

THE BULLETIN

The Official Newsletter of the FDEM Mitigation Bureau



What's the Buzz? A Silver Jackets Update

By: Kristin Lentz



It has been a busy quarter for the Florida Silver Jackets Team! The 2022 Florida Coastal Resilience Workshops were a huge success, with over 200 participants attending the Gulf Coast workshop in April and the Atlantic Coast workshop in May.

Over the course of each three-day workshop, a multitude of state and federal partners shared knowledge and tools to help participants increase Florida's resilience to coastal storms and sea level rise. Each presenter spoke about the laws and requirements associated with coastal resilience, which are used to facilitate compliance with their various programs and tools. Participants also got an overview and demo of the following publicly accessible tools and resources:

- FDEM Mitigation Grants and Resources
- FDEP Coastal Adaptation and Resilience Tools (CART) Initiative
- FDEP Sea Level Impact Projector (SLIP) Tool
- FDOT/UF GeoPlan Center Sea Level Scenario Sketch Planning Tool
- EPA Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool
- NOAA Sea Level Rise Viewer
- NOAA Coastal Flood Exposure Mapper
- NOAA Adapting Stormwater Management and Nature Based Solutions for Coastal Hazards
- USACE South Atlantic Coastal Study (SACS)
 - Tier 1 Risk Assessment
 - Economic Risk Assessment
 - Coastal Hazards System
 - Measure and Cost Library



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Treesilience: Safeguarding Natural Infrastructure to Help Improve Disaster Preparedness

By: Lesley Bertolotti, Kierstyn Cox, Rachel Holmes, Christianah Oyenuga, Lindsay Stevens

Every year, millions of trees are damaged by hazards ranging from hurricanes and thunderstorms, to severe winds and flooding. Uprooted trees or falling tree limbs block roadways, damage infrastructure, cause power outages, loss of property and even fatalities. Removal of tree debris and clean-up activities following a disaster can also cost hundreds of millions of dollars annually. It is critical to mitigate both potential damages and costs while protecting community trees as natural infrastructure through careful planning and preparedness efforts.

Trees are an important natural resource that provide communities with many environmental, social, economic, cultural and health benefits that can help foster community identity. Trees reduce heat and flooding, provide shade and habitat, store carbon and can provide aesthetic value and boost physical and mental health. They are also a type of community green infrastructure providing stormwater management, erosion control and energy conservation. Hence, the need for trees to be addressed as infrastructure within the preparedness framework, and not only the recovery framework, must be considered a mitigation priority.

In an effort to mitigate costs and damages to green infrastructure, The Nature Conservancy is piloting an initiative called Treesilience to protect community forests and forest health. The Treesilience program is intended to be driven by the place-based needs and goals of a community. In Florida, where major hazards threaten natural infrastructure, Treesilience focuses on mature tree pruning, dead tree



A live oak on private property in Orlando, Florida threatening power lines (Photo Credit: Christianah Oyenuga – The Nature Conservancy)

removal and new plantings to lessen the impacts of disasters. Local, State and Federal Emergency Management agencies frequently encourage homeowners to prepare for hurricane season by creating a disaster preparedness plan which includes trimming trees. However, low-wealth homeowners who are vulnerable to, and disproportionately impacted by, extreme weather events often lack the resources for preventive tree maintenance.

In Florida, The Nature Conservancy and partners are incorporating an equity lens to disaster mitigation. Conventionally, the notion of maintenance in many towns and cities have focused on the built environment such as bridges, roads, power lines, and gray infrastructure. Treesilience draws attention to trees as a key part of natural infrastructure, which can be susceptible to costly failures, when not maintained. Treesilience emphasizes safeguarding natural infrastructure and providing tree maintenance for low-wealth homeowners in historically underrepresented communities and also offers new plantings to maintain and restore tree canopies while enhancing disaster preparedness and community resilience.

For questions about the Treesilience program, please email Christianah Oyenuga at c.a.oyenuga@tnc.org



Resource Update: Sub Recipient Management Costs under the HMGP

By: Jared Jaworski

As many of you are aware, there have been considerable changes over the last few years in how Sub-Recipient Management Costs (SRMC) have been dealt with under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). SRMC is now a distinct funding pool, separate from project costs, that has specific requirements associated with it. In order to help current and future sub-recipients navigate these changes for both pre and post-award, FDEM [updated their HMGP site](#) with additional documents regarding SRMC.

These documents can be found under the two sections, “HMGP Application and Resources” under “Application,” as well as under “HMGP Post-Award Resources” under both “FDEM Documents” and “FEMA Documents.” Regardless of your experience with SRMC, we recommend everyone look through the “SRMC Training” document found under either the “Application” or “FDEM Documents” sections mentioned above as this will bring everyone up to speed with the current policies and procedures.

In addition, FDEM created a distribution email address for those with SRMC-specific questions. Any SRMC inquiries should be sent to DEMSRMCHelpdesk@em.myflorida.com and someone from our team will get back with your shortly.

Local Mitigation Planning Policy Gets a Facelift

By: Kristin Lentz

After much anticipation, FEMA has released the updated [Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide](#), superseding the 2011 *Local Mitigation Plan Review Guide*. Effective April 19, 2023, this policy provides guidance to local governments to ensure local mitigation plans meet the mitigation planning requirements.



Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide

FP 206-21-0002

Released April 19, 2022, Effective April 19, 2023

OMB Collection #1660-0062



Notable changes include:

- Including a broad range of stakeholders in planning process, representing community lifelines and those that support underserved communities
- Considering the effects of climate change and other future conditions
- Addressing existing mitigation plan requirements of the High-Hazard Potential Dan (HHPD) grant program
- Describing building codes and land use/development ordinances
- Updating plan adoption requirements

In the coming months, the Planning Unit intends to update guidance documents and begin holding Update Manual Workshops for counties with upcoming five-year LMS Plan updates. These workshops will include a detailed explanation about each of the policy requirements and will provide county Working Group planners with the opportunity to ask questions about their plan's update.



Future Outlook in Regional Resiliency: Extreme Rainfall Projections

By: Carolina Maran, South Florida Water Management District

Last month, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) held a successful workshop for the proposed adoption of future extreme rainfall projections as part of its flood resiliency planning efforts. This event brought together state officials and leading researchers from around the country to kick-off a series of initiatives to develop regional and statewide rainfall projections. This effort builds on long-term observed rainfall data and constitutes a first step in developing future rainfall projections for South Florida.

The recommended change factors were developed in collaboration with the United State Geological Survey (USGS) Caribbean-Florida Water Science Center and Florida International University Sea Level Solutions Center. Extreme rainfall events of 1-, 3-, and 7-day durations and 5-, 10-, 25-, 50-, 100-, and 200-year return frequencies represent future extreme rainfall conditions in the period centered around 2070, based on historical period around 1966-2005. The workshop held on Wednesday, April 27 accompanied the technical memorandum and data access web application based on the USGS data release, available [online](#) as of April 2022.

The [Technical Memorandum: Adoption of Future Extreme Rainfall Change Factors for Flood Resiliency Planning in South Florida](#) delineates the SFWMD's adoption of future extreme rainfall change factors as part of its flood resiliency planning efforts. It provides initial guidance and example application to aid planning practices on how to apply estimated change factors to account for future extreme rainfall events as part of local and regional flood vulnerability assessments for the counties within the SFWMD boundaries.

The Future Extreme Rainfall Change Factors for Flood Resiliency Planning in South Florida web application provides access to the available future extreme rainfall change factors for flood resiliency planning for the 16 counties and 14 rainfall areas within SFWMD boundaries, as well as the Everglades National Park rainfall area, and an additional combined rainfall area for the Florida Keys and Biscayne Bay.

The next steps in assessing future rainfall and reducing relative uncertainty in climate model projections include the development of statewide regional climate models and continued efforts to document observed trends in water and climate related metrics, and other sources of information that impact rainfall into the future.

Visit the [District's Resiliency Program website](#) for more information.

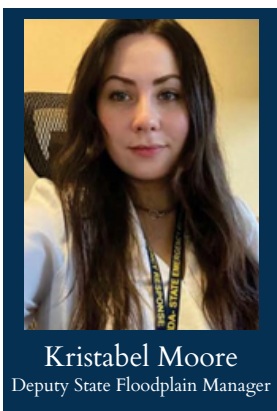
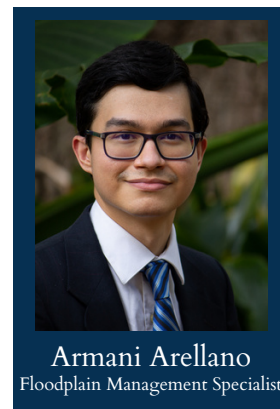


Mitigation Highlights



After 24 years of service to the State of Florida, we wish Miles E. Anderson well on his hard-earned retirement! Miles' contributions to the field of Mitigation are vast, with more than \$1 billion administered throughout Florida since he became Bureau Chief in 2007. With the promotion of Laura Dhuwe to replace Miles as State Hazard Mitigation Officer, we are confident the Bureau will continue his legacy of leading the nation in mitigation!

Armani Arellano recently became a Certified Floodplain Manager! Armani states that this certification was a great learning experience and recommends it to anyone interested in expanding their knowledge of floodplain management. He wishes to give a special thanks to Sam and Lyn for hosting training sessions in preparation for the exam.



Introducing the incoming Vice Chair of the Association of State Floodplain Managers - Kristabel Moore! This election shows her dedication to ASFPM, as well as her expertise in the field of floodplain management. Kristabel was officially seated on the Board of Directors during the annual ASFPM conference held in Orlando, Florida.

After over a year of studying, Edmund Warren has finished his Professional Engineering exam! Prior to taking this exam, Ed attained his degree in civil engineering and completed five years of related work experience. He now awaits the approval of his application for licensure before officially becoming a Professional Engineer.



New Employee Spotlight

If you see these new faces in the halls, help us welcome our new Mitigation staff to the team!



The Cyclone of LMS Updates!

We are in a Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) update cycle. Each plan must be updated every five years and we only have a few plans left. Keep track with us as we finish up this cycle!

County Congratulations!

We want to congratulate Okaloosa county on completing their update cycle!

- 1 Under Review
- 0 In Revisions
- 1 Approved Pending Adoption
- 11 Approved
- 53 Cycle Complete
- 1 Expired



Conference Mitigators

The Mitigation Team has been out and about this conference season. With over 2,000 conference registrants, the 2022 Governor's Hurricane Conference provided a great opportunity to spread the word about the importance of mitigation! The team provided the G-393 Mitigation for Emergency Managers training and presented two workshops, *Improving BRIC, HMGP and Mitigation Funding Outcomes in Florida* and *Implementing Mitigation*. The class and workshops included a very diverse group of participants, which made for some great discussions about the challenges mitigation practitioners may face.



Implementing Mitigation Workshop - presented by Laura Dhuwe, Kathryn Valentine, Holly Swift, and Kelly Wilson

"Shining a Light on Mitigation" was the theme of this year's Association of State Floodplain Managers Conference. The Office of Floodplain Management (OFM) attended in full force, volunteering with the Florida Floodplain Managers Association to ensure a smooth conference experience for over 1,500 participants. Conference sessions and discussions focused on



The Mitigation Team at the ASFMP Conference

themes like equitable floodplain management, incorporating future conditions into community planning, and protecting natural and beneficial functions of floodplains. Conn Cole, the State National Flood Insurance Program Coordinator, introduced new staff during the FFMA Annual Chapter Meeting, and highlighted a few of the office's achievements over the past year.

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, Laura Dhuwe, 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.

Need More Information?

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