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THE BULLETIN

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What's the Buzz? A Silver Jackets Update

By: Dan Curcio

In March, the Silver Jackets team hosted their first meeting of the year. They discussed ongoing projects and project proposals for Fiscal Year 2022. The team closed-out their pilot project, a resilience toolkit for Columbia and Highlands counties. The guidebooks and workbooks for each county have been printed and shipped to the respective counties.

The team is also continuing their work with providing an H&H analysis on Lake Martin in the towns of Parker and Springfield. This project is being led by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and is intended to help mitigate flooding issues onto Cherry Street, the main street that runs through the two municipalities. It will also assist to improve the water quality and promote greater resilience in an area that is still recovering from Hurricane Michael.

In late-2020, the Army Corps of Engineers was approached by the Seminole Tribe of Immokalee to address flooding issues stemming from Lake Trafford. This proposed project would bring local, state, and federal partners together to further discuss the issues in the area and find possible solutions.

The Silver Jackets team submitted a Coastal Resilience Workshop proposal for 2022. This project is intended to host virtual workshops to educate local city and county planners and engineers about state laws, requirements, and tolls to assist in making their communities more resilient to coastal storms. A kickoff meeting was held in February to gauge interest amongst the Silver Jackets partners.

The team will hold their second meeting of the year in June to discuss updates with ongoing projects and proposed projects.

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



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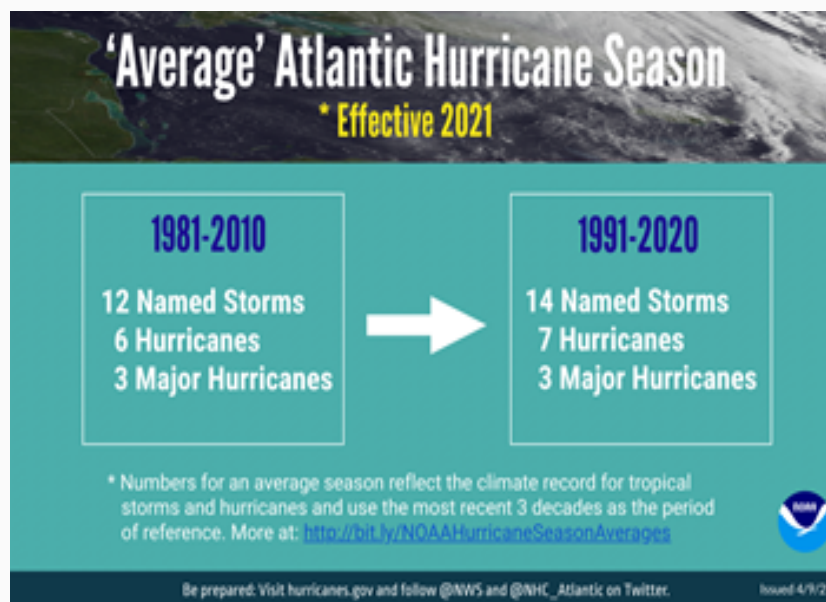
What's Changing for the 2021 Hurricane Season?

By: Michael Spagnolo

The 2020 hurricane season was record breaking. With 30 named storms- last season brought the largest total in 170 years of record keeping. The season also had a record-setting 11 U.S. landfalls in one season and a record-tying six hurricane landfalls. It was only the second time on record having five or more tropical cyclones ongoing at the same time. In addition, for the first time in recorded history, there were two major hurricanes in November- one of which was the latest Category 5 on record.

2020 was also the sixth consecutive year with at least one named storm prior to the official start of the Atlantic hurricane season. During five of those years, those pre-season storms impacted the United States. In 2020, Tropical Storm Arthur and Bertha formed in May with Tropical Storm Cristobal forming on June 1. This meant that the National Hurricane Center issued 36 Special Tropical Weather Outlooks prior to June 1, when their regularly scheduled outlooks typically begin.

The seasonal forecasts for the 2021 Hurricane Season call for another above normal season. However, what is now considered “normal” for a hurricane season has changed. Between 1991 and 2020, the average hurricane season consisted of 14 named storms, 7 hurricanes, and 3 major hurricanes. This is up from the previous average of 12 named storms, 6 hurricanes, and 3 major hurricanes. One of the main culprits for this change is the increased ability to detect short-lived, weaker storms through new weather satellites. The Atlantic basin also goes through decadal and multi-decadal swings in its hurricane activity. It remains difficult to pinpoint exactly how a changing climate will affect hurricanes, but warmer ocean temperatures have been a staple of the last few seasons.



Another change starting in 2021 is the elimination of the Greek Alphabet for the supplemental list of names. Instead, if any future hurricane seasons exhaust the usual list of 21 names, an overflow name list will be used. This will allow any storms that used the supplemental list of names to be retired at the end of the season. Newly retired names from 2020 include Dorian and Laura. Dorian was replaced with Dexter, slated to be listed in 2025. And Laura was replaced with Leah for 2026. Eta and Iota were also retired individually before the Greek Alphabet was removed.

The official start date for Hurricane Season remains unchanged as June 1. However, for the 2021 season, the National Hurricane Center will begin issuing regularly Tropical Weather Outlooks on their homepage starting on May 15. Tropical Weather Outlooks can be found on hurricanes.gov with updates at 8a.m., 2p.m., 8p.m., and 2a.m., or as conditions require. This will provide earlier and more consistent information on any possible development prior to or around June 1.

Remember, it takes just one storm to make this season memorable!

Be prepared, monitor forecasts regularly , and stay safe.

To receive real-time, operational information or announcements on active tropical cyclones and disturbances follow @NHC_Atlantic on Twitter.



Resilient Florida Grant Program

Submitted By: Emma Huggins, Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection,
DEP

Throughout the 2021 Florida legislative session, lawmakers discussed resiliency and the need to create a more resilient state. It is evident throughout Florida that coastal and inland communities face increasing issues related to higher temperatures, rising sea level, increased flooding and more extreme weather.

To address these mounting problems, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 1954, which outlines the Resilient Florida Grant Program within the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). On May 12, 2021, Governor Ron DeSantis signed the bill into law, ensuring a coordinated approach to Florida's coastal and inland resiliency and enhancing Florida's efforts to protect inland waterways, coastlines, shores and coral reefs. At more than \$640 million, this bill will help ensure that the state and local communities are prepared to deal with the impacts of sea level rise, intensified storms and flooding.

SB 1954 requires the development of the Comprehensive Statewide Flood Vulnerability and Sea Level Rise Data Set. It also facilitates developing statewide sea level rise projections and other data necessary to determine risks to inland and coastal communities. The data set is to be completed by July 1, 2022, and the Comprehensive Statewide Flood Vulnerability and Sea Level Rise Assessment is to be completed by July 1, 2023. The Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan is to be submitted by Dec. 1, 2023.

The assessments must include an inventory of critical assets and regionally significant assets that are essential for critical government and business functions; national security; public health and safety; the economy; flood and storm protection; water quality management; and wildlife habitat management.

Counties, municipalities, regional resilience organizations, water management districts and flood control districts are encouraged to submit a list of proposed projects that address flooding or sea level risks, which will be considered for inclusion in the statewide flooding and sea level rise resilience plan being developed. The bill also includes creating the Florida Flood Hub for Applied Research and Innovation to be established within the University of South Florida College of Marine Science.

The Resilient Florida Grant Program also authorizes DEP to provide grants to local governments to fund the cost of community resilience planning and to collect necessary data for that plan. This includes comprehensive plan amendments and necessary analyses to meet the requirements of section 163.3178 (2) (f), the Peril of Flood Statute; vulnerability assessments that identify or address risks of sea level rise; developing projects, plans and policies that allow communities to prepare for threats from flooding and sea level rise; and projects to adapt critical assets to the effects of flooding and sea level rise.

The many facets of this bill along with the millions in funding highlight the emphasis that needs to be – and is being – placed on increasing the state's resiliency, adapting to sea level rise and protecting Florida communities.



Florida Department of Transportation Resiliency Update

Submitted By: Office of Policy Planning, FDOT

The Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) Resiliency Policy defines resiliency as "the ability of the transportation system to adapt to changing conditions and prepare for, withstand, and recover from disruption."

FDOT is collaborating with partners throughout the Sunshine State to set the course for resilient transportation infrastructure from planning to research. The new Florida Transportation Plan (FTP) is the single overarching guideline in Florida's transportation future. Updated every five years, the FTP is a collaborative effort of state, regional, and local transportation partners in the public and private sectors. The seven FTP goals emphasize transportation safety, security, infrastructure, mobility, accessibility, equity, and Florida's economy, communities, and environment. Experts on a Resiliency Subcommittee brought thoughtful perspectives to identify resiliency as a critical strategy and cross-cutting theme in the FTP. This strategy paves the way for actionable steps to help FDOT and its partners identify risks like sea level rise, flooding, and storms; assess potential impacts; and employ strategies to avoid, mitigate, or eliminate lasting impacts.

As part of FTP implementation, FDOT collaborates with Florida's universities to evaluate the effect of sea level rise on transportation and assess planning risks. FDOT works with the University of Florida GeoPlan Center to develop and update the Sea Level Scenario (SLS) Sketch Planning Tool. The SLS Sketch Planning Tool uses Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data visualization to identify transportation infrastructure potentially at risk from projected sea level changes. The tool supports the identification of affected infrastructure and provides evidence-based visualization to inform transportation planning processes.

Additionally, the research includes evaluating the resiliency of pavement systems, identifying data gaps and needs for Metropolitan Planning Organization resiliency planning, considering the impact of transportation system resiliency on vulnerable populations, and developing a resiliency index for Florida's surface transportation system. Research is also underway to provide guidance and data by alleviating uncertainty in planning and design and develop a project-level extension for the SLS Sketch Planning Tool. These projects seek to advance Florida's resiliency efforts through innovative data analysis, tools, and frameworks.

For more information, visit FDOT's Resilience page at <https://www.fdot.gov/planning/policy/resilience>

SLIP Rule Update

Submitted By: Emma Huggins, Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection, DEP

In the March Bulletin, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection shared information about Rule 62S-7, F.A.C., known as the Sea Level Impact Projection (SLIP) Study Rule regarding public financing of coastal construction. Since March, more public comments and feedback have been incorporated into the rule language, and the notice of proposed rule was published April 2, 2021. No public hearing was requested, so the rule certification process is underway. The rule goes into effect July 1, 2021. The rule is a significant step toward creating a more resilient Florida.

Key components of this rule include:

- A required use of the intermediate-high sea level rise scenario from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) report, "2017 NOAA Technical Report National Ocean Service Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (NOS CO-OPS) 083, Global and Regional Sea Level Rise Scenarios for the United States."
- A requirement to provide alternatives to project design and siting that take into account the SLIP study analysis and are designed to reduce future flood risk to the structure and the risks and costs associated with the structure's construction, maintenance and repairs.
- The informational rather than regulatory nature of the rule.

Mitigation Spotlight



Please join us in congratulating Conn Cole as the new State Floodplain Manager! Conn has been acting as Interim State Floodplain Manager since Steve Martin retired earlier this year.

G-393 Mitigation for Emergency Managers

The workshop builds participants' abilities to perform the responsibilities of an emergency manager, create strategies for disaster-resistant communities, identify local mitigation opportunities, select mitigation solutions to hazard risk problems and find resources to carry out mitigation activities.

This class is for Emergency Managers or other interested parties which support mitigation effort.

Upcoming Trainings:

Leon County	7/27-7/29
Lee County	8/10-8/12
Monroe County	9/8-9/10

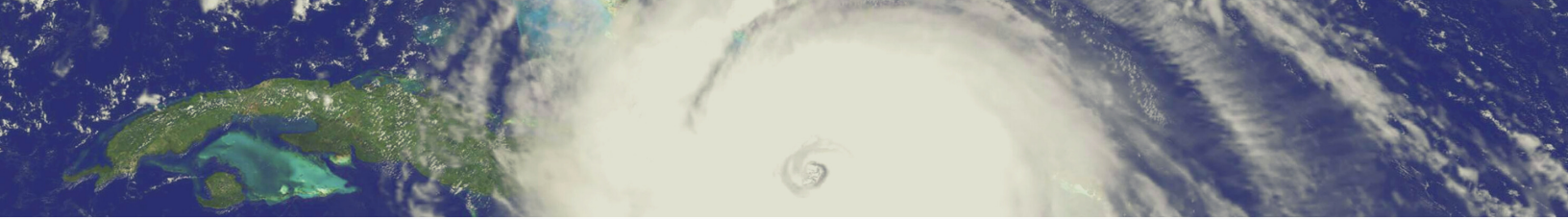
The Cyclone of LMS Updates!

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 and 2021. Keep track with us as we work our way through!

County Congratulations!

We want to congratulate Monroe, Madison, Bay, Jackson, Jefferson and Wakulla counties on completing their update cycle!

3	Under Review
5	In Revisions
3	Approved Pending Adoption
20	Approved
20	Cycle Complete
2	Expired



#MitigationMonday

The #MitigationMonday social media campaign has been temporarily postponed. In the meantime, the latest Mitigation Minute from FEMA contains some great information about the Florida Building Code.

FEMA is a proud sponsor of Building Safety Month, a public awareness campaign that focuses on adopting and maintaining building codes. Led by the International Code Council, this effort emphasizes the importance of modern building codes and strong building code enforcement.

In support of this year's Building Safety Month's theme, Prevent, Prepare, Protect. Building Codes Save, FEMA is highlighting helpful resources to use when developing plans to build safer and stronger.

This includes FEMA's *Building Codes Save: A Nationwide Study of Loss Prevention*. This resource is the result of a multi-phase nationwide study that quantified the physical and associated economic losses from flooding, hurricane wind, and earthquakes, that were avoided by constructing buildings according to modern, hazard-resistant building codes.

For more information on Building Safety Month please visit: <https://www.iccsafe.org/advocacy/building-safety-month/2021-building-safety-month/>

You can also download FEMA's study at: <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/risk-management/building-science/building-codes-save-study>



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 Kevin Guthrie 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 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities 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.

