

THE BULLETIN

The Official Newsletter of the FDEM Mitigation Bureau

Florida Silver Jackets Team is Back!

By: Amy Peterson

On May 29, 2019, the Florida Silver Jackets Team held its Welcome Webinar to begin re-energizing the members and creating a vision moving forward. Silver Jackets is an interagency flood risk management team led by a coordinator from the State. Partnering with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and other state and federal partners, the Team is able to focus knowledge and resources toward the state's flood risk. This is an innovative program that provides an opportunity to consistently bring together multiple federal, state, and local partners to learn from one another, understand available resources, and apply those to flood risk management throughout the state.

These state led teams focus on multi-agency coordination and collaboration in technical expertise, data, and funding of interagency projects. The Team concentrates on strategic life-cycle risk management and creates a shared responsibility among partners.

The Florida Team has recently written a new Charter and is in the process of obtaining signatories and all partners renewing their pledge to be active participants. A kickoff meeting is in the works and will be forwarded out in the near future.

If you are interested in being a member or participating in upcoming meetings and webinars, please contact Amy Peterson at Amy.Peterson@em.myflorida.com or (850) 815-4511.



This Issue:

Florida Silver Jackets Team is Back!

PAGE 01

Building Awareness of the Benefits and Risks of the Nation's Levees

PAGE 02

Disaster Recovery Reform Act Update

PAGE 03

Paula Catledge Represents the State at Annual HMA Stakeholders Workshop for the EHP Pilot Program Presentation

PAGE 04

SPC Workshops LMS Update Manual

PAGE 05

Announcements, Events, and Updates

PAGE 06

Building Awareness of the Benefits and Risks of the Nation's Levees

By: Catherine Sanders

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) launched the updated version of the National Levee Database (NLD) on June 5, 2018. The NLD is a living, dynamic information source that provides visualization and search capability on the location, condition and risk associated with levee systems nationwide. The National Levee Database is a public view into the information that builds understanding of the benefits and potential risks levees pose for the communities who live and work behind these systems. The database now contains levee information within the USACE program, FEMA, states and federal agencies. USACE continues to work closely with additional federal, state, local agencies and tribes to include information about other levees on a voluntary basis. The NLD is located at <https://levees.sec.usace.army.mil>.

The NLD updates are centered on providing essential information about levee systems to the public and various stakeholders in the Levee Safety Community including flood risk management, emergency management, states, federal Agencies, and local levee owners. Levee system information is presented in an easy to understand manner moving the user from an overview of the levee system through a series of “tabs” to more detailed information. Users can also now more easily identify and access basic information about the physical attributes of the levee system relevant to flood fighting, design, construction, operation, maintenance, repair and inspection. An interactive map view along with an updated ability to search and find information are all new to the NLD website. The new website design also enables users with ready access to levee risk information and visual map displays.

Other important components of the new NLD include the levee “home page” or the Executive Summary of the levee system that displays the most critical information about that system in one location. This tab includes an overall Project Description of the levee system to help orient the reader about the levee system. There is also a new Risk Tab providing details on the consequences and risk screenings along with a written explanation of the risk characterization for the levee system. More detailed information including System or Segment data/ Levee Survey Profiles/ Inspections/ or key documents can be located from the Executive Summary page. FEMA accreditation status in addition to helpful links to other FEMA programs is also found on a subsequent tab.

The updated NLD currently provides users with information on approximately 30,000 miles of levees. The current dataset of levee systems is a reflection of both FEMA and USACE levee inventories. The current inventory contains about 15,000 miles of levees from FEMA Mid Term Levee Inventory with the remaining 15,000 miles associated with USACE programs. USACE levees alone reduce flood risk to more than a trillion dollars of public and private property, including homes and businesses, critical infrastructure, such as highways, hospitals, schools, utilities, and significant environmental and cultural resources. Over 11 million people live and work behind USACE levees, making the NLD an invaluable resource for those who want to understand more about their local levee system and their flood risk.

Moving forward, USACE will continue to refine and add enhancements to the NLD. Building the Nation's inventory of levees remains a key goal for both agencies along with ensuring data quality and data freshness for all levee systems. Adding key information from general condition, to risk assessment, or as simple as a levee survey, provides valuable information about a levee system. The success of the new NLD is to share and explain information to support the levee community along with states, local owners or federal agencies in managing levee systems, supporting emergency management and flood risk management activities. Most importantly, the NLD helps build awareness of the risks and benefits of levees for those that live and work behind a levee system.

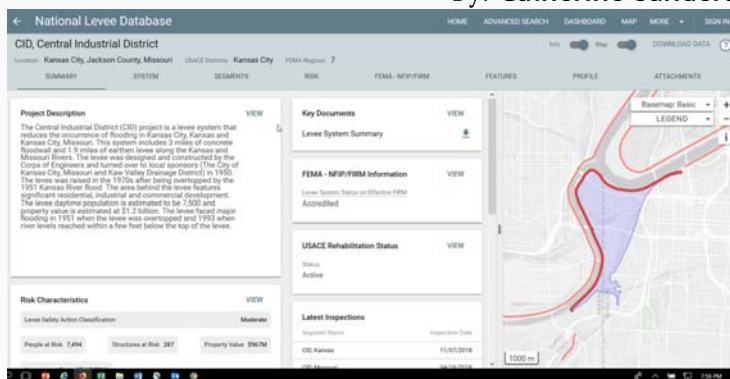
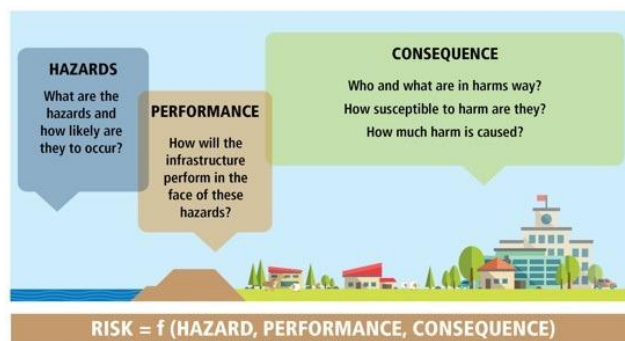


Figure 1: Levee Summary Page Layout within the National Levee Database

As part of the activities to build the nation's inventory of levee systems, USACE is leading an effort to review levees across the nation by partnering with state agencies, tribal nations and their levee operators/owners on a volunteer basis. This effort, known as “Inventory and Review” is authorized through the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014. The level of partner involvement ranges from USACE conducting the inventory and review to sharing best practices on levee safety that enables levee owners/operators to manage their own levees. USACE activities currently underway that will extend into future years include the following:

- Identifying the location of levees and their owners/operators
- Conducting a one-time field inspection (Figure 2) and risk assessment (Figure 3) on levees at no cost to levee owners and operators
- Providing results of inspections and risk assessments to assist with flood hazard mitigation planning and budget prioritization
- Offering training and technical assistance on best practices in levee safety for interested parties
- Gathering lessons learned, challenges, and best practices to inform future levee activities.



For more information on inventorying, inspecting and conducting risk assessments on non-USACE levees, please contact us at DLL-CEERD-NLD-General-Support@usace.army.mil or 1-877-LEVEEUS (1-877-538-3387). A local USACE team member will be available for assistance in these efforts.

For more information about the National Levee Database, please visit: <http://nld.usace.army.mil>



DISASTER RECOVERY REFORM ACT (DRRA) UPDATE

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities - FEMA Seeks Public Comment

By: Laura Waterman

FEMA is seeking public comment on the development and implementation of a new mitigation grant program called Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC). The program was created under the Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA) Section 1234: National Public Infrastructure Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and will allow for large investments in mitigation. BRIC will replace the current Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant program beginning in fiscal year 2020.

There will be four webinars in June 2019 to solicit feedback on various topics. Of particular interest to FEMA is how to streamline and improve the application and submission process, how to improve project funding and resource management, and how to improve the capability and capacity of grant and sub-grant recipients.

More information can be found here: <https://www.fema.gov/DRRA-BRIC>

"BRIC will replace the current Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant program beginning in fiscal year 2020."

HMGP Update for Hurricane Michael (DR-4399): Where is the Notice?

By: Jared Jaworski

A question I have received the most in my inbox over the last few months has been, "are there any updates on Hurricane Michael?" We are seven months past the date of declaration for this disaster, and typically by this time a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) has been published along with an application deadline and allocation estimates for tier 1. We would also be scheduling in-person applicant workshops in the impacted counties, providing one-on-one assistance regarding their applications. So why is there a delay?

The main reason is because of changes to the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) through the Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA) of 2018, and more specifically, the interim FEMA Policy #104-11-1*. These changes affect management cost rates for both the recipient and sub-recipient for any major disaster declared on or after August 1, 2017. This policy requires states to make changes to their administrative plans in order to be compliant; however, the guidance on how that was to be implemented had not been developed at the time this policy was released. In March 2019 we received this guidance and are working on how to implement it for Florida.

While we work on implementation, we were also awaiting the funding estimates from FEMA to develop the tier 1 allocations for the Hurricane Michael NOFA. These numbers came in late-April, but still needed to be broken down based on the federal assistance numbers for Hurricane Michael. We have since received those numbers and the allocation breakdown is complete. For Hurricane Irma, our review process, currently underway, will continue as usual. Once our administrative plan update is approved, those sub-applicants/recipients with projects, either in review or approved, will be notified with guidance on what to do next.

For Hurricane Michael, our normal process will begin to move along once FEMA approves our administrative plan changes. We plan to release the NOFA along with additional updated documents shortly after the approval comes through. In addition, the state will be conducting a brief state-wide webinar to address these changes so that sub-applicants can be brought up to speed with how these changes will affect them going forward. Application workshop scheduling will also begin after we've had a chance to speak with each county to assess their needs.

We appreciate everyone's patience with this delay, and know that it will not negatively affect the application window to submit applications. Should you have any questions or comments regarding this please feel free to contact me at Jared.Jaworski@em.myflorida.com or (850) 815-4537.

Paula Catledge Represents the State at Annual HMA Stakeholders Workshop for the EHP Pilot Program Presentation

By: Luz Bossanyi

In September 2017, the State of Florida asked FEMA Region IV for a designation of Non-Federal Representative status that allows DEM Mitigation to conduct informal environmental consultations on behalf of FEMA. The main reason being to reduce the total review time for the Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) Review. After signing a Delegation of Authority memo, FEMA provided training to the staff to start the reviews. Some of the State roles include:

- Preparing environmental documents
- Drafting informal and formal consultation documents
- Coordinating with sub applicants

The process has been used in every single disaster declaration since the Memorandum Of Agreement took place. While this process is helping, we are still looking at ways to improve. As it stands, FEMA still holds authority for final EHP review determinations and Tribal consultations. Through the MOA, we have greatly reduced EHP review times. Paula Catledge, our Lead Environmental Specialist, and her team are following measured steps to ensure we are doing reviews quickly and accurately.

Each year FEMA holds the HMA Stateholders Workshop at the Emergency Management Institute where all states can participate and share experiences about what they have accomplished or what issues they are having with the Federal partners.

Paula and the FEMA EHP Lead conducted a presentation to share with the rest of the states the experiences of this pilot. It is a great responsibility for us and we were ready to overcome any obstacles that we have faces.

Please join me in congratulating Paula for her outstanding work as Lead Environmental Specialist and ensuring that we take full advantage of the responsibilities the Delegation of Authority granted to the State of Florida Mitigation.





Effective Strategies for Communicating with People Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing and Others with Access and Functional Needs



This 16-hour workshop is an interactive presentation with hands-on activities led by two professional instructors who are deaf or hard of hearing and who have extensive experience in public safety. Participants will be able to demonstrate effective strategies of communication with people who are deaf or hard of hearing by:

- Explaining how effective communication reduces trauma to victims during events, emergencies, or disasters;
- Outlining effective communication prior to, during, and after incidents of public safety involving people who are deaf or hard of hearing and others with access and functional needs;
- Comparing various sub-groups and their communication needs;
- Recognizing and avoiding legal and safety missteps;
- Demonstrating how to deal with stress from communication barriers when assisting people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

This class is for victim advocates, social workers, case managers, therapists, health care workers and other allied professionals who are serving crime victims who have been exposed to trauma and who may also be deaf or hard of hearing. All public safety personnel are included in this.

Upcoming Classes:

Tampa

August 5-6, 2019

Daytona Beach

August 26-27, 2019

These classes are offered at NO COST!

For registration Assistance:
Brown.Kathi@spcollege.edu
(727) 344-8027

For course information:
Morris.Wayne@spcollege.edu
(727) 341-4631

LMS Update Manual and Workshop

The LMS Update Manual is available for communities that are working on an update of their Local Mitigation Strategy. This manual was created by the Florida Division of Emergency Management's Mitigation Bureau Planning Unit. The idea came from the need to have an easy to use document that would walk planners through the update process and each requirement while providing recently approved examples from Florida Local Mitigation Strategy Plans. It is not the intent of this manual to replace FEMA's Local Mitigation Planning Handbook (March 2013) or Local Mitigation Plan Review Guide (October 2011), rather it is a supplemental resource.

The Manual is getting an update and will be available on request. The Florida Division of Emergency Management's Mitigation Bureau also offers a one day workshop to assist with understanding the requirements of an approved LMS Plan. The course is taught in conjunction with the LMS Update Manual to include descriptions of the requirements, as well as the process for updating each requirement. Florida specific examples and other useful information is provided. The intent of the course is to ensure everyone understands the requirements of an LMS update and offers the opportunity for hands on evaluation of participant's plans.

The target audience for this workshop includes everyone involved with mitigation planning at any level. This includes, but is not limited to: LMS Working Groups, LMS Chairs/Coordinators, Emergency Managers, Planners, Non-Profit Organizations, Tribal Entities, Regional Planning Councils, Water Management Districts, County Staff, City Staff, School Board, and more!

If you are interested in obtaining the Manual or setting up a workshop in your community please email Amy.Peterson@em.myflorida.com.



Congratulations Pasco County!

The Florida Division of Emergency Management's Mitigation Bureau would like to congratulate you on a successful update and APA status!

Need More Information?

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The Bureau of Mitigation

Mitigation is an integral part of the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM). Mitigation actions reduce or eliminate the loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters. Due to Florida's weather, geography, and miles of coastline the state is highly vulnerable to disasters. Disasters can be very costly to both the citizens and government.

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

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