

Florida SHMPoints

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

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FDEM Director Appointed Chair of NEMA Mitigation Committee

By: Andrew Wilber

Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) Director Wes Maul has been appointed Chair of the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) Mitigation Committee, a group that provides leadership to drive the policy discussion on the subject of mitigation at a national level.

“The importance of mitigation is something that we know first-hand in Florida, and I look forward to bringing that knowledge-base to the national stage with the NEMA Mitigation Committee,” said Director Maul. “Dollars invested in mitigation repay themselves time and again in savings both to homeowners and the states. My vision for the committee going forward is to move the national policy discussion on mitigation in an innovative direction and to provide communities with the knowledge they need to successfully invest in mitigation on the front end and ensure that they are fully protected against disasters.”

The majority of NEMA’s policy work occurs within its standing committees. These committees focus on specific emergency management and homeland security issues. The NEMA Mitigation Committee specifically provides oversight on a variety of issue areas including the National Mitigation Framework, the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Flood Mitigation Assistance, Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning, Pre-Disaster Mitigation, Natural and Technological Hazards Risk Reduction, the National Flood Insurance Program, Risk Analysis and Mapping, and the National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program.

Under the leadership of Director Maul, the Division’s Mitigation Bureau has been fully empowered to achieve the best possible return on investment - a figure that averages 600%. With more than \$972 million of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds under management in only one of twelve states with Enhanced Mitigation Plans, Director Maul has positioned Florida to invest in the future resiliency of our communities.



HMGP Irma Update

By: Carly Swartz, FPEM

FDEM's Mitigation team is in full swing with the intake process of HMGP applications, which will be funded through FL-DR-4337-Irma. With an allocation of \$354,066,081, and the anticipation of an unprecedented amount of applications being received, Project Leads were assigned to coordinate the application review process. Each project application endorsed and prioritized by the County's Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group will be assigned a Project Manager, Engineer, and Environmental Specialist.

MEET THE TEAM

Programmatic Team	Engineering Team	Environmental Specialist
Lead: Carly Swartz Holly Swift (SLRC) Velma Ellis (SLRC) Andrea Horne (SLRC) Renee Singh (SLRC) Barbara Holeda Jeremy O'Dell Debbie Williams Doug Galvan (SLRC)	Lead: Claudia Lozano (SLRC) Levan Zhizhilashvili (SLRC) David Ugrekhelidze (SLRC) Jim Price (SLRC) Gillian Smith Alvin Bishop	Lead: Paula Catledge (SLRC) Teresa Sanders Kristin Buckingham Madison Kitchen Melissa St. James (SLRC) Mindy Yang (SLRC) Kayla Born (SLRC)

*SLRC: State Logistics Response Center is located in Orlando, FL

The Application deadline was August 6th and FDEM received 733 applications. Currently we are working on processing in the applications, assigning Programmatic and Technical teams, and commencing with the individual application review.

FEMA's Ideascale

By: Amy Peterson

A new tool was launched by FEMA in 2018 called Ideascale. The purpose behind this platform is for anyone to be able to submit ideas to FEMA Headquarters. Ideas will fall under different themes and then other users can comment on, and vote for or against, ideas that have been posted. It is monitored by Headquarters and ideas that get traction are sent to the corresponding office for consideration. This will be a great asset for the mitigation community to share and vote on new ideas for future projects or best practices.

The site is simple to use, only requiring a user to register. To submit an idea, a user simply clicks the Submit New Idea button at the top of the navigation sidebar. You will then be asked to add a title and choose a campaign for the new idea as well as have the option to add tags to the idea. The more points, or votes, an idea receives, the more likely it is that FEMA Headquarters will pursue looking into it.

This public forum style site allows users to interact and share ideas from around the country. In terms of mitigation, this could allow mitigation specialists to share ideas, resources, projects, best practices, and information with others from different states. To get started visit the website at <https://fema.ideascale.com> and submit an idea or start looking into active campaigns.

Florida Resilient Coastlines Program

By: Whitney Gray

For Florida's coastal communities, resilience is the ability to recover quickly from disasters and to adapt to future conditions, such as sea level rise. The Florida Resilient Coastlines Program (FRCP) is the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) effort to synergize community resilience planning, natural resource protection tools, and funding to prepare Florida's coastline for the effects of climate change, especially rising sea levels.

Several new resources are now available from FRCP that are targeted to help local governments in their resilience planning efforts. Visit floridadep.gov/resilience for a "one-stop shop" for resilience resources, funding opportunities, and identifying ways or opportunities to get involved with FRCP.

On the website, you'll find the newest resources, the Florida Adaptation Planning Guidebook and an updated and revised version of Addressing Adaptation During Long-Term Recovery (the addendum to the PDRP guidebook). The Florida Adaptation Planning Guidebook is a compilation of more than five years of stakeholder involvement and research during the Community Resiliency Initiative (CRI) directed by DEP and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity as part of the Florida Coastal Management Plan. The guidebook is scalable and intended to be used by local government planners in cities and counties of any size, providing a framework to develop an initial, or update an existing, adaptation plan. Focusing on four steps – Establish the Context, Assess Vulnerability, Identify Adaptation Strategies and Plan Strategy Implementation – the guidebook contains best practices and resources useful to any coastal community. Since the original publication of the Addendum in 2012, the topic of resilience has taken a more prominent position in many of Florida's coastal communities. This updated addition to Post-Disaster Redevelopment Planning: A Guide for Florida represents the fifth phase of the Statewide Post-Disaster Redevelopment Planning Initiative, augmenting best practices guidance related to coastal communities and considering ways to address sea level rise adaptation during the long-term recovery process.

And finally, the FRCP Resilience Planning Grants 2018-2019 are available to local governments and certain partners. Priority areas are:

1. Compliance with "Peril of Flood" statute (Sec. 163.3178(2)(f) F.S.) for communities with a Coastal Management Element in their Comprehensive Plan.
2. Development of Adaptation Action Areas and associated Goals, Objectives and Policies in a community's Comprehensive Plan.
3. Vulnerability Assessments, Adaptation Plans or Resilience Plans.
4. Development of relevant decision support tools and/or public outreach tools, products or programs that support community resilience planning efforts, including regional collaboration efforts.

To learn more and to fill out an application, be sure to check out the FRCP Funding Opportunities and scroll down to Resilience Planning Grants 2018-2019.

DEP's vision is that Florida's coastal communities are resilient and prepared for the effects of climate change and rising sea levels, including coastal flooding, erosion and ecosystem changes. DEP's history of protecting, preserving and restoring habitats has set the stage for this continuing effort. The department will continue to partner with federal, regional, state and local agencies to promote a coordinated approach to sea level planning.

FDEM and BOAF Propose Building Code Amendment to Allow Public Restrooms Below BFE

By: Steve Martin

For many years, some cities and counties have designed and constructed public restrooms without regard to elevation and design requirements established under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which puts communities at risk for being suspended from the federal program and the sale of federally subsidized flood insurance to property owners. A significant economic driver for many communities is the public's demand for access to recreation areas with water resources that are also sources of flood threats. Accessible and NFIP-compliant public restrooms are expensive to build and maintain, which are primary reasons why communities have resorted to constructing public restrooms that may not be fully compliant.

In a bold move, FDEM and the Building Officials Association of Florida (BOAF) are co-sponsoring a proposed amendment to the International Building Code (IBC) that may in the future allow communities to build below Base Flood Elevation (BFE) restrooms. To be sure, public restrooms under the proposed amendment must be engineered to withstand the combination wave and wind loads associated with the NFIP's 1% annual chance flood, and must meet all requirements of the American Society of Civil Engineers' Flood Resistant Design and Construction standards that are incorporated in the IBC, and Florida's Building Code (FBC).

"Every living person and their friends and relatives who like to spend time enjoying the Nation's vast tapestry of rivers, streams, bays and beaches will benefit from the passage of this code amendment," says Steve Martin, Florida's State Floodplain Manager, who has the challenging job of ensuring that communities remain compliant with the NFIP. Steve has networked with his colleagues across the nation from Hawaii to Maine who support the amendment along with Florida's Floodplain Management Association, that has drafted a white paper on the merits of the proposal.

It's ironic Steve says, "people who enjoy nature, and must answer nature's call, must extract themselves from enjoying a day at the beach to walk up long ramps to elevated restrooms, some of which are 18 to 20 feet above grade. Ascending ramps that meet ADA requirements may be as long as 300 feet, or the length of a football field—and this is not exactly a walk in the park," he said. Elevated ramps this long create greater obstructions to wave and wind than the area of buildings on grade, and maintaining such ramps is an ongoing maintenance headache according to park managers interviewed during FFMA's development of its white paper, March 2015.

Think of young mothers with strollers, and mobility-challenged folks of any age trying to walk up 300-foot ramps to relieve themselves – it's enough to discourage anyone from spending time with family on peak holidays enjoying our nation's watery resources. It's a nice workout for football players, but not for average park users.

There is a call for action for Code officials in November 2018; voting members of the International Code Council, including building officials, architects and engineers will have an opportunity to vote on the proposed amendment, and communities should encourage favorable votes by their consultants, contractors and stakeholders.

FDEM and BOAF Propose Building Code Amendment to Allow Public Restrooms Below BFE

The Code change, if approved by an active support network, will go into effect with the next edition of the Code in 2021. A favorable vote at the IBC Code hearings this November will surely prompt Florida code officials to consider incorporating the proposed change in Florida with the FBC's 7th Edition also in effective in 2021.

The fine points of the proposed public restroom amendment are quite simple to meet public needs and park operations, and to ensure flood resiliency of public facilities paid for by taxpayers:

- Building footprints must be no more than 1500 square feet,
- Located, designed, and constructed to resist effects of flood hazards,
- Anchored to prevent flotation, collapse, or lateral movement,
- Constructed of flood damage resistant materials,
- Where enclosed by walls, walls have flood openings,
- Mechanical and electrical systems are located above the base flood elevation, and,
- Emergency plans must be approved by building officials to ensure protection of building elements before onset of flooding.

By allowing construction of public restrooms below the base flood elevation that incorporate the above Code-compliant design features, loss to below BFE structures is greatly minimized or eliminated when otherwise damaging floods may occur. This approach is a reasonable and appropriate alternative to the extremely high cost of design, construction, and maintenance of highly elevated public restrooms and required access ramps or elevators. The proposal includes requirements intended to meet all NFIP regulator provisions (except elevation requirements), and has received cautious nod by FEMA HQ staff who have considered the proposal for several years. Developing guidance documents and procedures to ensure compliance with the NFIP is still a challenge for FEMA to resolve.

Communities are cautioned against pursuing design and development of public restrooms below BFE before the IBC and FBC change, and FEMA has issued guidance it deems appropriate. For further information or to get a copy of the proposed public restroom amendment, email floods@em.myflorida.com or call the Floods help line 850.815.4556.



Figure 1: Elevated public restroom with extensive ramp that obstructs wave action, and is nearly twice the footprint of the base building.

Need More Information?

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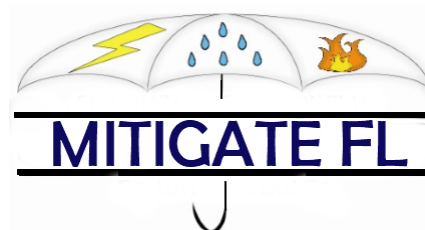
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The Bureau of Mitigation

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 PDM/FMA Cycle

All applications must be submitted to FDEM via the eGrants application system between **October 1, 2018 and January 31, 2019 by 5:00 PM EST.**

For fact sheets, please see the PDM and FMA pages on the FEMA website:

<https://www.fema.gov/flood-mitigation-assistance-grant-program>

<https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/132824>

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