

**PALM BEACH COUNTY COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM
FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PLAN
PROGRESS REPORT – 2009**

Palm Beach County, Florida – NFIP Number: 120192

1. Name of the CRS Floodplain Management:

Unified Local Mitigation Strategy

2. Date Adopted:

- Original adoption September 30, 1999
- Revised Plan approved by FEMA November 2004
- 2009 Revised Plan under review by FEMA

3. Location where copies are available for review

Emergency Operations Center Library

20 South Military Trail

West Palm Beach, Florida 33415

Also posted on www.pbcgov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/

4. Summarize any flooding that occurred during 2008 – 2009s Report

Palm Beach County experienced one flash flooding event during the above period. On March 31, 2009 significant street flooding was reported in the Palm Beach Gardens and North Palm Beach areas. Flooding was most severe in the area of Pearl Street and Riverside Drive, and along US 1 near PGA Boulevard. The flooding along US 1 was exacerbated by construction on the highway. A total of about 5,000 customers lost power. No house flooding was reported.

5. What impact did the floods have on repetitive loss areas?

No reports of home flooding have been received during the period. The county did not receive an updated repetitive flood loss list until August 2009, so it is not possible at this time to assess if additional insurance claims were filed or new listings resulted from the above event.

6. List each element of the plan and note how much was accomplished during the previous year.

See accompanying Status Report for details on revisions to the Local Mitigation Strategy Plan which serves as the county's Floodplain Management Plan, the status of flood mitigation actions, and the status of FEMA's revisions to the county's Flood Insurance Rate Maps.

7. Were any objectives not reached or is implementation behind schedule? If so, state why.

Revisions to the Local Mitigation Strategy Plan are on schedule. The revised plan has been reviewed by the Florida Division of Emergency Management and submitted to FEMA for review and approval and should be adopted by the Board of County Commissioners and the governing bodies of the 38 municipalities in early 2010. Grant applications for 23 flood mitigation projects stemming from Hurricanes Frances, Jeanne, Wilma, and Tropical Storm Fay continue to be in various stages of review and approval by FEMA. New flood maps for the county from FEMA will likely be available within the next 12 to 18 months.

8. Should new projects be started or should any of the recommendations or objectives be revised?

No. The LMS Flood Mitigation Technical Advisory Committee has identified several projects for future consideration and action. Priority will be given to executing current projects before adding new projects. Given the current economic environment, funding is a critical problem.

9. Progress Reports discussed and/or made available at a public meeting.

The status of all mitigation projects and success stories are reported and discussed at LMS General Meetings and through periodic updates to the LMS Steering Committee. Work in 2009 has focused heavily on mandated revisions to the LMS plan. The next General Meeting of the LMS will be scheduled when FEMA feedback to the revised plan is received.

10. We have provided copies of this report to our governing board and local media.

The governing board for the CRS is the LMS Steering Committee. Copies of this progress report have been provided to members of the Steering Committee and have been posted to the homepage of the Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management website for public review and comment. A media release announcing the report and its posting has been executed.

Information Contact: Sheridan Truesdale, CRS Coordinator at (561) 712-6325

Activity 510: Floodplain Management Plan

Floodplain Management Status Report (2009)

Palm Beach County and most of the local municipalities participating in the Community Rating System (CRS), the county's floodplain management program, currently use the county's Unified Local Mitigation Strategy Plan (LMS) for credits under CRS Activity 510 - Floodplain Management Planning.

LMS Plan status as of this writing:

In accordance with FEMA's 5 year revision cycle, Palm Beach County's Unified Local Mitigation Strategy Plan has undergone revision in 2009.

The LMS plan was revised in strict conformance with the guidance offered by the *Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act* (Stafford Act), as amended by Section 322 of the *Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000* (P.L. 106-390), the *National Flood Insurance Act of 1968*, as amended by the *National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004* (P.L. 108-264) and *44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 201 – Mitigation Planning*, inclusive of all amendments through October 31, 2007.

Plan revisions were coordinated with the LMS Steering Committee, county departments, all municipalities, the general membership, including non-governmental organizations and the general public in accordance with local, state and FEMA requirements.

A draft of the revised plan is posted on the Division of Emergency Management's website for public and agency comment at: <http://pbcgov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/>

The first draft of the revised plan was submitted to the Florida Division of Emergency Management for review in late May 2009, along with required supporting crosswalk information describing plan's content and the planning process.

Comments from the state's review were received in July and changes and corrections were coordinated with the state's Mitigation Bureau during July and early August.

The LMS Coordinator was notified in late August that the plan has been submitted by state to FEMA for final review and approval.

Upon notification of FEMA approval, the plan will be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners and the governing bodies of the 38 municipalities for adoption.

Significant Planning Activities & Priorities

Beginning in 2009, Palm Beach County has undertaken a 5 year plan to revamp and enhance its Local Mitigation Strategy Plan. Among the planned enhancements will be the inclusion of a comprehensive Floodplain Management Plan annex which more directly addresses the flood hazard-specific objectives outlined in CRS Activity 510.

The Floodplain Management plan preparation process was begun in 2009, but will not be completed for at least one more year.

Increasingly the LMS Plan is serving as the umbrella document for “all hazards” risk assessment and as a base document for hazard-specific emergency coordinating operating procedures as well as for pre and post disaster mitigation planning. Although not reflected in the 2009 updated LMS plan, hazard and vulnerability assessments are being expanded to include 38 hazard types, including four distinctly different types of flooding events.

Status of Flood Mitigation Actions

Since 2004 Palm Beach County has been impacted by three federally declared hurricanes (Frances, Jeanne and Wilma) and a declared tropical storm (Fay). Losses associated with these events yielded significant federal funding allocations to the county under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for mitigation projects. The county and its municipalities produced and submitted 64 mitigation grant applications valued at over \$37 million under these HMGP allocations, of which 23 projects were flood mitigation projects (almost exclusively drainage improvement projects). Five years later, we have yet to complete one drainage improvement project because of the lengthy review process. A number of projects have recently been given the go ahead to conduct preliminary engineering work. During this lengthy review process projected costs have escalated and FEMA is now requiring applicants to re-compute Benefit Costs ratios reflecting these increased costs to see if the projects are still cost effective. We are hoping that the slow economy may help offset some of these cost increases.

At the request of local officials, several projects have been withdrawn or executed without federal funding because the work could no longer be delayed.

Status of Flood Map Modernization

Palm Beach County continues to wait for revised flood maps from FEMA to replace its badly out of date Flood Insurance Rate Maps. It has been nearly five years since FEMA presented proposed new flood maps which were challenged by the county’s Flood Mitigation Technical Advisory Committee. The committee asked that more precise elevation data gathered by a technique called LIDAR be included in FEMA’s flood studies. FEMA agreed to incorporate this data and consider several other recommendations made by the committee. New maps will likely be presented to the county in the next 12 to 18 months.

For More Information

As part of this annual progress report preparation process, the LMS Coordinator requested an update on the status of all active county flood mitigation projects from the state. That status information is being submitted to ISO as part of the CRS recertification process and is available upon request at (561) 712-6325.

This report has been released to the media via the county’s Public Affairs Department and posted on the Division of Emergency Management’s website until October 15, 2009.



News Release

For immediate release:
Contact:

September 16, 2009
Butch Truesdale, 712-6325

Emergency Management Releases Progress Report on County's Floodplain Management Plan

In accordance with National Flood Insurance Program guidelines, the Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management has released its annual progress report on Activity 510: Floodplain Management Plan.

Citizens, public officials and members of the news media are invited to review the document on Emergency Management's Web site. It can be accessed at pbcgov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement by clicking on "Annual Floodplain Management Progress Report 2009" in the lower right corner of the screen.

This report is updated annually to advise municipal, county, state and federal officials and the public of the progress being made by Palm Beach County toward implementation of floodplain management plans and activities under the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System (CRS) program.

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