



Florida SHMPoints

Providing insightful mitigation news and information from around the State of Florida.

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FYI: Top 5 Challenges from the HMGP Small-Group Workshops

By: Jared Jaworski

Firstly, I would like to thank those counties that have participated in our Small-Group Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Workshop webinars. While not as ideal as doing them in-person, I'm happy to hear that the webinars have provided much-needed assistance to so many counties and communities. Below are the top five challenges we see brought up consistently during the webinars.

Acknowledgement of Conditions Form

In the HMGP application in Section III Part B.4, there is a line item requesting a copy of a "Special Flood Hazard Area Flood Insurance Assurance(s)." This is required for those structures that are receiving HMGP funding and will remain in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). For the HMGP, flood insurance is not required in order to apply. However, if the property remains in the SFHA, it will need flood insurance by closeout. This form is needed at application acknowledging that the property owner understands this requirement. The form can be found in FEMA's database by searching for "Acknowledgement of Conditions" form.

Increase protection

Many project proposals have already been sent to the state for early eligibility review and one common oversight that is made is proposing a project that does not increase the level of protection of the structure that is in question. Often this becomes a project to repair a damaged structure to pre-storm standards rather than improving upon it. Please be aware that if you are proposing a project for the HMGP, you will need to show the improvements and the increase to the level of protection for any structure or facility you are mitigating. If you would just like to repair it without improvements, and it's a public structure, FEMA's Public Assistance program is more geared toward this type of work.

Generators

Generators have become the hot item for this funding period, and for good reason. Since they are so popular, I wanted to briefly give some guidance on them. Generators are only eligible under two circumstances: as a vital part to a larger mitigation project, or as a stand-alone project for critical facilities and infrastructure. The facility needs to be listed as critical in your county's LMS by application. Being a critical facility does not guarantee eligibility, as all projects must still pass the rest of the review process, such as benefit-cost analysis. All generators must be in an enclosure rated at a Cat 4 for wind. Those generators being proposed in an SFHA must also be protected against a 500-year storm event. Portable generators can be purchased for use at multiple critical facilities, but the facilities must be pre-identified in the application and can only be used for those structures. A sub-applicant will need to demonstrate that the portable generator(s) is/are sufficient enough to cover all proposed sites.

New Construction

New construction is an ineligible activity except for three instances. Safe rooms, mitigation reconstruction, and code plus projects. For safe rooms, these are for immediate life safety during a high wind event and not for long term use like a general population shelter. For mitigation reconstruction, this is for structures that will be demolished, rebuilt, elevated and brought up to Florida Building Code (FBC) compliance. There is a \$150K federal funding cap for this project type. The last option for new construction would be the code plus route. For new structures being built, HMGP funds can go toward bringing the structure above code. The HMGP funds would only fund those above code portions and not the general construction costs.

Bundling

Many counties are asking if their projects can be bundled. Much of this determination is done on a case-by-case basis. However, as a general guide, you can bundle projects that are of the same type and structure, e.g., multiple generators for lift stations, for different types for the same structure, e.g., wind retrofit and generator for a fire station, or for the same type for different structures, e.g., wind retrofit on multiple buildings with different uses. This may not apply to every situation, but it is something to consider to simplify the application and administration process.

If you have questions about this, please feel free to reach out to state staff for further guidance.

We are receiving many early questions and requests for assistance— this is a great sign. The more we hear from the sub-applicants the better we feel when the application deadline approaches. If you have any further questions about these topics, or any others, please let us know.

St. Petersburg College Public Safety Workshops

By: Chris Littlewood

These public safety workshops promote effective strategies for communicating with people who are deaf or hard of hearing and others with access and functional needs.

Who should attend?

Public safety professionals including: healthcare workers, fire and emergency medical services personnel, public health professionals, emergency managers, public information officers, law enforcement personnel and emergency planners.

Scheduled Workshops

Panama City, FL—June 21-22, 2018

Jacksonville, FL—June 26-27, 2018

St. Augustine, FL—TBD

Tampa, FL—September 17-18, 2018

****NO COST****

For more information please contact:

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Hazard Mitigation Assistance Update: Houses of Worship

By: Jared Jaworski

As of May 4th, 2018, FEMA has implemented a policy change regarding project eligibility for Private Nonprofits (PNP) houses of worship under the Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA). This is due to the requirements related to houses of worship in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018. Prior to this change, houses of worship were unable to be their own sub-applicant, as well as receive HMA funding for mitigation activities that primarily benefited houses of worship. HMA funding that went to a house of worship had to go through another eligible sub-applicant and be applied for on their behalf. Even then, HMA funding could only go toward those activities that benefitted the whole community, as opposed to the primary actives of the house of worship. This change affects the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) the most, but also has implications for Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA).

For the HMGP, PNP houses of worship can now apply through their Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group (LMSWG) just like any other PNP as well as be their own sub-applicant. All local processes for project selection and prioritization are unaffected by this change and should continue on as normal. What may change are the arrangements of those projects for PNP houses of worship currently on a county's LMS project priority list. This change is in effect for the current disaster grant period of Hurricane Irma (DR-4337) and forward.

For PDM and FMA, PNPs will continue to remain ineligible sub-applicants. However, projects for PNP houses of worship may be applied for by an eligible sub-applicant in the same manner as before. Those eligible mitigation projects are not limited to activities that only benefit the whole community, and may be for the primary benefit of the house of worship.

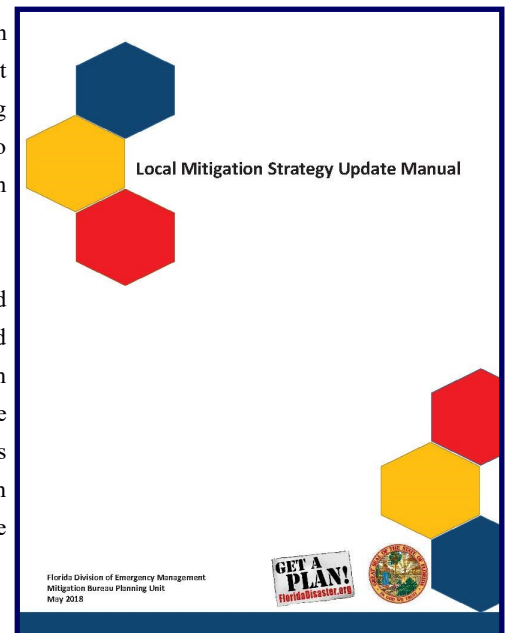
The Florida Division of Emergency Management's process for administering the HMA grant programs remains the same with regards to this recent change. If you have questions regarding this, please feel free to contact Jared Jaworski for further assistance.

Local Mitigation Strategy Update Manual

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 also providing recently approved examples from Florida county 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.

This manual was developed over two and a half years, beginning September 2015 and published May 2018. Once the opportunity was identified, the Planning Unit discussed multiple ways to get the information across. The idea of an update manual came from understanding the difficulties county and state planners faced during the 2014-2016 update cycle. Since all of Florida's counties have a Local Mitigation Strategy, each cycle was purely an update. Many of the existing resources focused on creating a new plan from scratch. Further, an in depth explanation of the requirements would facilitate more consistent training at both the local and state level.

In addition to the Local Mitigation Strategy Update Manual being released, FL-391 LMS Update Manual Workshop is available to be requested. If you have any additional questions regarding the Update Manual or the Workshop please contact your Planning Unit Liaison.



The Evolution of Mitigation in the Florida Keys

By: Laura Waterman

FEMA and Monroe County joined together to create a short video to demonstrate how a successful mitigation program can evolve over time. Monroe County Emergency Management Director Marty Senterfitt narrated the video explaining how various levels of mitigated structures fared in Hurricane Irma, a Category 4 storm that hit the Florida Keys in 2017.

Mr. Senterfitt points to three scenarios. The first is that mobile homes and slab built structures, which were built before Hurricane Andrew in 1992, faced catastrophic damage due to high winds and six to ten feet of water inundation. The second scenario is that elevated structures, built in the 1990's and early 2000's, were able to keep storm surge out of the structures, but there were still some weaknesses. For example, the high winds damaged roofs and soffits, which then allowed water to enter structures and cause significant mold damage. The third scenario examines structures that were built in recent years, which are built on a pier system and built to the highest wind ratings. These structures withstood Hurricane Irma and were left with only minimal cosmetic damage. Mr. Senterfitt credits these successes to a strong mitigation program that adapts to mistakes and leads to building a more resilient community.

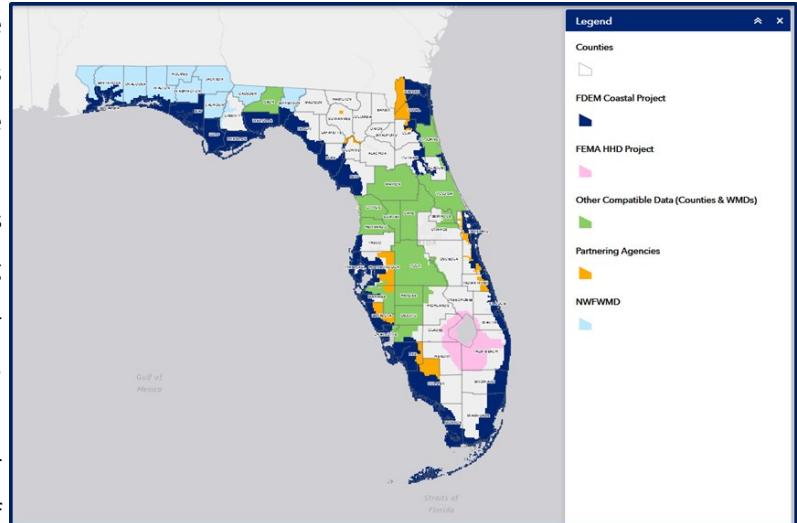
You can watch the video here: <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/videos/153336>

Florida Statewide LiDAR

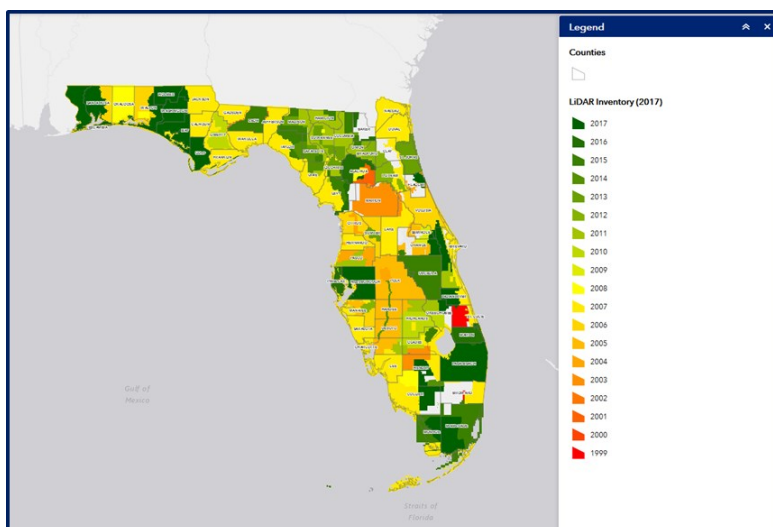
By: Jason Ray

LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) is a remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure ranges to the Earth. These light pulses—combined with other data recorded by the airborne system— generate precise, three-dimensional information about the shape of the Earth and its surface characteristics. LiDAR systems allow scientists and mapping professionals to examine both natural and manmade environments with accuracy, precision, and flexibility. This technology is being used for a wide range of applications including high-resolution topographic mapping, three-dimensional surface modeling, and building footprints.

By 2009, efforts between counties, Water Management Districts, and the Florida Division of Emergency Management's (FDEM) Coastal LiDAR Project resulted in LiDAR coverage over 28,000 square miles of Florida. Florida's 2009 costal LiDAR acquisition is currently accessible in the U.S. Interagency Elevation Inventory.



FDEM Coastal LiDAR Project (2009)

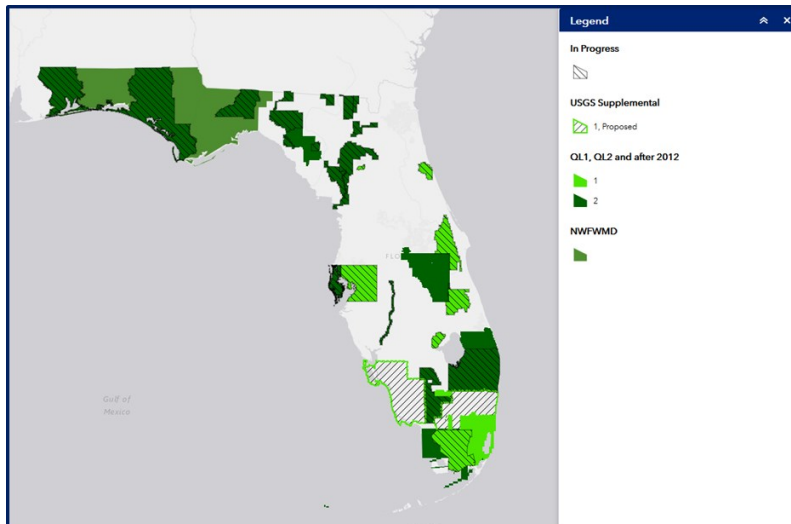


LiDAR Inventory by Acquisition Year (U.S. Interagency Elevation Inventory)

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 3D Elevation Program (3DEP) initiative was developed to respond to the growing need for high-quality topographic data and for a wide range of other 3D renderings of natural and constructed features. The USGS 3DEP Program sets Quality Levels (QL) specifications, and for the program set QL2 as the minimum acceptable QL and a time constraint of having been collected within the past 8 years.

Most of the data for Florida fails on both achieving QL2 specification and the collection requirement of within the past 8 years.

Florida Statewide LiDAR

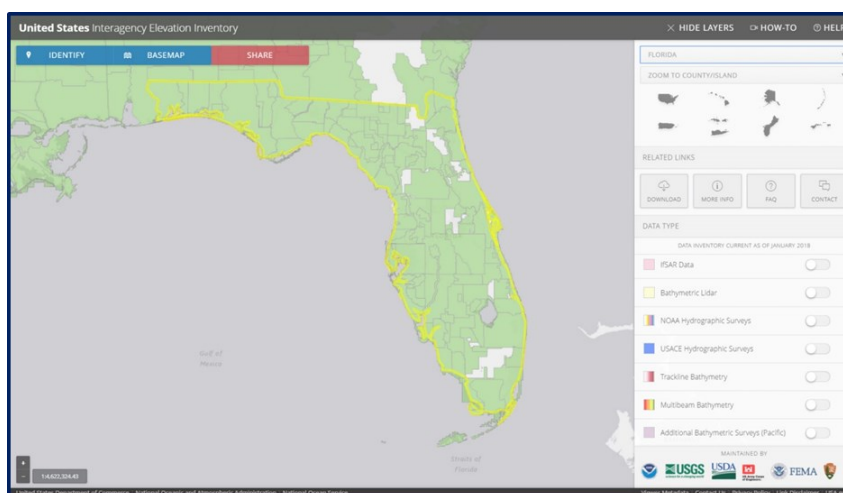


We can see this when we classify data from the U.S. Interagency Elevation Inventory by acquisition year. When we classify data from the U.S. Interagency Elevation Inventory by acquisition quality level, you can further see that large areas of the state do not meet 3DEP requirements.

Removing those areas that fail to meet 3DEP requirements by quality level and/or age and only displaying areas that meet QL1 or QL2 specification and acquired after 2012, we can determine the areas in Florida lacking adequate LiDAR coverage.

LiDAR Inventory that meets 3DEP specification (U.S. Interagency Elevation Inventory)

Northwest Florida Water Management District has completed LiDAR collections within the Florida panhandle area and we believe those areas will meet QL2 specification under the 3DEP requirements. In addition, USGS has identified two areas within South Florida to target for collection with QL1 specification funded under the USGS Disaster Supplemental. The USGS Disaster Supplemental was created as a result of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria in 2017. USGS has appropriated \$7.6 million of this Supplemental funding to Florida for LiDAR acquisitions.



U.S. Interagency Elevation Inventory

In 2018, the Florida State Legislature passed a budget appropriation for \$15 million dollars to FDEM to “competitively procure professional LiDAR mapping services for the production of a complete and accurate 3D map of the entire State...” FDEM is working with Florida state agencies, water management districts, counties, and federal agencies to refine requirements, identify partnership-funding opportunities, and to prepare an acquisition plan for investment in Florida’s digital elevation future.

If there are any questions regarding LiDAR, please contact Jason Ray, FDEM GIS Administrator or Richard Butgereit, FDEM Chief Information Officer.

Need More Information?

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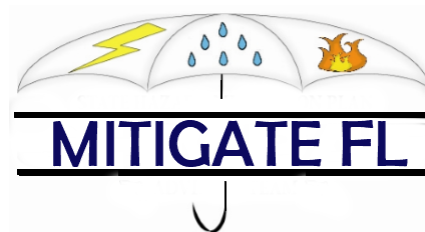
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The Bureau of Mitigation

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 Wes Maul 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.



2018 SHMP UPDATE

**The 2018 Enhanced
State Hazard Mitigation
Plan has been approved
by FEMA!**

