effort to help them make informed decisions; and to serve as a resource for information before and after disasters. Principle among them for mitigation purposes are Hurricane Preparedness Materials that appear on their webpage.

**Disaster Response**

The Division has a Disaster Response webpage located at <http://www.myfloridacfo.com/Consumers/Storm/index.htm> that contains up to date information about storm recovery and mitigation. The page provides up to the minute alerts concerning insurance information. It additionally provides links to useful resources, information concerning hurricane mitigation, and consumer tips. Citizens can access additional information by calling the hotline at 1-877-MY-FL-CFO.

**Division of State Fire Marshal**

The mission of the Division of State Fire Marshal is “to reduce the loss of life and property to fire and other disasters statewide through internal and external leadership, standards and training, prevention and education, and fire and arson investigation.” The State Fire Marshal has authority to implement rules that conform to the standards of fire safety and the need to protect Floridians from fire hazards.

The Division has four bureaus:

- Bureau of Fire Prevention
- Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations
- Bureau of Fire Standards and Training
- Bureau of Forensic Fire and Explosive Analysis

The different mitigation- related activities of the State Fire Marshal include:

**Fire Fighter Certifications**

The Division’s office issues over 3,000 basic fire fighter certifications a year. Students attend one of 35 certified training centers located across the state or the Florida State Fire College. The State Fire College trains over six thousand students per year in a wide variety of certification and professional development programs to include Pump Operator, Fire Officer, Fire Investigator, HAZMAT, and more.

**State Building Inspection**

The Division inspects over 14,000 state and over 16,000 public and private buildings a year for safety. The Division also reviews construction plans and documents for new construction, alterations, and renovations on all state-owned and state-leased buildings for Florida Fire Prevention Code compliance.

**Florida Fire Incident Reporting Section**

This section collects over 1,800,000 fire and emergency reports per year. These reports are combined with the other states reports in the National Fire Incident Reporting System for use by the fire services in analysis and trends. The Florida reports are also used to form the basis for the State Fire Marshal's Annual Report "Florida Fires".

The analysis immediately below includes mitigation goals, hazards, and state policies addressed by DFS.

<i>Policies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pursue mitigation as an ongoing, evolving, research dependent activity</li> <li>• Promote vertical consistency among government entities</li> <li>• Use design and site criteria as a general means to mitigate hazards</li> <li>• Enhance local government capacity to mitigate hazards</li> </ul>
<i>Hazards</i>	All Hazards, particularly Wildfire
<i>Goals</i>	Goal 1, Goal 2, Goal 3

## VII. Florida Department of Transportation

The Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) is a decentralized, executive agency of the Governor which includes offices in Tallahassee and seven districts, the Florida Turnpike Enterprise and the Florida Rail Enterprise.<sup>7</sup> The central office in Tallahassee establishes DOT policies, rules, procedures and other standards, while the operation of the agency is organized into the seven districts offices and the Florida Turnpike and Florida Rail Enterprise.

DOT's primary statutory mandate is to coordinate the planning and development of a safe, viable, and balanced state transportation system serving all regions of the state, and to assure the compatibility of all components, including multimodal facilities. In developing the state transportation system, DOT works with local, regional and federal transportation partners. While the highest priorities are safety and system preservation, the agency places great emphasis on developing the transportation system to enhance economic prosperity and preserve the quality of our environment and communities.

The DOT has a major role in emergency management. To that end, DOT has designated the following positions for assisting in emergency management efforts:

- Central Office Emergency Coordinator: The Central Office Emergency Coordinator, or designee, is a member of the State Hazard Mitigation Plan Advisory Team (SHMPAT).
- District Emergency Coordination Officer (ECO): Each District ECO functions as the coordinator for emergencies in his or her respective district. The person serves as a point of contact for the Emergency Management Reimbursement Coordinator in public assistance and mitigation efforts. The ECO, together with the Reimbursement Coordinator, assist in developing and implementing the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) and associated mitigation efforts.
- Emergency Management Reimbursement Coordinator: The Reimbursement Coordinator is located in the Central Office and is DOT's coordinator for federal

<sup>7</sup> The Florida Turnpike Enterprise operates the Florida Turnpike System (*Sections 20.23 (5), 338.22, F.S.*). The Florida Rail Enterprise was established to develop high speed and passenger rail systems in Florida (*Sections 20.23(5), 341.303, F.S.*).

reimbursement in presidentially declared emergencies through FEMA, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and state public assistance personnel. The Reimbursement Coordinator works hand in hand with District ECOs to gather and present information to the appropriate federal program or LMS.

Following the devastating 2004 hurricane season, DOT reviewed 14 different areas under the direction of Traffic Engineering and Operations Office.<sup>8</sup> Impacts to transportation infrastructure were significant. Thousands of traffic signal heads were broken or lost, power lines were down at intersections and streets were flooded. Tidal surges undermined sections of coastal highway pavement and several segments of the I-10 bridge over Escambia Bay were swept away. These impacts brought to light the importance of mitigating vulnerable transportation infrastructure.

The agency is committed to maintaining the essential flow of traffic which may occur along the state's public transportation infrastructure, and to protecting the public health and safety of Floridians. Hazard mitigation related to transportation activities occur in planning and project development of transportation improvement projects, and they are part of the roadway design, maintenance and construction system, and are consistent with DOT plans and policies.

DOT continues its efforts to improve the safety, security and resilience of the transportation system, which is emphasized in agency statewide planning documents. The following summaries provide an overview of the plans, policies and practices used by DOT:

### **2060 Florida Transportation Plan (FTP)**

The 2060 FTP<sup>9</sup> is a statewide plan that defines Florida's future transportation vision and identifies goals, objectives, and strategies to guide transportation decisions over the next 50 years. The FTP contains several goals. The safety and security goal of the FTP is to "Provide a safe and secure transportation system for all users." Another goal is to "Maintain and operate Florida's transportation system proactively." An objective of this proactive maintenance is to reduce the vulnerability and increase the resilience of critical infrastructure to the impacts of extreme weather events and trends related to natural hazards.

### **Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Strategic Plan<sup>10</sup>**

The SIS is a statewide network of high priority transportation facilities including the state's largest and most significant airports, spaceports, deepwater ports, freight rail terminals, passenger rail and intercity bus terminals, rail corridors, waterways and highways. These facilities represent the state's primary means for moving people and freight between Florida's diverse regions, including between Florida and other states and nations. A major objective of the SIS Strategic Plan is to ensure Florida's transportation system can meet national defense, emergency response and evacuation needs while providing a safe facility for the public.

---

<sup>8</sup> Florida Department of Transportation Hurricane Response Evaluation and Recommendations, February 11, 2005

<sup>9</sup> Florida Transportation Plan <http://www.2060ftp.org/images/uploads/home/2060FTPlanbook7%2004152011.pdf>

<sup>10</sup>SIS Strategic Plan <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/planning/sis/strategicplan/2010sisplan.pdf>

**Project Delivery**

DOT has restructured its mitigation program to promote efficiency, cost effectiveness and timeliness in project delivery. Decisions are based on interagency coordination and the comparison of options to ensure that the chosen mitigation actions fully compensate for project impacts and that they are cost-effective and successful.

Compliance with environmental laws helps avoid development, including that of transportation infrastructure in high risk areas, such as designated undeveloped coastal barriers. It helps improve the resilience of transportation facilities to flooding and other associated impacts, including those risks associated with coastal storms and storm surge.

In project delivery, DOT must comply with all applicable federal and state laws and environmental rules, including the following:

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)
- Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA)
- Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) including the enforceable policies of the Florida Coastal Zone Management Act (FCMA).

In complying with federal and state requirements, DOT is committed to the following:

- Mitigating environmental impacts for encroachments into wetlands and floodplains
- Managing stormwater and drainage impacts through design, construction, and maintenance of transportation infrastructure
- Avoiding or minimizing highway encroachments within the 100 year (base) floodplains, where practicable
- Minimizing impacts where floodplain encroachments are unavoidable
- Ensuring the wise use and protection of the state's water, cultural, historic and biological resources
- Minimizing the state's vulnerability to coastal hazards
- Ensuring compliance with the state's growth management laws
- Protecting the state's transportation system
- Protecting the state-owned right-of-way.

**Policy and Design Changes**

The Florida Turnpike Enterprise adopted a related policy for Turnpike facilities that are relied on for hurricane evacuation which requires the mainline travel lanes to be above the 100 year floodplain elevation. This policy was recently integrated in the design criteria of the Plans Preparation Manual, Volume 1.<sup>11</sup>

---

<sup>11</sup> Plans Preparation Manual <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/rddesign/PPMManual/PPM.shtm>

Hazard mitigation related changes in design criteria include:

- Revising the criteria used for making signs
- Making signals and equipment more wind resistant
- Revising the wind speed criteria for structures so that the criteria used is consistent with requirements of the Florida Building Code
- Changing the height of bridges to be at least one foot above the 100 year wave crest
- Developing new criteria for areas transitioning from normal crown to super elevations to reduce ponding and hydroplaning
- Coating for steel girders and box girder bridges
- Improved concrete materials in marine environments to maximize bridge service life.

### **Bridge Security**

In designing Category 2 bridges (significant and/or high investment structures) antiterrorist measures must be included in the design to minimize bridge vulnerability. Some examples of countermeasures designed into bridge alternatives include designing structures for blast effects, selective protection of the structural integrity of key members, and incorporating structural redundancy. Also for security reasons, certain structural designs, such as those for bridges and certain stormwater conveyance facilities, are exempt from public records disclosure.

### **Asset Management**

Reducing risk to hazards is also addressed within the broader context of asset management, which includes monitoring the transportation system and maintaining, upgrading and operating physical assets cost effectively. Annual surveys of the state highway system are conducted to assess the condition and performance of the state's roadways as well as to predict future rehabilitation needs.

In the area of bridge maintenance, DOT conducted a statewide assessment of bridges potentially vulnerable to wave loading on the superstructure. Priority was given to develop a plan of action for rehabilitating or repairing bridges found to be potentially vulnerable and also considered critical – important to safety, the economy and are of significant value.

### **Research Efforts**

The DOT Research Center<sup>12</sup> manages a vibrant and diverse transportation research program. Working with Florida's state universities, other agencies, research institutions, and private contractors, the Center performs research in all areas of DOT.

The Center emphasizes applied research, implementation, performance monitoring, and technology transfer. In addition it works closely with functional areas within DOT, peer agencies, and other stakeholders to conduct and implement research.

---

<sup>12</sup> The Research Center <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/research-center/>



Current mitigation related research includes:

- Developing a statewide and regional planning tool to identify potentially vulnerable transportation infrastructure to predicted flooding from sea level and tidal changes
- Developing wind resistant structures such as signs and signals
- Improving visibility and warning systems
- Improving roadway design criteria for scour and wave loading.

The analysis immediately below includes mitigation goals, hazards, and state policies addressed by DOT.

<i>Policies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote funding sources and implementation strategies for mitigation</li> <li>• Promote vertical consistency among government entities</li> <li>• Prevent unwise expenditures that hinder mitigation efforts</li> <li>• Enhance local government capacity to mitigate hazards</li> </ul>
<i>Hazards</i>	All Hazards
<i>Goals</i>	Goal 1, Goal 2, Goal 4

## VIII. Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) is a state agency responsible for assisting, without charge, Florida's veterans, their families and survivors in improving their health and economic well-being through high quality benefit information, advocacy, education and long-term health care. DVA has Veterans' Claims Examiners co-located with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Regional Office in Bay Pines, each VA Medical Center, and most VA Outpatient Clinics in Florida.

The department operates seven state veterans' homes. Six are 120-bed skilled nursing facilities and one is a 150-bed assisted living facility. All facilities are inspected annually by the VA and Florida Agency for Health Care Administration. All state veterans' homes have active COOP plans and are tested annually during the State of Florida Hurricane Response Exercise for hurricane preparedness. In August 2004, the state veterans' nursing home in Port Charlotte allowed a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic to re-locate to its facility for 18 months when the main clinic nearby had been destroyed by Hurricane Charley. DVA serves as a supporting member in the ESF-6 section of the State Emergency Operations Center.

The analysis immediately below includes mitigation goals, hazards, and state policies addressed by DVA.

<i>Policies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pursue mitigation as an ongoing, evolving, research dependent activity</li> <li>• Pursue interagency cooperation as an important means to mitigate hazards</li> </ul>
<i>Hazards</i>	All Hazards
<i>Goals</i>	Goal 1, Goal 2, Goal 3

## IX. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is committed to mitigate loss for the public health and safety of Floridians and visitors as well as Florida's state lands, state parks and Florida's population of fish and wildlife. FWC came into existence on July 1, 1999 as the result of a constitutional amendment approved in the 1998 General Election as part of the package proposed by the Constitution Revision Commission. The mission of the FWC is to manage fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people.

The FWC is the lead component in the Florida Division of Emergency Management's reconnaissance mission to document early impacts of manmade and natural disasters. FWC is also a first responder during and after disasters performing search and rescue, boating safety and ensuring public safety. FWC enforces waterway security zones to ensure safety and to lessen impacts to Florida's property, natural resources and environment; identifies documents and assists with derelict vessel recoveries after disasters as well as environmental impacts such as oil spills or interferences to navigation. FWC also researches and documents impacts to Florida's fisheries, wildlife and habitat as a result of the disaster and takes the necessary actions to alleviate those impacts. Those actions include open communications with partners and stakeholders for determining the best means of recovery.

Figure 4.1 shows where headquarters and regional offices for the FWC are located throughout the state of Florida. For more information about Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, please visit the website at <http://myfwc.com/>.



Figure 4.1 FWC Headquarters and Regional Offices

The analysis immediately below includes mitigation goals, hazards, and state policies addressed by FWC.

<i>Policies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance local government capacity to mitigate hazards</li> <li>• Manage natural resources to reduce impacts of natural and manmade disasters</li> <li>• Pursue interagency cooperation as an important means to mitigate hazards</li> </ul>
<i>Hazards</i>	All Hazards
<i>Goals</i>	Goal 1, Goal 2, Goal 3, Goal 4

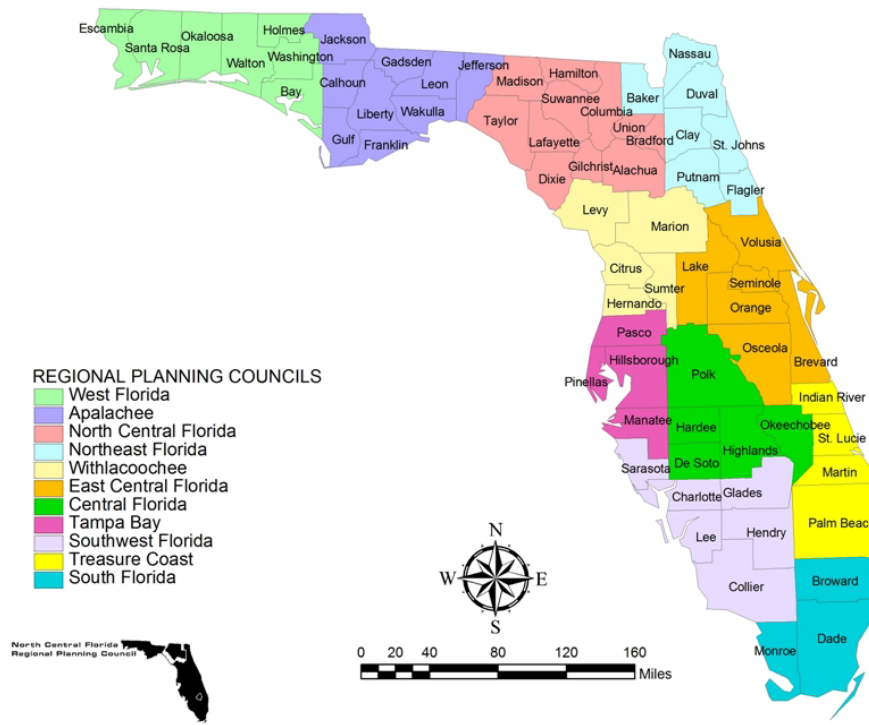
## X. Regional Planning Councils

There are 11 regional planning councils (RPCs) in the State of Florida. By the late 1970s, most Florida counties had entered into inter-local agreements under Section 163.01, Florida Statutes, to create regional planning councils in response to area-wide circumstances and needs. Passage of the Florida State and Regional Planning Act of 1984 authorized the designation of comprehensive planning districts - regional planning councils - as the primary organizations to address problems of greater than local concern.

Florida Statutes recognizes regional planning councils as “Florida’s only multipurpose regional entity that is in a position to plan for and coordinate intergovernmental solutions to growth-related problems on greater-than-local issues, provide technical assistance to local governments, and meet other needs of the communities in each region.”

RPCs each have a Board of Directors that sets its work program and budget. These governing boards are made up of local elected official, gubernatorial appointees and four ex-officio, non-voting members from the Florida DEO, DOT, DEP and the appropriate water management district(s). Funding for regional planning councils generally comes from three sources: local government membership dues and contracts, and federal and state funding.

RPCs are an extension of the local governments they serve. Each regional planning council indicated in Figure 4.2 acts as a bridge between state and local governments conducting various planning projects and studies, and providing technical assistance in a variety of capacities.



**Figure 4.2 Regional Planning Councils**

### Mitigation Programs and Functions

Because the state is increasingly vulnerable to natural, technological and human-caused disasters, emergency management planning is a critical element of the 21<sup>st</sup> century planning paradigm. The role of RPCs in emergency management has increased over the past 30 years as governments recognize the benefits and necessity of working together as well as integrating the “whole of community” in emergency management planning. The planning effort has expanded to address all five mission areas: Prevention, Protection, Response, Recovery and Mitigation.

### Statewide Regional Evacuation Study

Working together in a coordinated manner, RPCs in Florida completed a multi-year Statewide Regional Evacuation Study, which represents an unprecedented undertaking to concurrently update regional evacuation studies for each region. The studies included all-hazards and vulnerability assessments, behavioral analyses, shelter planning, and evacuation transportation modeling. The study provides planning tools that promote fully integrated, seamless planning across counties and regions to manage the movement of large numbers of citizens safely out of areas in danger. Emergency management offices across the state have begun implementing parts of the study in their operational plans and procedures. Growth management and transportation planners are relying on the tools developed as part of the study in their mitigation efforts.

### Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC)

As with natural disasters, RPCs play a significant role in the hazards analyses planning process in Florida for hazardous materials. The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) require that all facilities possessing extremely hazardous substances with an

amount equal to or greater than certain thresholds, submit a report to the State Emergency Response Commission. The Regional Report identifies these chemicals, their quantities, the potential threat of a release, and critical facilities and special locations (i.e., schools, hospitals and nursing homes) and threat zones. This information can be used for response planning and mitigation of these hazards in the community. Regional planning councils are the coordinators for Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs). The goal of the Committees is twofold: First, to establish working relationships among agencies and industries that manage and respond to incidents by training alongside other responders; and second, to educate the public and facilities managers with regard to preparedness, contingency planning and mitigation.

### **Local Mitigation Strategies (LMS)**

The Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 significantly expanded the mitigation planning requirements imposed on both state and local jurisdictions to maintain eligibility for federal mitigation funds. RPCs provide planning and technical services to assist their local governments in developing Local Mitigation Strategies. The purpose of the LMS is to reduce or eliminate the impact of hazards within a community and diminish the loss of life and property damage. Local Mitigation Strategies serve as a bridge between a local government's comprehensive growth and emergency management plans, land development regulations, building codes, ordinances, and related policies. With these plans in place, communities are able to prioritize and coordinate efforts to reduce or eliminate hazards in the future.

### **Post Disaster Redevelopment Plans (PDRP)**

In addition to the LMS, the RPCs have been involved with and provided technical assistance in post-disaster redevelopment planning, working with the myriad of federal, state and local stakeholders to develop plans for long term recovery and community restoration. These plans address issues associated with short-and long-term recovery including, but not limited to Land Use and Mitigation, Disaster Housing, Permitting and Rebuilding Issues, Infrastructure Restoration, Environmental Restoration, Economic Redevelopment, and Health and Human Services. The PDRPs have continued to evolve and many are addressing additional issues such as adaptive strategies pertaining to climate change and sea level rise impacts.

### **Other Regional Programs and Projects**

As part of the existing contract with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), RPCs review Developments of Regional Impact (DRIs), local government plan amendments and federal grant applications to ensure consistency with goals and policies in the State Plan and Strategic Regional Policy Plans (SRPP). This includes public safety, floodplain management and the protection of natural resources. RPC staff members also serve on review teams for County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans (CEMPs). As the Economic Development Districts in the State of Florida, many RPCs are modeling disaster scenarios to determine impacts and vulnerabilities associated with hazards identifying industry clusters, supply lines, etc. as well as including an Emergency Management section in the 2012 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDSS) update addressing mitigation and resiliency.

When appropriate, RPCs have assisted local governments in preparing Public Assistance (PA) and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) applications following disasters. In

addition, RPCs have served as the local entity for private non-profits and universities in pre-disaster mitigation projects. As part of its State-mandated mediation obligations, regional planning councils are required to have a dispute resolution process to address intergovernmental disputes. The intent of this Regional Dispute Resolution Process is to provide a flexible process to reconcile differences on planning and growth management issues. This capacity may be helpful in Long-term Redevelopment.

The analysis immediately below includes mitigation goals, hazards, and state policies addressed by Florida RPCs.

<i>Policies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance local government capacity to mitigate hazards</li> <li>• Encourage post-disaster redevelopment</li> <li>• Prevent unwise expenditures that hinder mitigation efforts</li> <li>• Pursue mitigation as an ongoing, evolving, research dependent activity</li> <li>• Pursue interagency cooperation as an important means to mitigate hazards</li> <li>• Ensure that local comp plans contain hazard mitigation components such as directing development away from high hazard areas, designating appropriate land uses in vulnerable areas, and post-disaster redevelopment planning</li> <li>• Promote vertical consistency among government entities</li> <li>• Guide growth as an important means to mitigate hazards</li> </ul>
<i>Hazards</i>	All Hazards
<i>Goals</i>	Goal 1, Goal 2, Goal 3, Goal 4

## **XI. State Board of Administration**

The State Board of Administration (SBA) is an agency of Florida state government that provides a variety of investment services to various governmental entities. These include managing the assets of the Florida Retirement System Pension Plan, the Lawton Chiles Endowment Fund, the Local Government Surplus Funds Trust Fund, the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund (FHCF), and a variety of other mandates. The FHCF was created in November 1993 during a special legislative session after Hurricane Andrew. The purpose of the FHCF is to protect and advance the state's interest in maintaining insurance capacity in Florida by providing reimbursements to insurers for a portion of their catastrophic hurricane losses. The FHCF also provides funding for the RCMP grant.

The analysis immediately below includes mitigation goals, hazards, and state policies addressed by SBA.

<i>Policies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote funding sources and implementation strategies for mitigation</li> <li>• Enhance local government capacity to mitigate hazards</li> <li>• Pursue interagency cooperation as an important means to mitigate hazards</li> <li>• Promote vertical consistency among government entities</li> </ul>
<i>Hazards</i>	Tropical Cyclones, Severe Storms, Flooding
<i>Goals</i>	Goal 1, Goal 2, Goal 3, Goal 4

## XII. Board of Governors State University System of Florida

The Board of Governors (BOG) manages the State University System (SUS) and ensures its coordination and operation. The state university system enrolls over 300,000 students and 60,000 faculty and staff. The BOG establishes policy and guidance to continue execution of mission-essential functions of the SUS of Florida and the State Emergency Management Act. Each university must develop and adopt policies, regulations, and procedures as required to ensure the continued health, safety, and well-being of the campus community. Such activities include the designation of an emergency manager and alternate, development and management of a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) and Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). Furthermore, universities are authorized to enter into mutual aid and other cooperative agreements to enhance campus safety and security. Universities within the SUS are prepared to:

- Maintain health, safety, and security of university students, staff, visitors, and property.
- Initiate and provide for the coordination of activities relating to emergency preparedness response, recovery, and mitigation among agencies and officials.
- Maintain essential functions in a setting that is endangered and/or debilitated.
- Execute viable operational plans to return the university to normal operating conditions, within a reasonable time frame, based on existing circumstances.
- Report on campus health and safety efforts.
- Comply with casualty, sanitation, and fire safety standards, including Florida Building Codes.

The analysis immediately below includes mitigation goals, hazards, and state policies addressed by BOG SUS.

<i>Policies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pursue mitigation as an ongoing, evolving, research dependent activity</li> <li>• Pursue interagency cooperation as an important means to mitigate hazards</li> <li>• Promote vertical consistency among government entities</li> </ul>
<i>Hazards</i>	All Hazards
<i>Goals</i>	Goal 1, Goal 2, Goal 3, Goal 4

## XIII. Volunteer Florida

Since 1997, the Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (Volunteer Florida) has served as the lead agency for Emergency Support Function (ESF) 15 - Volunteers and Donations. Volunteer Florida is a 25 member governor appointed commission. Its mission is to strengthen Florida's communities through volunteerism and service. To fulfill this mission, the Commission facilitates the development, promotion, and implementation of volunteer and community service programs and practices. Volunteer Florida has entered into memoranda of understanding with over 35 support organizations to provide resources, services, and capabilities for disaster response, recovery, and mitigation.

As the ESF 15 lead agency, Volunteer Florida provides the following disaster related services:

- Manages the activities and staffing of ESF 15 at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) in Tallahassee
- Operates the State Volunteers and Donations Hotline in times of disaster
- Routes disaster donations to local agencies that need them
- Trains Florida AmeriCorps members to assist communities impacted by disaster
- Helps potential disaster volunteers connect with local disaster volunteer managers
- Develops the response capabilities of Florida’s voluntary agencies through networking, training and exercises
- Provides training, presentations and support to County ESF 15 organizations, Volunteer Reception Centers, ESF 15 support organizations, and other partners
- Participates in mitigation planning activities to consider possible mitigation projects, rule and ordinance changes that would reduce disaster-related costs and promote and engage volunteer organizations

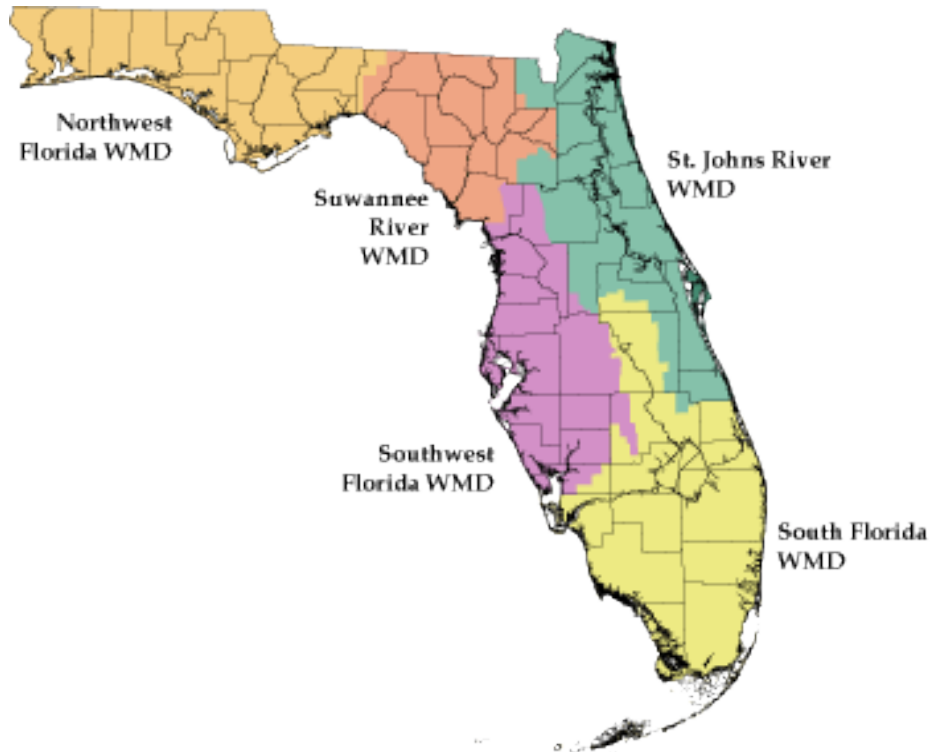
The analysis immediately below includes mitigation goals, hazards, and state policies addressed by Volunteer Florida.

<i>Policies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance local government capacity to mitigate hazards</li> <li>• Encourage post-disaster redevelopment</li> <li>• Pursue mitigation as an ongoing, evolving, research dependent activity</li> <li>• Pursue interagency cooperation as an important means to mitigate hazards</li> <li>• Promote funding sources and implementation strategies for mitigation</li> </ul>
<i>Hazards</i>	All Hazards
<i>Goals</i>	Goal 1, Goal 2, Goal 3

## XIV. Water Management Districts

DEP has “general supervisory authority” over Water Management Districts (WMD) which are regional government entities (Chapter 373, Florida Statutes). There are five districts in the state, as shown in Figure 4.3, with boundaries determined by watersheds and other natural, hydrologic, and geographic features. Each works with the state to manage and protect water resources in times of crisis or emergency, as well as to manage and protect those same resources for the short and long term. In 1972, with the Florida Water Resources Act (Chapter 373), the state expanded the responsibilities of water management districts to include regional water resource management and environmental protection as well as flood control and water supply.





**Figure 4.3 Florida's Five Water Management Districts**

The water management districts administer flood protection programs and perform technical investigations into water resources. The districts partner with FEMA as Cooperating Technical Partners (CTPs) in the national Map Modernization process of updating the NFIP Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Florida communities. The districts also develop water management plans for water shortages in times of drought and to acquire and manage lands for water management purposes under the Save Our Rivers program.

Regulatory programs delegated to the districts include programs to manage the consumptive use of water, aquifer recharge, well construction and surface water management. As part of their surface water management programs, the districts administer the department's stormwater management program. This increases the districts' contacts with local governments by directing the districts to help with the development of the water elements in local government comprehensive plans. County LMS planners also request information/ data from the WMDs during their plan update process. WMDs ensure present and future water provision for the state and exist as a direct mitigation measure.

### **Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWWMD)**

The Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWWMD) stretches from the St. Marks River Basin in Jefferson County to the Perdido River in Escambia County. The district has worked for decades to protect and manage water resources in a sustainable manner. It does this for the continued welfare of people and natural systems across a 16-county

region. NFWMD serves Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Leon, Liberty, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Wakulla, Walton, Washington and western Jefferson Counties.

Within the district's 11,305 square-mile area, there are several major hydrologic (or drainage) basins. They include the Perdido River and Bay System, the Pensacola Bay System (Escambia, Blackwater and Yellow Rivers), the Choctawhatchee River and Bay System, the St. Andrew Bay System, the Apalachicola River and Bay System, and the St. Marks River Basin (Wakulla River).

A nine member Governing Board, appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Florida Senate, guides district activities. Board members serve four-year terms without compensation and may be reappointed. An executive director oversees a staff of approximately 100 that includes hydrologists, geologists, biologists, engineers, planners, foresters, land managers and various administrative personnel.

### **Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD)**

The Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) covers 7,640 square miles with a population of approximately 320,000. Suwannee is the smallest of the state's water management districts in terms of geographic area, population served, tax base, and agency staff. The district has the highest concentration of freshwater springs in the state and ground and surface waters are intimately related. This makes the area very important for water quality and quantity.

The district is highly rural in character. Accordingly, most of the region's residential growth is in unincorporated rural areas. The Interstate 75 corridor from Lake City to Gainesville is experiencing rapid development and is projected to contain much of the district's future population. Total population is projected to increase to about 750,000 by 2050.

SRWMD's budget is derived from a combination of local property tax revenues, state grants, and federal funds. Locally-generated tax revenues are approximately 32 percent of the district's total budget- indicative of the lowest tax base of any Florida water management district. District programs cannot be accomplished solely with funding from the district's ad valorem tax base. Funding from the legislature and partnerships with public and private organizations are needed to achieve the district's priorities.

Historically, there has been success in receiving funding from the legislature and in developing partnerships with citizen groups, industry, and local, state, and federal agencies. In recent years, funding from the legislature has been reduced, however there is hope this will be reversed during the 2013 legislative session.

The district faces challenges in managing the water and related resources as the region continues to grow and develop. The district's water resources are affected by groundwater withdrawals and pollution outside of its boundaries, including Georgia.

The district's strategic priorities are as follows:

- Sustainable Water Supply: Ensure an adequate and sustainable water supply for all reasonable beneficial uses while protecting springs and other natural systems.
- Water Conservation: Maximize water conservation for all water uses. Conservation measures are encouraged with management incentives and regulatory mechanisms.
- Minimum Flows and Levels: Ensure district priority water bodies are protected for current and future generations. The district's efforts to develop minimum flows and levels (MFLs) for its major rivers and springs have revealed that water supplies are limited. Thus, management efforts must focus on protecting springs and natural systems, developing alternative water supplies that offset groundwater withdrawals, and encouraging regional water supply development. This must be accomplished by balancing the water needs of our communities and natural systems. Through the use of MFLs, the district works to protect and conserve water resources, which helps plan for adequate water supplies while protecting resources from significant harm.
- Heartland Springs Initiative: Ensure springs have adequate flow, maintain good water quality, and sustain healthy biological communities. Setting and achieving a high standard for protecting and managing springs demands a historic level of cooperation, coordination, and investment of public and private funds. Vital signs of the district's natural systems are monitored through an extensive system of water quality and quantity data networks. The information collected is used in the development of MFLs, regulatory programs, land management, and flood protection.
- Water Management Lands: Manage land and real estate interests to provide non-structural flood control, protect surface and ground water quality, and to enhance water resource related natural systems. SRWMD owns 160,000 acres of land and has conservation easements over an additional 125,000 acres. These lands provide benefits such as floodwater storage and conveyance, wildlife habitat, and recreation. Over 324 river front miles are protected.
- Non-Structural Flood Protection: Enhance flood risk information to protect life and property against flood hazards. District administered FEMA funds have made flood insurance rate map modernization possible for many jurisdictions. Such maps help guide local development regulations to avoid new development flood hazards.

### **St. John's River Water Management District (SJRWMD)**

The St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) is responsible for balancing citizens' needs for water with nature's needs. The SJRWMD manages groundwater and surface water supplies in all or part of 18 counties in northeast and east-central Florida. The core missions of the SJRWMD are:

- Water Supply: To implement a regional strategy to provide sufficient waters for users and the environment.
- Water Quality and Natural Systems Protection and Improvement: To protect water quality and natural systems of the district and improve those resources within Surface Water Improvement and Management basins.

- **Flood Protection:** To prevent increases in flooding and operate and maintain the district's regional flood control projects. This is accomplished through a focus on implementing the environmental resource permitting program and maintaining the Upper St. Johns River Basin and the Ocklawaha River Basin regional flood control projects.
- **Organizational Effectiveness:** To provide for organizational structure and tools that result in and reward continuous improvement and enhanced service delivery.

### **Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD)**

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) is responsible for managing water and related natural resources in west-central Florida to ensure their continued availability while maximizing environmental, economic and recreational benefits. The SWFWMD encompasses roughly 10,000 square miles in all or part of 16 counties and serves a population of 4.7 million people. The goal of the SWFWMD is to meet the water needs of current and future water users while protecting and preserving the water resources within its boundaries.

A 13-member Governing Board oversees SWFWMD activities. Members are unpaid volunteers appointed by the governor and confirmed by the state senate to set policy and administer the budget. The Governing Board assumes its responsibilities as authorized in Chapter 373 and other chapters of the Florida Statutes by directing a wide range of programs, initiatives and actions. These include, but are not limited to:

- Flood protection
- Water use
- Well construction and environmental resource permitting
- Water conservation
- Education
- Land acquisition
- Water resource and supply development
- Supportive data collection and analysis efforts.

SWFWMD funding comes from voter-approved ad valorem property taxes along with other intergovernmental sources.

### **South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD)**

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state. It covers 16 counties from Orlando to the Florida Keys and serves 7.7 million residents. SFWMD is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. Created in 1949, the agency is responsible for managing and protecting water resources by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply.

The district owns a variety of land assets that are a reflection of its many programs, functions and responsibilities. Over the course of several decades, the district has acquired land needed to support flood control infrastructure, protect South Florida's water resources and restore the region's impaired ecosystems. Today, the agency is focused on comprehensively evaluating each parcel to assure its most effective use for Florida's taxpayers.

A key district initiative is the restoration of America's Everglades, the largest environmental restoration project in the nation's history. In addition to clean up and protection of the vast "River of Grass" wetland system, these unprecedented efforts include improvements to the Kissimmee River and its floodplain, Lake Okeechobee and South Florida's coastal estuaries. Because of the region's vulnerability to sudden hazards, SFWMD is especially concerned with emergency management and mitigation. It has adopted a wide variety of measures to combat potential damage. A few are listed below:

- The district has a full time emergency manager charged with seeing that the district is prepared for any emergency - not just those related to weather.
- Throughout the year, the district conducts an active inspection and maintenance program on its flood control system. In advance of a storm's arrival, SFWMD may begin a gradual drawdown of its canals. This enhances the ability of local drainage facilities to route excess runoff into the district's primary canal system, which routes floodwaters to storage areas or to the coast.
- The district schedules regular canal clearing maintenance in preparation for hurricanes or other storm events. This mitigates flooding that could be caused by canal debris inhibiting water flow.
- The district has fortified a "safe room" within its critical pumping stations to allow District personnel to remain within these facilities before, during and after hurricane events to ensure continuous operation of the Central and SF Flood Control Project.
- Following a storm event, the district immediately assesses the integrity of its water control canals, storage areas and structures.
- The district offers an informative brochure entitled "Managing Flood Waters - Before and After the Storm" that explains how the flood control system in South Florida works and the proper maintenance of on-site water management systems. "Managing Every Drop" is another publication that captures both the flood control and drought management aspects of water management.
- The SFWMD's Comprehensive Water Conservation Program, including a year-round landscape irrigation conservation measures rule, is designed to measurably reduce water use while promoting a lasting water conservation ethic throughout South Florida. Local governments may adopt alternative landscape irrigation ordinances based on local water demands, system limitations or resource availability. These long-term actions help mitigate against water shortage.
- The district evaluates each of its properties and plans the timing and frequency of prescribed fire according to several parameters, including vegetative community type, fuel loads, size, and surrounding land use.
- The district is an active participant in the Governor's Regional Domestic Security Task Force and works closely with local, state and federal partners regarding homeland security prevention, preparedness and response issues.

The SFWMD also coordinates a variety of other mitigation activities with its emergency management partners. Examples of ongoing efforts include:

- Flood Map Modernization through partnership among local governments, the state and FEMA to transform the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) into a more reliable, easier-to-use and readily accessible product.
- The district provides a representative on the LMS working groups for the counties within the district to pre-identify and rank various mitigation projects.

The analysis immediately below includes mitigation goals, hazards, and state policies addressed by all of the WMDs.

<i>Policies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage land acquisition strategies that avoid future development in coastal areas, wetlands, floodplains and timberlands</li> <li>• Manage natural resources to reduce impacts of natural and manmade disasters</li> <li>• Seek to maintain natural vegetation in flood zones and high hazard areas for flood storage and water quality</li> <li>• Enhance local government capacity to mitigate hazards</li> <li>• Pursue mitigation as an ongoing, evolving, research dependent activity</li> <li>• Pursue interagency cooperation as an important means to mitigate hazards</li> <li>• Promote vertical consistency among government entities</li> <li>• Guide growth as an important means to mitigate hazards</li> <li>• Promote regional or basin-wide stormwater management and flood protection infrastructure to mitigate coastal and inland flooding</li> <li>• Operate and maintain water control structures to reduce potential impacts from storm events</li> <li>• Give coastal areas, including barrier islands, beaches and related lands, priority in local, regional and state land acquisition programs.</li> <li>• Manage water on a state and regional basis for the conservation, replenishment, recapture, enhancement, development, and proper utilization of surface and ground water to protect against hazards and ensure its presence for future generations</li> </ul>
<i>Hazards</i>	Flooding, Tropical Cyclones, Severe Storms, Sinkhole, Drought, Extreme Heat, Erosion
<i>Goals</i>	Goal 1, Goal 2, Goal 3, Goal 4

## 4.2.2 Non-Governmental Agency Capabilities

Certain non-governmental agencies also participated in the development of the State Hazard Mitigation Plan. Summaries have been included of several non-governmental organizations mitigation activities along with the goals and hazards the agency's summarized actions address. While many non-governmental agency activities align well with state policies, we have chosen not to include them in our evaluation. To do so may give the impression that non-governmental agencies further a state-driven agenda and this is inappropriate. Summaries

may use acronyms from time to time. For your convenience, all acronyms for participating agencies are listed immediately below:

- American Red Cross (ARC)
- Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH)
- Florida Association of Counties (FAC)
- Florida Floodplain Managers Association (FFMA)
- Florida Home Builders Association (FHBA)
- Florida Interfaith Networking in Disaster (FIND)
- Florida International University International Hurricane Research Center (FIU IHRC)
- Florida League of Cities (FLC)

## **I. American Red Cross**

The 1905 American Red Cross (ARC) Congressional Charter designates its purpose to "continue and carry on a system of national and international relief in time of peace and apply the same in mitigating the sufferings caused by pestilence, famine, fire, floods and other great national calamities and to devise and carry on measures for preventing the same."

As America's premier humanitarian disaster relief organization, the ARC seeks to prevent needless suffering. Therefore, ARC works closely with its local, state, and national partners to help people turn preparedness and mitigation into a personal priority. In keeping with the National Preparedness System (National Preparedness Goal, PPD-8, and the National Mitigation Framework), the ARC will work toward:

- Ensuring the Florida population is aware of and understands the effects of threats and hazards and the vulnerabilities and risks associated with them.
- Ensuring the "whole community" is engaged in meaningful ways. Whole of community means individuals, the private sector, communities, nongovernment organizations, faith-based organization, all levels of government, etc.

The goal of the ARC is to foster a "culture of prevention" that helps families and communities become safer and more prepared when disasters strike. ARC programs are applicable in both pre- and post-disaster situations. The Florida American Red Cross Mitigation Task Force recommended the organization pursue six goals:

- Goal 1- Develop local community networks to address community-wide preparedness issues: Convene, connect and collaborate across sectors (emergency management, faith-based organizations, individuals and families, public health, schools, non-profits, business, grass-root organizations, etc) to assess and raise awareness of community risks, build trust, and foster relationships.
- Goal 2- Motivate people and organizations to take preparedness actions: Deliver community preparedness activities to enable the public to reduce risk resulting from disasters.

- Goal 3- Mobilize support for mitigation through partnerships: Work closely with existing and new partners to promote hazard loss reduction initiatives at the national, state, and local levels. These include federal, state, and local governments, voluntary agencies active in disaster, the insurance industry, and more.
- Goal 4- Expand mitigation activities within the American Red Cross: Bolster the ability of chapters to mobilize public and private support for disaster mitigation in communities. The Red Cross must also lead by example by taking steps to reduce the vulnerability of its facilities in harm's way.
- Goal 5- Advocate government actions that help mitigate disaster damage and loss of life: Actively urge the adoption of appropriate building codes, prudent land-use, and other policies that reduce the vulnerability of people and communities to disasters.
- Goal 6- Encourage and support efforts to integrate mitigation into community decision-making: Work hand-in-hand with civic, business, and government leaders to integrate mitigation into community planning, development, and other important economic and quality of life discussions.

Current mitigation activities in which the ARC is engaged, in partnership with the FEMA, DEM, the Habitat for Humanity, the insurance industry (i.e., Allstate and State Farm), the Institute for Business and Home Safety, the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM), and many other organizations, include the following:

#### **Awareness and Education**

Raise awareness of specific actions citizens or the community can take to prevent and reduce disaster losses. Preparedness Education includes mitigation information. It provides a solid platform to expand mitigation education through activities such as home makeover advice, community mitigation expositions, and media promotions. Additional disaster education programs are taught throughout the State of Florida. These include Scrubby Bear, fire and severe weather safety programs, disaster education simulators, and pandemic preparedness programs.

#### **Advocacy**

The Red Cross serves as a strong and unified voice for mitigation at the state and local levels by supporting programs, ordinances, and legislation such as prudent land-use policies and effective building codes that are necessary to reduce the vulnerability of people and their property. The American Red Cross has been instrumental in obtaining important changes to the Stafford Act. In addition, the Red Cross was a pivotal force behind the establishment of the first Congressional Caucus on Natural Hazards. The ARC is helping to establish a similar caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives.

#### **Mitigation on a Disaster Relief Operation**

The immediate period following a disaster presents an opportune time to educate and motivate citizens about the steps they can and should take to prevent or reduce future losses. Red Cross chapters and disaster relief operations are uniquely positioned to encourage the public to rebuild stronger and safer. Therefore, ARC seeks to integrate mitigation into disaster response and relief efforts.



Some ways that mitigation may be integrated into American Red Cross disaster relief operations include:

- Identify and seize opportunities to help disaster victims reduce or prevent future disaster losses.
- Ensure the dissemination and appropriate use of Red Cross disaster safety and mitigation materials and messages.
- Lead Red Cross safety and mitigation activities and coordinate them with federal and state mitigation staff and other voluntary organizations to ensure disaster victims are aware of and seriously consider available mitigation programs (e.g., buy-outs, elevations, grants to build tornado safe rooms).
- Coordinate with the In-Kind Donations Unit to identify sources of donated resources (goods, materials, and services) that can be used by disaster victims for mitigation purposes.
- Collect individual and community disaster preparedness and mitigation success stories. Coordinate with the disaster relief operation and government public affairs offices to publicize the fact that disaster preparedness and mitigation saves lives, reduces injuries, and lessens property damage.
- Enhance the readiness of the affected chapters to coordinate and follow-up on mitigation efforts initiated during response and recovery by Red Cross, FEMA, and state and local government.
- Assist chapters with access to federal, state, and local mitigation grant funds needed to support mitigation efforts, as well as to retrofit or build safer new chapter facilities.

### **National Resource Library of Disaster Mitigation Measures**

Development of a national resource library of disaster initiatives undertaken by community-based organizations is underway. Success stories are collected via the Internet at <http://www.redcross.org>.

The analysis immediately below includes mitigation goals, hazards, and state policies addressed by ARC.

<i>Hazards</i>	All Hazards
<i>Goals</i>	Goal 2, Goal 3

## **II. Federal Alliance for Safe Homes**

Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH<sup>®</sup>) is a non-profit, 501(c)3, organization committed to promoting life safety and property protection. The organization includes an unprecedented alliance of private, public, and non-profit partners dedicated to protecting families and homes from natural and manmade disasters. These include flooding, hail, hurricane, lightning, severe storms, tornadoes, wildfires, and more. FLASH programs are applicable in both pre- and post-disaster situations.

FLASH began in 1998 as an advertising campaign designed to raise awareness about safety and mitigation options in post-Hurricane Andrew Florida. The campaign borrowed its consumer driven strategy from the highway safety movement to create widespread demand for safer, better-built homes. Founded as the Florida Alliance for Safe Homes, FLASH grew and expanded to quickly become the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes in 2002. Today, its award-winning programs target a diverse and growing audience of consumers, code officials, design professionals, elected leaders, homeowners, and homebuilders.

The FLASH mission is to help reduce deaths, injuries, suffering, property damage, and economic losses caused by natural and manmade disasters. FLASH uses a social marketing philosophy to deliver disaster safety information. By creating awareness and fostering understanding, FLASH works to bring about acceptance and behavior change to both lay and technical audiences. Initiatives combine current, reliable information about the latest tools and techniques to create safer, better-built homes while offering free consumer resources and referrals to keep audiences progressing toward the goal. Some FLASH initiatives include:

### **Blueprint for Safety<sup>®</sup>**

This blue-ribbon education program provides the latest in disaster-safe construction techniques for new and existing residential structures. It details code-plus best practices to harden residences and increase disaster resistance. The program tools include classroom training courses, printed materials, [www.blueprintforsafety.org](http://www.blueprintforsafety.org), contractor's field manual, CD-ROM, interactive online tools, and free technical assistance through a toll-free hotline (1-877-221-SAFE).

### **FLASH Cards**

This popular and colorful print campaign offers 14 easy-to-understand cards featuring weather perils, safety tools, and special topics like homeland security. The cards contain valuable information in an easy-to-understand format while offering resource lists for more detailed and technical data. Now available in Spanish, the campaign provides consumers with a handy reference tool to de-mystify mitigation techniques, and is easily co-branded for widespread distribution.

### **FLASH Insurance Guide**

FLASH reprinted the popular "If Disaster Strikes... Will You Be Covered?" insurance guide in English and Spanish during 2008 with financial support from The Actuarial Foundation. The homeowner publication presents a rare, national overview of insurance coverage by peril coupled with relevant mitigation tips and techniques.

### **FLASH<sup>®</sup> Kids Zone Children's Program**

The FLASH Kids Zone program is a portal on the flash.org website designed for preteens to promote the message of mitigation. The sections of the portal include the Weather Station, the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the Safety House. There are games, quizzes and downloadable fact sheets that focus on creating a family disaster plan, building a disaster supply kit, doing a home inventory of belongings and having a home inspection.

**FLASH Newsletters**

FLASH Newsletters are free to consumers upon request and can come in print as well as viewed online. Typically for the handy consumers and builders, the newsletters focus on multi-perils. Topics include storm-resistant building, FLASH partners, wildfire, windstorms, flood, DIY wind and more. FLASH distributed nearly 63,000 print and electronic newsletters in 2008. Issues developed throughout 2008 include “Sharing Knowledge and Strengthening Alliances” and “A Decade of Disaster Resistance”. The first increased awareness of the diverse organizations that support FLASH and reinforced FLASH as a third party expert voice on mitigation issues with a focus on protecting families and homes. The second newsletter focused on increasing awareness of the different perils FLASH provides mitigation information about. It reinforces FLASH as a reliable source of information by providing the accomplishments of the organization for the past ten years.

**www.FLASH.org**

The FLASH website provides one-stop shopping for those interested in the most accurate and up-to-date disaster safety information and provides new interactive DIY tools for homeowners to learn how to better protect their homes.

**Multi-media Public Service Campaigns**

FLASH produces, distributes and launches an annual public service campaign to raise awareness and keep disaster safety top-of-mind. Using 30-second television and radio spots in English and Spanish, the campaign promotes FLASH websites and free resources. The campaign can be customized and used by partners in any media market.

**One-Stop Hurricane Resource Guide**

This popular tool provides compact, inclusive one-stop shopping for hurricane safety and mitigation information. It was originally developed as a media reference guide and is used for Florida and Rhode Island. The guide is in its sixth printing.

**Risk Mitigation Leadership Forum Series**

The Forum events provided an organized setting for the exchange of ideas from elected officials, corporate banking and insurance sectors, academic and research sectors, and new non-traditional allies in the cause of disaster mitigation. The Forum events helped facilitate a first-ever alignment of environmental movement and green stakeholders in the disaster mitigation movement. The Forum series reinforced FLASH as a respected and valued public policy voice on mitigation. These opportunities will continue to be essential during 2010 and beyond.

**StormStruck: A Tale of Two Homes<sup>®</sup>**

This six year project is located in INNOVENTIONS at *Epcot*<sup>®</sup> at the *Walt Disney World Resort*<sup>®</sup> and provides a 2,800 square foot experience that delivers mitigation and safety messages to the nearly 11 million worldwide guests that visit Epcot annually. StormStruck is an interactive, three-part educational weather experience that allows guests to experience a simulated windstorm and learn safe building techniques through fun and play. The exhibit offers a realistic storm experience featuring wind, rain, and lightning followed by a fast-paced opportunity to learn about cutting edge scientific research relating to weather. Guests learn about the latest recommendations for protecting their homes and families.

### WildFIRE Wizard

The interactive WildFIRE Wizard is a tool designed for wildfire prevention educators and professionals to help homeowners understand how landscaping, terrain and structural features increase or decrease their home's vulnerability during a wildfire. The Wizard allows the user to input details about features including windows, doors, roof, exterior walls, and landscaping and then creates a homeowner-friendly, customized report that includes specific recommendations about how to reduce the home's potential to ignite during a wildfire.

### High Wind Safe Room Resources

Highwindsaferooms.org provides homeowners seeking information about building a safe room in their homes. Homeowners can “Give an Ordinary Room an Extraordinary Purpose” with instructions for building or retrofitting bathrooms, closets, wine cellars or other rooms with a tornado safe room. They'll also find a cost calculator, animation and links to important safety and structural details.

The analysis immediately below includes mitigation goals, hazards, and state policies addressed by FLASH.

<b>Hazards</b>	Tropical Cyclones, Severe Storms, Flooding, Wildfire
<b>Goals</b>	Goal 2, Goal 3

## III. Florida Association of Counties

The Florida Association of Counties (FAC) is a not-for-profit organization that has represented Florida's 67 counties since 1929. Representing 377 county commissioners statewide, FAC is the one organization that truly represents all of Florida. While its primary mission is to provide legislative advocacy for its members, FAC also has an extensive training and education program. Specifically, FAC administers the Certified County Commission (CCC) program which is a program that consists of 10-12 classes per year and is open for all current commissioners. The training curriculum includes five core classes and five elective courses. Some of the core courses include growth management, finance and tax, and commissioner roles and responsibilities. Among the current elective courses are “Emergency Management: The Role of the County Commissioner” and “A County Commissioners Guide to Wind Mitigation Programs and Applications.” Supplementing the CCC program is an advanced set of courses that are taught, allowing commissioner to receive the designation of an Advanced County Commissioner (ACC). In total, commissioners seeking the ACC designation must complete an additional 27 hours of class work, primarily focused on leadership, collaboration, and decision making.

As evidence of the program's overall success and support by its members, of the 377 Commissioners currently in office, 136 are CCC graduates (36 percent of FAC's membership). Of those, 73 have also graduated from the ACC program. Of the remaining 241 commissioners who have not yet graduated from the CCC program, 80 are currently active in participating in the educational classes (reflecting 33 percent of the remaining membership).

Overall, over half of the commissioners are active or have graduated from our educational programs. Of the 82 recently-elected commissioners from 2010, 58 percent are currently active in the education program, while the 90 commissioners elected in 2008 have a 52 percent graduation rate.

### **Emergency Management and Mitigation Training**

In 2012, FAC was awarded an RCMP grant from the Florida Division of Emergency Management (DEM) to develop, schedule, and conduct a Wind Mitigation Resources “pilot course” for county governments and their staff. In all, 8 courses were delivered around the state with more than 120 attendees. For 2013, FAC has been awarded a second grant and scoped to provide six county courses, two courses before Regional Planning Councils, and one course through a statewide video conference system. In addition, FAC has proposed to DEM to develop and deliver a comprehensive flood mitigation training course for county commissioners through its CCC program for 2013 and beyond.

### **Emergency Management Requirements**

By law, each county must establish and maintain an emergency management agency. They must develop a county emergency management plan and program coordinated and consistent with the state comprehensive emergency management plan.

Each county emergency management agency must have a director that meets minimum training and education qualifications established in a job description approved by the county. Each director is responsible for the organization, administration, and operation of the county emergency management agency. The director shall coordinate emergency management activities, services, and programs within the county and shall serve as liaison to the state and other local emergency management agencies and organizations.

The analysis immediately below includes mitigation goals, hazards, and state policies addressed by FAC.

<i>Hazards</i>	All Hazards
<i>Goals</i>	Goal 2, Goal 3

## **IV. Florida Floodplain Managers Association**

The Florida Floodplain Managers Association (FFMA) is the Florida chapter of the National Association of State Flood Plain Managers (ASFPM). FFMA was formed to improve floodplain management in Florida by supporting comprehensive management of floodplains and related water resources. FFMA believes that through coordination and education, the public and private sectors can reduce loss of life and properties resulting from floods, preserve the natural and cultural values of floodplains, and avoid actions that increase flood hazards.

To help reach these goals, FFMA and ASFPM fosters communication among those responsible for flood hazard activities, provides technical assistance and advice to governments and others about actions or policies that will affect flooding, and encourages flood hazard

research, education and training. Since its inception in June 2003, the Florida Floodplain Managers Association (FFMA) has improved the success of floodplain management programs in Florida. The following activities are an important part of the organization on both a national and local level:

- Information Exchange: Through guidance, training programs, workshops and conferences. FFMA works closely with the state of Florida to improve the state emergency management program, including involving local, state and federal stakeholders in the process.
- Publications and Newsletters: “Plain Talk” is produced semi-annually as Fall/Winter and Spring/Summer and is currently e-mailed to our members. This newsletter highlights issues confronting Florida floodplain managers and keeps them up to date. FFMA coordinates with the state office of the NFIP to provide technical floodplain management articles on a regular basis.
- Membership: Membership composition includes state and local floodplain managers and a broad representation of federal agency staff, private industry, academia, research and related organization representatives. The FFMA now has 350 members and continues to grow. FFMA works to continually increase membership by demonstrating that all local floodplain management programs have value to their communities.
- Certified Floodplain Manager Program (CFM): ASFPM has established a national program for professional certification of floodplain managers. The program has coordinated the certification of 360 floodplain managers in the State of Florida. It recognizes continuing education and professional development that enhance the knowledge and performance of local, state, federal, and private-sector floodplain managers. Through local floodplain managers, FFMA helps develop advanced training that will be field deployed in Florida for Continuing Education Credit (CEC) for the CFM. FFMA strongly advocates increased opportunities for CEC’s for the CFM.
- Annual Conferences: FFMA has hosted annual conferences in Florida since 2004. Hundreds of professionals have attended from Florida, state agencies, and FEMA Region IV. FFMA was asked to host the ASFPM (the national floodplain managers association) annual conference for 2009 in Orlando, Florida. The following FFMA annual conferences have been held:
  - 2010 Lake Mary
  - 2011 West Palm Beach
  - 2012 St. Augustine
  - 2013 Annual Conference will be held from April 10-12 in St. Petersburg, FL.
- Statewide Training Events: FFMA coordinates annually with the state office of the NFIP to conduct training for local officials across the state. This training includes numerous topics such as coastal construction issues, elevation certificates, substantial improvement/damage determination, Community Rating System application and implementation, floodplain management basics, implications of map updates, and other topics of interest and value to Florida floodplain managers.

Together with the state, FEMA and the ASFPM, courses and materials are delivered throughout the year in an effort to raise the level of local floodplain management in Florida.

The analysis immediately below includes mitigation goals, hazards, and state policies addressed by FFMA.

<b>Hazards</b>	Flooding
<b>Goals</b>	Goal 1, Goal 2, Goal 3, Goal 4

## V. Florida Home Builders Association

The Florida Home Builders Association (FHBA) is a trade association representing the residential construction industry in Florida. It is actively engaged in governmental affairs, political action, and legal defense programs designed to promote and protect homeownership opportunities in Florida. Due to the recent economic downturn, corporate memberships have fallen from its peak of 21,000 to approximately 7,000. Despite the slowdown in the building industry, FBHA continues to provide numerous services to its members including continuing education, insurance, leadership training, research, and networking opportunities. The FBHA uses funds and grant money, including the Residential Construction Mitigation Program, to develop and train licensed individuals throughout the State. Training programs focus on the proper implementation of the Florida Building Code, a standard that helps Florida's buildings stand the test of time. According to statutes, Florida's licensed individuals are required to complete continuing education credits, of which, at least one hour must be spent on mitigation. One example of FBHA's education programs is a series of courses that were developed to teach the building/structural component of the Unified Florida Building Code. These classes specifically support the implementations of structural mitigation in Florida. FHBA's programs are applicable in both pre- and post-disaster situations.

### Disaster Contractor's Network

Jointly supported by the FHBA; the Associated Builders and Contractors of Florida (ABC); Florida Roofing, Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors Association (FRSA), Association of General Contractors (AGC), the Center for Disaster Risk Policy at Florida State University, DEM, Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation, and FEMA Region IV (FEMA), the Disaster Contractors Network (DCN) provides services and training to building professionals. This includes online training offered through the Center for Disaster Risk Policy at Florida State University. Year-round mitigation activities and incentives are among the topics covered in DCN's online training. The DCN also provides resources for the general public about repairing their home or business after a disaster and provides a resource for homeowners to use when seeking trained professionals after a disaster.

The analysis immediately below includes mitigation goals, hazards, and state policies addressed by FHBA.

<b>Hazards</b>	Tropical Cyclones, Severe Storms, Flooding, Wildfire
<b>Goals</b>	Goal 3

## **VI. Florida Interfaith Networking in Disaster**

Florida Interfaith Networking in Disaster (FIND) is a coalition of faith-based organizations, partnered with allied agencies and each other, which promotes networking to prepare Florida's communities for disaster. In the aftermath, FIND facilitates emotional, spiritual, and long-term practical aid. Their network is comprised of faith-based organizations, state, local and national recovery groups, as well as other state and community-based leaders. FIND is recovery and mitigation focused. It works to help Florida prepare for, recover from, and prevent disaster.

FIND additionally keeps the at-large faith community informed. In disaster's aftermath, FIND prepares and sends damage/recovery needs assessments to its vast and diverse network. National faith disaster coordinators have come to rely on FIND's assessment of expected short and long-term recovery concerns and respond quickly when anticipated needs are identified and assistance is requested.

FIND also exists to help local faith leaders as they identify and address disaster related unmet needs in their community. FIND connects them to other disaster recovery players. Access to resources is provided, interagency cooperation developed, and support for the local effort given. FIND efforts include:

### **Statewide Network Building**

FIND brings faith leaders together with other community based and building industry leaders and government quarterly to communicate, cooperate, and build collaborative relationships. FIND hosts two meetings annually, giving community based organizations the opportunity to network with each other, state and national disaster relief players, and government. Mitigation is always on the agenda. FIND's fall 2012 meeting included an overview of the National Disaster Recovery Framework by FEMA, discussion on the "routine use" letter to FEMA to request IA registrants and their received benefits and updates on TS Debby and Hurricane Sandy responses and recovery.

### **Inclusive Community Interfaith/Interagency Network and Long Term Recovery Offices (ICIIN/LTROs)**

FIND facilitates bringing uncommon players to a table to realize a common mission and identify resources to address unmet needs. FIND nurtures the development of inclusive community-based collaborative networks, providing capacity building guidance and support. In cooperation with FEMA, Church World Service, and Volunteer Florida Foundation, FIND has developed 40 + ICIINs in communities throughout Florida.

FIND teaches these collaborative groups how to become active participants in their communities' preparedness plans and Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS). Seven Florida ICIIN/LTROs have engaged in residential house hardening projects. Local emergency management now recognizes the potential resources available through working with their local faith-based and other community non-profits. Together they are cooperating to find ways to make mitigation happen.



### **Training**

FIND provides training to build emotional resiliency, disaster recovery, and mitigation. FIND sponsors Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) and Compassion Fatigue training. It also facilitates workshops on disaster topics and showcases community mitigation projects.

### **Updating the *CIIN Tools of the Trade* manual**

Packed full of organizational capacity building tools, this manual (funded by Florida Division of Housing and Community Development (HCD)) has become the guide for emerging LTROs across the country. It includes sample incorporation papers, by-laws, job descriptions, mission statements, goals, objectives, policies, and best practices. FIND is working cooperatively through Florida Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (FLVOAD) to develop an updated version capturing lessons learned, policies, processes, and procedures developed post 2004.

### **FIND Mitigation**

FIND works with allied agencies to promote awareness of mitigation techniques and opportunities. FIND continues to help communities and their leaders understand the concept of mitigation, identify accomplishable projects, have them included in their community's LMS, and access resources to make them happen. It is FIND's objective to have every Florida ICIIN/LTRO engaged in mitigation.

### **Nontraditional Partners in Mitigation**

Using the Mitigation "Best Practices" publication, FIND conducted workshops across Florida, including Area Coordinator's groups and the Governor's Hurricane Conference. This was done to understand the power of Nontraditional Partnership Building to "Make Mitigation Happen."

### **National Cooperation**

FIND is among the oldest and most experienced statewide interfaith organizations in the United States. As such, it recognizes the importance of being organized and well connected before disaster strikes. FIND is a founding board member of the National Disaster Interfaith Network (NDIN), bringing together disaster interfaith leadership from across the country to share their knowledge and experience with each other and emerging Interfaiths responding to disaster. FIND works hard to help all ICIIN, LTROs, and other disaster faith-based and community organizations understand mitigation and how to access resources to "Make Mitigation Happen."

### **Mitigation Projects**

Cooperating with DEM mitigation and Volunteer Florida Foundation, FIND provides technical assistance, capacity building, and connection to resources. As a "cheerleader" for these organizations, FIND is proud to showcase the exciting mitigation work of Florida ICIIN/LTROs.

The analysis immediately below includes mitigation goals, hazards, and state policies addressed by FIND.

<b>Hazards</b>	All Hazards
<b>Goals</b>	Goal 2, Goal 3

## **VII. Florida International University International Hurricane Research Center**

The Florida International University (FIU) International Hurricane Research Center (IHRC) was created in 1996 through a public-private partnership between the We Will Rebuild Foundation and the State of Florida through FIU in Miami. The We Will Rebuild Foundation was a private sector organization created by local business leaders in Miami-Dade County at the request of the President and the Governor in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew. The FIU/IHRC programs are applicable in both pre- and post-disaster situations.

The IHRC promotes a multi-disciplinary research mission to mitigate hurricane damage to people, the economy, and built and natural environments. The Center's overall objective is to help the State of Florida, vulnerable U.S. East Coast and Gulf States, and the nations of the Caribbean and Central America to reduce human and property losses regularly inflicted by hurricanes. Four individual laboratories under the IHRC umbrella are dedicated to hurricane impact forecasting and mitigation. Their activities are listed below:

### **Public Hurricane Loss Model**

The Laboratory for Insurance, Financial, and Economic Research is developing a publicly funded model to predict long-term wind damage as well as insured losses for residential and commercial properties. The Public Hurricane Loss Model is the first certified public model to project hurricane losses for the State of Florida. The model is used by state regulators to help evaluate rate filings and insurance companies to assess hurricane risk and generate loss estimates that can be used as input in the rate making process.

### **Coastal and Estuarine Storm Tide (CEST) Model**

The Laboratory for Coastal Research quantitatively assesses coastal area vulnerability. It especially focuses on storm-induced beach erosion and hurricane storm surges. The Lab uses high-tech airborne laser (LiDAR) mapping. The CEST Model is a model used to estimate storm surge as low pressure weather systems, such as hurricanes, approach coastal areas. The model takes into account the expected tide at landfall and the atmospheric pressure and wind of the weather system. It also takes into consideration major coastal topographic features such as coastal ridges and barrier islands.

### **Laboratory for Social Science Research**

The Laboratory for Social Science Research studies mitigation and social responses. It formulates methods to improve the resilience of communities using such information.

### **Wall of Wind (WoW)**

The Laboratory for Wind Engineering Research is dedicated to making buildings more hurricane resistant. It uses wind pressure and impact testing and deploys wind towers in advance of hurricane landfalls. The "Wall of Wind" (WoW) facility is capable of performing controlled and repeatable testing inflows that adequately and economically replicate hurricane winds accompanied by wind-driven rain. Together, these laboratories promote an interdisciplinary, wide-ranging disaster research agenda to address community vulnerabilities to hurricane hazards.

The analysis immediately below includes mitigation goals, hazards, and state policies addressed by FIU's IHRC.

<b><i>Hazards</i></b>	Tropical Cyclones, Severe Storms, Flooding, Erosion
<b><i>Goals</i></b>	Goal 1, Goal 2, Goal 3

## VIII. Florida League of Cities

The Florida League of Cities (FLC) was created in 1922 by city officials who wished to unite the municipal governments in the state. The Florida League of Cities has become one of the largest state municipal leagues in the nation, which represents 410 of Florida's municipalities. The League's mitigation programs are applicable in both pre- and post-disaster situations.

The aim of the Florida League of Cities is to promote local self-government and serve the needs of the municipal governments in Florida. This includes:

- Advocacy at both the state and federal levels
- Increasing public knowledge of municipal services and issues
- Providing municipal officials with training and technical assistance
- Providing cost-effective programs and products to local governments.

Through its participation in the state hazard mitigation planning process, the Florida League of Cities recognizes a need for informing the elected municipal officials. Officials need to know the importance of community-based hazard mitigation planning and implementation of mitigation initiatives.

Through Florida League outreach, officials learn to reduce community risk and vulnerability to hazards. A potential program to educate elected officials about hazard mitigation may be integrated with the Institute for Elected Municipal Officials. This Institute offers a comprehensive overview of Florida municipal government presented by a faculty of top professionals in the field.

The analysis immediately below includes mitigation goals, hazards, and state policies addressed by FLC.

<b><i>Hazards</i></b>	All Hazards
<b><i>Goals</i></b>	Goal 2, Goal 3

## 4.3 Local Capability Assessment

**Requirement §201.4(c)(3)(ii):** *[The State mitigation strategy shall include] a general description and analysis of the effectiveness of local mitigation policies, programs, and capabilities.*

Local governments have policies, programs and capabilities designed to help mitigate the impacts of hazard events to their jurisdictions. Each community has its own policies, programs, and capabilities. These depend on factors such as the size of the geographic area, its population, or the amount of funding available through local resources. Regardless of size or wealth, each community has a core set of policies, programs and capabilities at its disposal related to hazard reduction and mitigation including building codes, land use plans, and regulations.

DEM has completed a general analysis of existing Local Mitigation Strategies (LMS) to evaluate locally identified policies, programs, and capabilities to maintain and support hazard mitigation planning activities. This analysis is based upon local evaluations of the effectiveness of the identified programs and their accompanying policies within their communities.

### 4.3.1 Local Policies, Programs, and Capabilities

#### I. Florida Building Code

The Florida Building Code (FBC) is a statewide building construction regulatory system that places emphasis on uniformity and accountability in order to ensure building strength in the events of natural disasters. The building code is implemented and enforced locally by individual counties. This delegation allows for greater state coverage, but also presents challenges as some smaller counties do not have the staff and resources that other counties might have.

All construction in the state must adhere to the FBC. This allows local jurisdictions to ensure structures are more resistant to certain types of natural disasters, especially to wind and flood events. The recently implemented 2010 FBC update further enhances mitigation against natural hazards by incorporating the FBC with the latest research in building techniques and requirements as well as integration of the 2009 International Codes flood resistant standards.

#### II. Zoning, Land Use Regulations, and Comprehensive Plans

Land development is governed by local comprehensive planning. Zones are designated for certain uses (commercial, industrial, residential, etc.) by the county and amendments are made at the local level. These development regulations assist in mitigation by restricting construction in hazard prone areas such as floodplains or coastal high hazard zones.

Overseeing these changes allows counties to direct development for the safety, health, and welfare of its residents. Comprehensive plans play a major role in local growth management. Florida's comprehensive plans include provisions for emergency situations and natural disasters.

These growth management plans allow jurisdictions to direct development away from disaster prone areas such as floodplains. Zoning changes must be approved through the appropriate channels of government, which allow jurisdictions to monitor the safety and welfare of residents. Every county and most jurisdictions have a state-approved comprehensive plan.

### **III. Floodplain Management**

Communities in Florida are strongly encouraged to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Participation in the NFIP is a pre-requisite for receiving FEMA mitigation grants and allows homeowners in the community the ability to purchase flood insurance. To remain in good standing with the NFIP, communities must conform to certain standards and have an approved and adopted flood prevention ordinance.

Florida currently has a 97 percent participation rate in the NFIP. Many of Florida's communities also participate in the Community Rating System (CRS). There are 216 communities (48 percent) enrolled (as of November 9, 2012), which indicates that the communities actively maintain and encourage initiatives on flood prevention.

### **IV. Local Mitigation Strategy**

Each county submits a Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) for FEMA approval in order to be eligible for federal mitigation program funding. The LMS analyzes risk, establishes goals, and prioritizes community mitigation projects for funding. Plans are typically multi-jurisdiction, multi-hazard plans that are maintained throughout the year and fully updated every 5 years. Local mitigation working groups are composed of many different community partners. Participation jurisdictions must adopt the LMS in order to be eligible for mitigation grants.

All 67 Florida counties have an approved LMS. In addition, several universities and colleges maintain their own mitigation plans or participate in the development and update of county-wide plans. As of November 2, 2012, 459 of the 476 jurisdictions have adopted their updated LMS plans, resulting in 99.5 percent of Florida's population being covered by an adopted LMS.

### **V. Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan**

The State of Florida mandates that every community develop and maintain a compliant Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP). This plan addresses the threats to which a county or a region are exposed and how the local governing agency plans to respond to them.

The CEMP covers mitigation, response, recovery, and preparedness and is intended to provide a comprehensive understanding of emergency management for the jurisdiction. Every county in the state has an approved CEMP and every CEMP is required to have a mitigation annex. In this annex, the CEMP must show the county's ability to coordinate project implementation and identify new projects. However, in 2012, changes to Florida's statutes were implemented allowing counties who have a FEMA approved and adopted LMS to be exempt from this requirement.

CEMP plans require a risk assessment to be completed. DEM encourages counties to integrate the LMS risk assessment into the CEMP plan in order to strengthen the tie between the two plans and reduce duplicated efforts. CEMP plans are due to the state for review every four years.

## **VI. Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan**

The Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan (PDRP) identifies policies, operational strategies, and roles and responsibilities for implementation that will guide decisions affecting long-term recovery and redevelopment of a community after a disaster. The PDRP emphasizes seizing opportunities for hazard mitigation and community improvements consistent with the goals of the local comprehensive plan and with full participation of its citizens. Recovery topics addressed in the PDRP include:

- Business resumption and economic redevelopment
- Housing repair and reconstruction
- Infrastructure restoration and mitigation
- Short-term recovery actions that affect long-term redevelopment
- Sustainable land use
- Environmental restoration
- Financial Considerations
- Other long-term recovery issues identified by the community

PDRPs are becoming more popular throughout the state. Due to the fact post-disaster redevelopment planning is being more aggressively implemented throughout the state, previously completed pilot community examples and the guidebook, "Post-Disaster Redevelopment Planning: A Guide for Florida Communities," are made readily available to help communities develop their own plans.

## 4.4 Coordination of Local Mitigation Planning

**Requirement §201.4(c)(4)(i):** *[The section on the Coordination of Local Mitigation Planning must include a] description of the State process to support, through funding and technical assistance, the development of local mitigation plans.*

Since the enactment of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA2K), every Florida county is required to have a FEMA-approved Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS). The hazard identification, risk analyses, and vulnerability assessments provide estimates of potential property losses throughout the state. Building upon these assessments, each county identifies a prioritized list of hazard mitigation measures, with an action plan for their implementation. The LMS has become the foundation of Florida's pre- and post-disaster mitigation planning activities.

Every LMS is reviewed on a regular basis and must be updated, approved, and adopted every five years. For this reason, the state's efforts are now directed toward maintaining a high standard and improving the effectiveness of local plans. Local plans are often at different stages in the update and renewal process depending upon when their initial LMS was approved.

There are 67 counties, all of which have a multi-jurisdictional, multi-hazard LMS in Florida. DEM's Hazard Mitigation Planning Unit has four mitigation planners who review the plans thoroughly and work closely with the counties to assure that all regulations and recommended best practices are met in their LMS. The Planning Unit also routinely uses graduate student interns from Florida State University's Department of Urban and Regional Planning (DURP) Masters program to assist with the review process.

In order to provide technical assistance to local planners, the state provides principal contacts for local government representatives, municipalities, and members of the private sector regarding hazard mitigation planning and programming. This helps to ensure effective understanding of local conditions and characteristics important to successful implementation of mitigation and redevelopment measures by communities. They work with counties from early in the review process and provide feedback on drafts, answer questions, conduct workshops, provide examples of good plan portions, etcetera.

The responsibilities of the mitigation planning staff are to support mitigation strategy maintenance and improvement by local governments, to understand conditions relevant to mitigation and redevelopment planning for these communities, to represent the interests of the communities to DEM in program development and implementation, and to provide technical assistance to the LMS working groups on updating and implementing the LMS.

The state also offers FEMA G-318 trainings to interested county governments upon their request. This training provides guidance and instruction on preparing and reviewing local plans in an effort to assure that Florida counties have the appropriate tools and resources to update their local plans. The state also offers G-393, Mitigation for Emergency Managers, which helps teach communities how to overcome road blocks and successfully implement mitigation.

Numerous trainings and workshops were carried out between 2010 and 2012 to assist local governments in the update of their LMS plans. Every county receives regular correspondence and communication from staff in an effort to provide as much guidance and information as is possible. The staff also participates in conferences and association meetings that many county representatives attend.

When mitigation planners are not actively working to assist communities in updating, reviewing, and re-approving their plans, they provide technical assistance on mitigation related topics such as funding and best practices. The state provides assistance through advice and counsel on programs and grants by alerting counties when money becomes available. The state also provides technical assistance to complete applications and assists with determining eligibility, project feasibility, and cost benefit ratios.

Since the last approved State Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP), the planning unit has successfully assisted all of Florida's counties through the update and re-approval process. With only a handful of resolutions adopting the plan left to be submitted to FEMA, 99.5 percent of Florida's population is covered by an approved and adopted LMS. Pasco County is the next plan set to expire on August 28, 2014, followed by Palm Beach County in January 2015. For a list of LMS expiration dates, please see Figure 3.1 in **Section 3: State Risk Assessment**.

Currently there are no known funding sources for the purpose of updating LMS plans. DEM constantly seeks opportunities to assist communities with mitigation tasks, such as updating LMS plans. For instance, due to previous successful partnerships with Florida State University's DURP program, DEM decided to pilot a separate internship initiative to assist counties with their LMS plan updates.

The pilot initiative began in the summer of 2009 and continued through the summer of 2010. Although the program was a collaboration effort between DEM and DURP, all three universities with graduate programs in planning in the State of Florida were invited to participate (University of Florida, Florida Atlantic University and Florida State University).

All counties that had LMS plans that expired in 2010 were invited to justify their need for an intern through a survey. In order to be eligible to receive an intern, counties could not be using a contractor to update their plan. Each county also had to provide a workspace with a computer and have a dedicated staff member who would be willing to work with them, supervise them and participate in bi-weekly conference calls. After all of the surveys were received and reviewed, the interns selected the county they wanted to work in for the summer. Due to the fact all counties equally expressed a need for help, it was determined that having the interns select their summer destination would be the best way to settle the difference in number of communities against available interns. Many interns chose their summer destination based on the proximity to their hometown and their ability to stay with family because stipends given to the interns under this grant program were not enough to cover full room and board. The same process was used for counties with plans expiring in 2011.

Students were tasked to update the LMS plan during a 12-week period in accordance with FEMA guidelines. The program provided the selected graduate students with one week of



intensive mitigation planning training. The goal for the interns was to complete all aspects of the update before the end of their 12 weeks. While the interns were in the field they also had to participate in bi-weekly conference calls with their Florida State University supervisors and DEM planning staff. Technical assistance was available to the interns on a daily basis from Florida State University and DEM mitigation planners.

Students were compensated as a part of the grant and reimbursed for a portion of their housing cost if the need was justified. The program was a big success and will likely be continued if funding is again available. DEM considers this project a “best practice” example that could be shared with other states. A summary of this initiative is available in **Section 5.3: Exemplary Projects** and a detailed report of the program can be found in **Appendix O: FSU Internship Project Report**.

In a separate effort to identify best practices, interns from Florida State University created a survey to gather feedback on the last cycle of LMS plan updates. The survey was distributed to each LMS chairperson that oversaw the update process. After analyzing the results, the interns prepared a report detailing the process that was used and recommend improvements for future update cycles. The report can be found in **Appendix L: LMS Update Cycle After Action Report**.

## 4.5 Local Plan Review and Integration

**Requirement §201.4(c)(4)(ii):** *[The section on the Coordination of Local Mitigation Planning must include a] description of the state process and timeframe by which the local plans will be reviewed, coordinated, and linked to the state mitigation plan.*

**Requirement §201.4(d):** *Plan must be reviewed and revised to reflect changes in development, progress in statewide mitigation efforts, and changes in priorities...*

**Requirement §201.4(b):** *[The State mitigation planning process should] be integrated to the extent possible with other ongoing state planning efforts as well as other FEMA mitigation programs and initiatives.*

**Requirement §201.5(b)(1):** *[The Enhanced Plan must document] that the plan is integrated to the extent practicable with other state and/or regional planning initiatives (comprehensive, growth management, economic development, capital improvement, land development, and/or emergency management plans) and FEMA mitigation programs and initiatives that provide guidance to the state and regional agencies.*

The mitigation staff reviews submitted Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) plans and subsequent revisions as they are received. These reviews document the degree to which the local plan is consistent with the State of Florida Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan and is in compliance with the minimum local mitigation planning requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. In 2008, the mitigation planning unit established a formal LMS review and approval process. As of January 2013, the same process is still in use. The Florida Division of Emergency Management (DEM) currently uses the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) plan review tool, as released on October 1, 2011, to review local plans.

## **I. Plan Review Procedure**

The LMS working group must submit a formal letter to DEM requesting a review of a plan. Updated LMS plans must be submitted to DEM no later than six months before the plan expiration date. Plans that are submitted later than this timeframe will be reviewed in the order they were received after timely submissions have been attended to. DEM will attempt to complete reviews within 30 days. This official submittal should consist of:

- Signed letter or email from the LMS chairperson or coordinator requesting a review of the draft plan
- Electronic copy (Microsoft Word version) of the plan review tool with the “Location in Plan” column completed
- Electronic (CD) of the plan document(s) to be reviewed

The submitted plan document is considered a DRAFT until it is approved by FEMA. Plan submittals should be addressed to:

Miles E. Anderson  
State Hazard Mitigation Officer  
Florida Division of Emergency Management  
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
Attn: Mitigation Planning Unit

The assigned mitigation planner will provide a confirmation of receipt to the LMS chairperson as soon as it is received. Upon completion of the review (within 30 days, if possible), the state mitigation planner will inform the LMS chairperson that the plan is:

- a. Ready to be sent to FEMA.
- OR
- b. In need of revision. In this case, the revised plan must be corrected and resubmitted to DEM within 30 days of notification.

After review of the final draft, the DEM will submit the document to FEMA no later than 90 days before the plan expiration date. If the plan is not approved by FEMA, the DEM will notify the LMS chairperson that the plan must be revised. If the plan reaches FEMA’s “approval pending adoption” phase, at least one participating jurisdiction must resolve to adopt the plan within one year. Ideally all jurisdictions will adopt the plan within one year. A copy of all resolutions to adopt must be submitted to DEM for transmittal to FEMA.

## **II. Local and State Mitigation Plan Integration**

The purpose of the State Hazard Mitigation Plan Advisory Team (SHMPAT) is to bring together a cross-section of representatives from various sectors to evaluate, revise, and otherwise maintain the State's Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan throughout the year. This group includes

members from state agencies, local governments, regional planning councils, universities, non-profit organizations, FEMA, and other federal or national entities. As these members work together on the plan, they also gain and share valuable insight into how the plan may be integrated into their respective hazard mitigation planning processes. As they return to their communities or organizations, they bring with them plan knowledge and tools to update their own plans.

DEM staff works throughout the year with local jurisdictions to ensure the SHMP is incorporated into local plans like the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans (CEMP) and Local Mitigation Strategies (LMS). The process for keeping the state plan consistent with LMS plans varied considerably for the 2013 update process when compared with previous plan updates. Prior planning cycles did not include participation from mitigation partners at the local level. In 2010, the SHMPAT began inviting members of the LMS working groups to participate in state level mitigation planning activities, including quarterly SHMPAT meetings. Participation in SHMPAT meetings from local partners was valued and their participation greatly enhanced the SHMP update process.

Members of LMS working groups across the state were also invited to participate on the update sub-groups where they could share practices that worked well for them as well as make recommendations for what they would like to see in the state plan. Their participation helped intertwine the two levels of mitigation planning and strengthened the ability of the state plan to support local plans. More information on the planning process can be obtained from **Section 2: Planning Process** and **Appendix B: Planning Process Documentation**.

Further integration efforts are noted throughout the 2013 SHMP. For example, **Section 3: State Risk Assessment** discusses how updated risk assessment information was incorporated from each county LMS. It also discusses the various plans that were reviewed in order to update the information contained in **Section 3: State Risk Assessment**. This integration process helps to further strengthen the tie between the local and state plans.

In addition, hazard information is tied closely with the State of Florida CEMP. Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, (State Emergency Management Act) mandates the development of the Florida CEMP (see Section **Appendix G: Governing Policies and Legislation**). The plan is operations-oriented and establishes a framework through which the State of Florida prepares for, responds to, recovers from, and mitigates the impacts of all hazards that could adversely affect people and property. The CEMP was developed using an all-hazards planning approach to standardize the functional framework under which strategies and resources are used to minimize the consequences of an event.

The SHMP's **Section 3: State Risk Assessment** serves as Florida's single point document on hazards and risks. As a result the SHMP serves as one of the key documents for the CEMP plan and is integrated into the Florida's CEMP by reference. Since December 2000, the SHMP has been listed in the CEMP as a supporting document. It is a reference for state agencies, special districts, local governments, and voluntary agencies seeking guidance and information on statewide hazard mitigation goals and objectives.

An example of Florida's integration of national standards to improve mitigation planning is the state's participation and accreditation in the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP). EMAP is a voluntary review process for state, territorial, and local emergency management programs. It provides emergency management programs with the opportunity to be recognized for compliance with national standards, to demonstrate accountability, and to focus attention on areas and issues where resources are needed.

The EMAP process evaluates emergency management program compliance with 64 standards covering 17 sections. These elements are based on the NFPA 1600 Standard on Disaster/Emergency Preparedness and Business Continuity Programs, 2000 Edition. Language is added to clarify many elements for emergency management accreditation purposes.

Florida was awarded in 2003 as the first state to achieve accreditation under EMAP and again in 2009. The mitigation unit, in concert with the SHMPAT, integrated many of the EMAP standards into the Enhanced SHMP planning process. They included, but were not limited to, hazard vulnerability and risk assessment, state and local mitigation plans, mitigation grant administration and public education, and outreach. Preparations have begun for the next EMAP evaluation process and mitigation planners have taken an active role in supporting this process.

Florida continues to look for opportunities to develop and integrate new activities and initiatives into its mitigation strategy as well as to enhance planning at the local level. In 2010 the Division began an initiative to support enhanced flood mitigation planning at the local level. Following a FEMA initiative to include flood mitigation planning in the local mitigation plans, the state, in conjunction with DURP, created a best practice guide to provide suggestions to LMS working groups on how they can enhance the flood portions of the LMS plan by integrating Community Rating System (CRS) plans, Floodplain Management Plans (FMP), and the LMS. The document can be found in **Appendix Q: LMS/FMP/CRS Integration**.

The SHMP is also integrated into a variety of other state and local plans and planning mechanisms. The plan continues to serve as a reference tool for the development and update of LMS plans and other planning mechanisms. Additional planning mechanisms and programs that are integrated into the SHMP include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Local Comprehensive Plans (see DEO's capability piece in **Section 4.2.1: State Agency Capabilities**)
- The Florida Building Code (see **Section 5.3: Exemplary Projects**)
- Local Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans (see **Appendix G: Governing Policies and Legislation** and **Section 4.3.1: Local Policies, Programs and Capabilities**)
- Post Disaster Redevelopment Plans (see **Section 5.3: Exemplary Projects** and DEO's capability piece in **Section 4.2.1: State Agency Capabilities**)
- THIRA (see **Section 3: State Risk Assessment**)
- FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Programs (see **Section 5: Funding and Projects**)
- Florida's Silver Jackets Team (see DEM capability piece in **Section 4.2.1: State Agency Capabilities**)

The above examples demonstrate how the plan is integrated to the extent practicable with other state and regional planning initiatives. The state intends to continue this dialogue with state agencies, regional planning councils, water management districts, local jurisdictions, and others for amplified integration of mitigation measures into comprehensive planning, growth management activity, economic development, and capital improvement opportunities, as well as emergency management plans.

More information about tools and strategies used by the state to integrate mitigation planning into local and regional planning processes can be found in **Section 4.3: Coordination of Local Mitigation Planning**, which discusses details of the state's work with local jurisdictions to initiate and complete LMS plans.