

THE BULLETIN

The Official Newsletter of the FDEM Mitigation Bureau

What's the Buzz? A Silver Jackets Update

By: Dan Curcio

The Florida Silver Jackets team has completed a resilience toolkit for Columbia and Highlands counties. The pilot project focused on inland communities and the vulnerabilities they may experience due to flooding from disasters. The Silver Jackets team and their partners identified programs that could help mitigate those vulnerabilities and maintain resiliency within the counties. They were presented to the counties prior to the holiday. The Florida Division of Emergency Management, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the National Silver Jackets Program and the Institute for Water Resources, will host a webinar in December to recap the project.

The team is also assisting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency with their project at Lake Martin in the towns of Parker and Springfield. The Army Corps will provide an H&H Analysis to assist with flood mitigation on Cherry Street, the main street that runs through both municipalities. On November 16, the Army Corps, along with state and federal partners, held a kickoff meeting with leaders from the two communities to discuss past and ongoing studies, and flooding and water quality issues pertaining to the lake.

For more information on the Silver Jackets team, the projects, or upcoming meetings, please contact Dan Curcio at Daniel.Curcio@em.myflorida.com.



This Issue:

Silver Jackets Update
PAGE 01

Legislative Update
& FLIP Tool
PAGE 02

Mitigation Highlights
PAGE 03

New Employee Spotlight
PAGE 04

Retirement Announcement
& LMS Updates
PAGE 05

Announcements, Events,
and Updates
PAGE 06



Florida Lawmakers Prepare for 2021 Legislative Session

By: Ian Ohlin

On November 17, the Florida Legislature convened in Tallahassee for Organization Session. During Organization Session, the Florida House and the Senate adopted new procedural rules and formally appointed new leadership in advance of the upcoming 2021 Legislative Session. The Florida Legislature unanimously elected Representative Chris Sprowls of Pinellas County to be the Florida House Speaker and Senator Wilton Simpson of Citrus, Hernando and Pasco counties to be the Florida Senate President.

Florida's 60-day legislative session begins on March 2. After several committee meetings, this upcoming session will focus on passing a new state budget and addressing the challenges the state is facing due to the pandemic. As a result of the pandemic, economists have reported that state tax collection is down significantly and have said to anticipate potential budgetary shortfalls.

During Organization Session, leadership addressed their respective chambers and provided an update on key areas of focus for the upcoming session. Speaker Sprowls noted the importance of mitigating climate change and sea rise. In his speech, Speaker Sprowls spoke about deemphasizing land acquisition in conservation plans and placing more resources into beach re-nourishment, septic tanks and flood mitigation. Speaker Sprowls' address is available [here](#).

The Division looks forward to working alongside the Florida Legislature this upcoming session and providing technical expertise on Florida's ongoing mitigation efforts.



FDEM and the Florida Lottery: A Winning Ticket

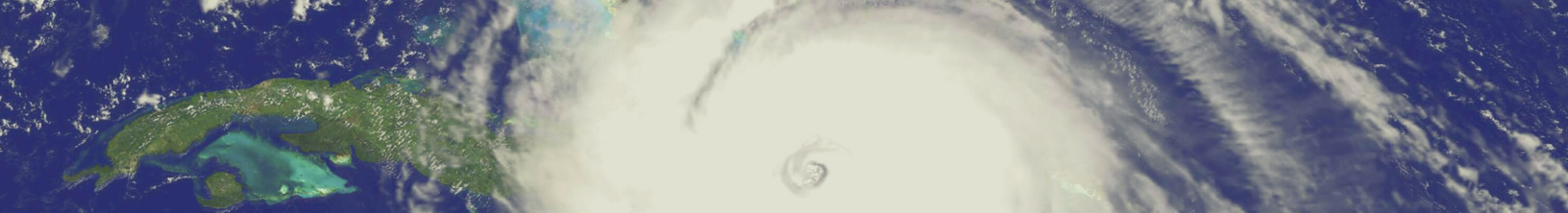
By: Kristin Buckingham



The Florida Lottery Index of Power (FLIP) was developed through a partnership between the Florida Division of Emergency Management and Florida Lottery. The goal of the project was to determine fuel outages throughout Florida through power outages found in retail gas stations lottery terminals, in order to provide real-time information to the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) and the first responders on the ground.

Florida Lottery provides outage data to FDEM's GIS team from lottery terminals located at 8,000 retail gas stations throughout Florida. The data is entered into a web application and displayed on a map to glean information on potential fuel outages in a given area during and after a disaster. Information is shared at regular time intervals throughout the day to keep the map current and accurate.

FLIP is a great example of a creative partnership that provides a solution to mitigate issues that may arise from a natural disaster. The tool allows first responders to know the fueling stations that have power during their rapid response and provides real-time planning capability to the emergency support functions located at the SEOC.



What Happened in Mitigation This Year?

Planning

This year, the planning team conducted two *G393: Mitigation for Emergency Managers* trainings in Broward and Leon counties and approved 26 county Local Mitigation Strategy plans.

Floodplain Management

- Conducted 164 Community Assistance Visits (CAVs) with a closure rate of 80% and 10 regional plenary sessions (SCORE CAVs).
- 242 communities participate in the CRS program (52% of FL communities)
 - Totaling \$200,909,578 in NFIP flood insurance premium savings for Florida residents
- FEMA implemented a new program evaluation method, Tiered State Framework (TSF), which ranks states based on performance (see figure below) and Florida was one of 9 “advanced” states and **placed 1st in the nation.**

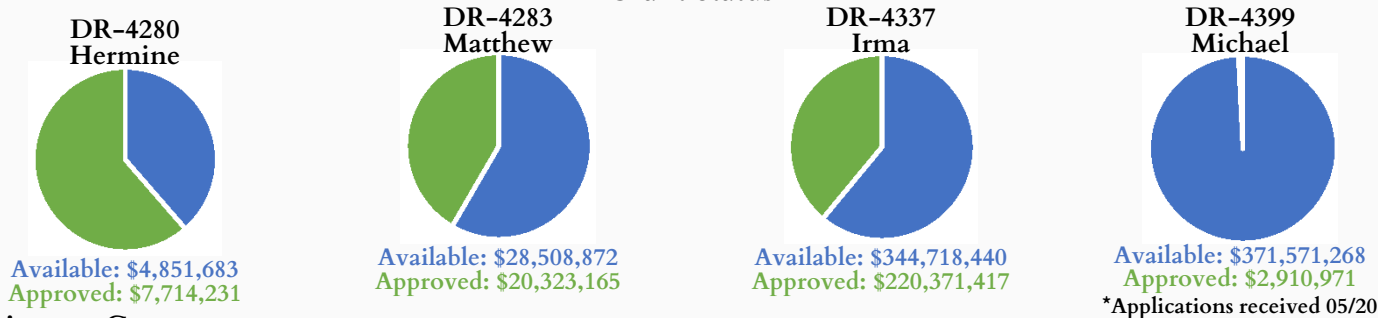


Grants

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

- Total Expenditures: \$20,264,077
- Closed 4 Grants (DR-1539 Charley, DR-1551 Ivan, DR-1561 Jeanne, DR-1831 Severe Storms of 2009)

Grant Status

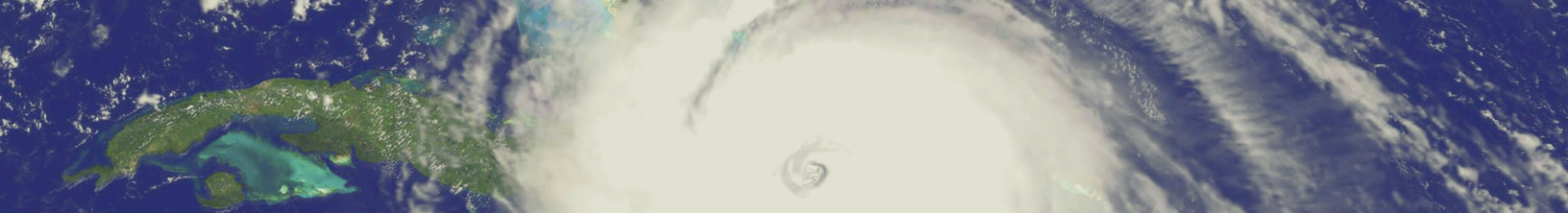


Non-Disaster Grants

- Closed 7 Grants: 2 Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) and 5 Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM)
- Transitioned from PDM to Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grant (BRIC).
 - Received 68 applications for FY 2020

Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program

- Reimbursed over \$4.6 million for HLMP and over 1.5 million for the Shelter Retrofit Program.
- FY 2021 HLMP: Reviewed and approved 16 projects
 - Totaling over \$6 million



New Employee Spotlight

We are so excited to welcome our new employees to the Mitigation Team!



Amanda Chin
Environmental Specialist II



Grant Goodwin
Senior Management Analyst I



Jenna Hayth
Grant Specialist V



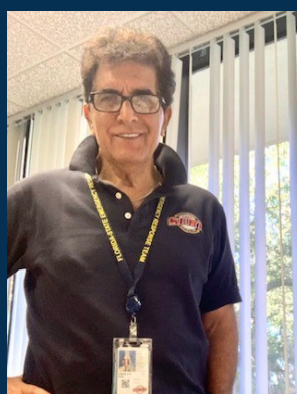
Kristen Hall
Historic & Environmental
Preservation Specialist II



I'Reka Jordan
Environmental Specialist II



Ian Ohlin
Planner IV



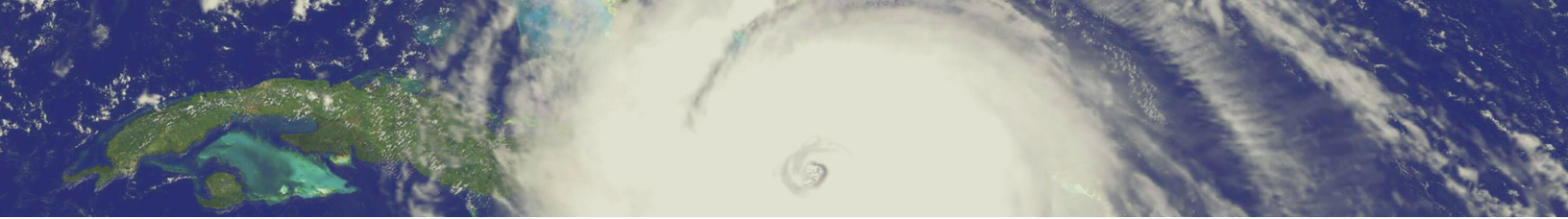
Rod Pakzadian
Engineering Specialist I



Kailyn Quirk
Senior Management Analyst I



Ed Warren
Engineering Specialist II



Retirement Announcement

It is with great fondness that we announce Steve Martin's retirement as Florida's State Floodplain Manager and NFIP Coordinator. Steve has been with the Bureau of Mitigation for the past 10 years and throughout his career has provided over 33.5 years of state government service, serving under 7 Governors and working in 3 state agencies! Throughout his tenure at FDEM, Steve and the rest of the State Floodplain Management Office have accomplished great strides in helping the state become more flood resilient. Steve plans to work in various other capacities with floodplain and natural and cultural resource management to advance the protection and stewardship of those resources.

"No other state in the nation has the extent of challenges that Florida faces in managing its heavily populated, flood insurance rich, special flood hazard areas. Florida is fortunate to have the transformative initiatives of the Florida Floodplain Managers Association, the Building Officials Association of Florida and the Water Management Districts, who along with the Bureau of Mitigation, are the backbone for the state's aggressive effort to improve flood resiliency statewide." -Steve Martin

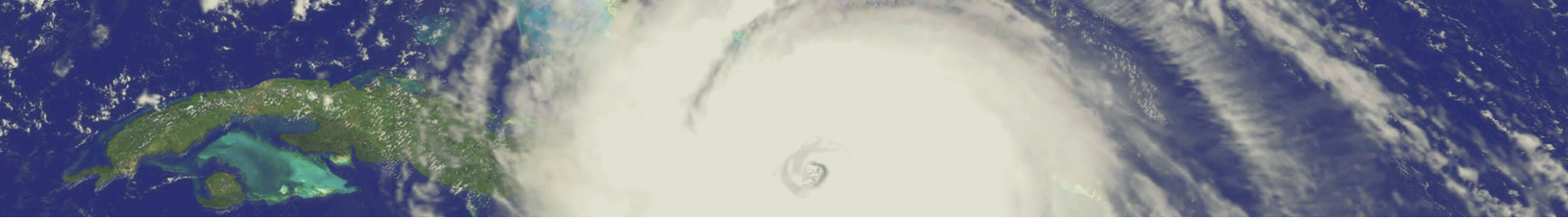
The Cyclone of LMS Updates!

We are in a Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) update cycle. Each plan must be updated every five years and 48 plans are up for review in 2020. Keep track with us as we work our way through!

County Congratulations!

We want to congratulate Clay, Hernando, Hillsborough, Indian River, Manatee, Volusia and Walton on completing their update cycle!

- 5 Under Review
- 6 In Revisions
- 8 Approved Pending Adoption
- 13 Approved
- 14 Cycle Complete
- 0 Expired

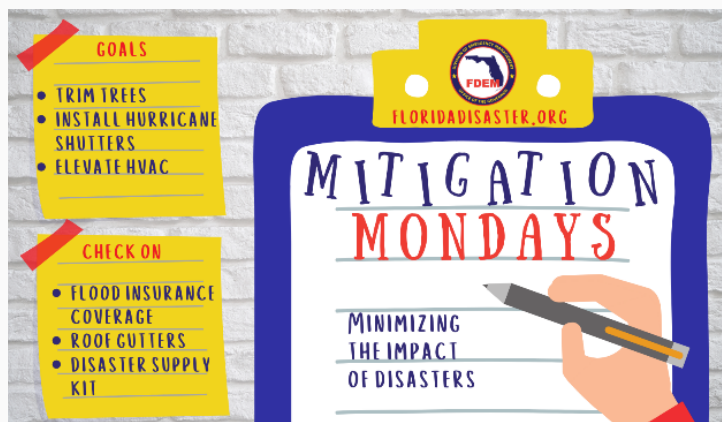


#MitigationMonday is Back!

Each week we will highlight a mitigation strategy or technique that will help readers secure their homes and businesses from the dangers of future disasters. Posts will feature fun interactive quizzes, videos and graphics about a wide range of mitigation topics.

To see the weekly #MitigationMonday posts, like and follow Florida Division of Emergency Management on Facebook and @FLSERT on Twitter.

Check out the tip from November 2, 2020:



Today's tip is about flood insurance. Most insurance policies don't cover flooding. Check your coverage annually to make sure your home or business needs are met. Flood insurance

is available to: Homeowners or condo owners, Renters, and Businesses.

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.

