

XI. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following list of recommended policy and program actions for hazard mitigation is based on the Community Guiding Principles as adopted by the Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group. These principles are a set of common goals and objectives derived from an analysis of the goals and objectives adopted within policies of all local governments within Levy County. Most of these policy areas are addressed in some way by each local government. It is suggested that local elected officials review the adopted goals, objectives and policies in the below listed policy areas to ensure that their adopted policies fit the needs of their respective jurisdictions. Additional policy areas listed have been suggested in the *Local Mitigation Strategy Guidebook*.

Develop policies and programs for mitigation of wildfire.

Policies should include an agreement with the County Forestry Agent to notify the Board of County Commissioners when fire restrictions are put into effect so the County can immediately adopt an Emergency Ordinance supporting the restrictions. This will greatly increase enforcement capabilities and also help to publicize the fire ban through the local media.

Homeowner education programs would be useful to instruct citizens on ways to mitigate the risk of wildfire around their homes.

Develop policies and plans for long- term temporary housing.

Initial programmatic steps to coordinate long-term temporary housing will be to assign responsibilities to identify appropriate housing resources, explore the process to coordinate State and federal assistance, and develop a plan.

The policy initiative for long-term temporary housing will include adopting the Long-term Temporary Housing Plan (probably as an annex in the Long-term Recovery Plan) and assigning the responsibility to implement the plan when needed.

Local governments should integrate the findings of the adopted County Disaster Housing Plan into their local plans. Cities should ensure proper zoning and policies are in place to facilitate the use of emergency disaster housing.

Develop Public /Private agreements for post-disaster recovery of the local business community.

Issues for possible agreement could include public use of privately owned heavy equipment or approved early re-entry for business owners to their place of business after a mandatory evacuation.

Develop policies and programs to retrofit existing manufactured homes in flood prone areas and regulate the location of new manufactured homes in flood prone areas.

Homeowner education programs need to stress the importance of anchoring the mobile home.

Develop a study of the benefits and costs of mobile home anchoring and educate homeowners. Also urge mobile home dealers and finance companies to develop incentive programs for structural stabilization.

Mitigating policies would include adopting more stringent anchoring requirements and inspecting existing mobile homes periodically for code compliance.

Require mobile home parks of over 100 units to build a community center.

Ensure that procedures within the Building Permit process clearly define requirements and responsibilities to notify property owners that subject properties are within the 100-year floodplain.

An effective policy to mitigate the purchase of property with flooding problems by unknowing buyers is to adopt a requirement to include a photocopy of the FIRM map for the area surrounding the property with the deed during the transfer of title.

Print brochures regarding floodplain development and post flood maps in public places.

Adopt policies and programs that address repetitively damaged and vulnerable residential and commercial structures. [Include policies on structural retrofitting, property acquisition, and relocation.]

Develop a program to identify vulnerable structures. Notify the owners and assist them in developing individual structural mitigation plans by identifying funding sources and educating them regarding cost beneficial retrofit projects.

Adopt post-disaster emergency permitting procedures for reconstruction and repair projects that have approved structural mitigation plans or show significant reduction of vulnerability.

Adopt policies that designate and prioritize areas for acquisition.

Initiate a study of repetitive loss and flood-prone areas that are, or could become likely candidates for acquisition grants. The purpose of the study would be to create a file on these areas that could be quickly converted into a grant application package after receiving consent from the owner and the local government.

Ensure that policies to regulate land use, floodplains, non-point source stormwater runoff, and the design and location of sanitary sewer and septic tanks in hazard-prone areas are monitored for effectiveness.

Seek funding for a study through the Florida Coastal Management Program to monitor coastal impacts or to update a coastal management element of the local Comprehensive Plan.

Further the FEMA map modernization process

The MAP modernization program is meant to identify a more specific outline for where the potential flooding will occur. With the modern technology available, an overhaul of the original maps is needed. Levy County is split between 2 WMD St. Johns and Southwest Florida. Has entered into an agreement with the Southwest Florida Water Management District, who will create a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA). The next step in the process for Levy County is the acquisition of LIDAR data. This is in the process of being arranged and executed, and will occur within the upcoming 5-year cycle.

Once updated the maps will be provided to FEMA's Multihazard Information Platform (MIP). MIP will provide detailed analysis to individual homeowners, communities and counties. This will enable the emergency management personnel to make timely and accurate decisions about evacuation procedures. The county planning departments will be able to make more accurate decisions about building permits and comprehensive plan updates. Levy County has a number of areas that flood. Based on the previous FEMA maps the flooding was so severe over 50% of the County lies within a floodplain. With the LIDAR data and potential manipulation of GIS data a clear picture of the problem areas will be created.

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) has created a updated maps series for Levy County showing the 100 and 500 year flood planes. These maps are based on LIDAR data gathered in 2009. This map series is under review and will be used by Levy County for future planning and mitigation.

Disaster Resistant Planning Techniques and Strategies

This chapter also deals with future actions that could be taken to continue building a disaster resistant community. Needs assessments and future vulnerability assessments will reveal mitigation opportunities within the various fields of Emergency Management, Planning and Public Administration. As in most cases it is much easier to identify problems than it is to identify solutions. This chapter presents strategies for addressing the problems by providing a direction where solutions can be found.

The action items that are needed to ensure operability during a storm are primarily the same for all jurisdictions. To better understand which communities should focus on which action items a spreadsheet was created. In this spreadsheet the values of High (H), Medium (M) and Low (L) have been assigned to each municipality's need to focus their primary mitigation strategies on a particular action item. A definition of the values and their relationship to the action item is described below.

Actions that promote control of hazards

- Storm water controls – Stormwater management plans through grants and fees.
 - H – Extreme documented flooding in jurisdiction
 - M – Some flooding in specific areas
 - L – Little to no flooding
- Structures to lessen hazard impacts – Hurricane shutters are one of the most cost-effective mitigation measures. All critical public facilities should be “hurricane hardened.” New facilities should be built to current structural standards for withstanding hurricane winds.
 - H – Many critical facilities without hurricane hardening
 - M – Few critical facilities without hurricane hardening
 - L – All critical facilities have hurricane hardening

Actions that protect public facilities and infrastructure

- Adjust infrastructure location, design – Avoid building new public infrastructure that will encourage growth in high hazard areas. Design new public infrastructure to withstand disasters.
 - H – High development rate
 - M – Some new development – very few public buildings
 - L – New development – primarily private
- Retrofit community facilities – Shutters, hurricane clips, roof retrofits, door braces
 - H – Many facilities without hurricane hardening
 - M – Few facilities without hurricane hardening
 - L – All facilities with hurricane hardening
- Hazard-proof new community facilities – Assure proper elevation, back up generators, safe guard computers and communications systems.
 - H – All public facilities should comply due to potential hazards
 - M – Some potential for future hazards
 - L – Very little potential for hazards
- Site community facilities to maintain services – Site community facilities near trunk lines for utilities and ensure that access roads don’t flood.
 - H – Very little development outside city limits
 - M – Expanded city limits
 - L – Continual development

Actions that promote emergency preparedness and response

- Preparedness plan/program – increase communications system and warning procedures for all disasters. Increase weather-monitoring capabilities.
 - H – Level of potential hazards
 - M – Level of potential hazards
 - L – Level of potential hazards

- Emergency response plans – Continue ongoing efforts for planning, preparedness and training. Focus on issues identified in needs assessments.
 - o H – No specific response plan
 - o M – A limited response plan
 - o L – Response plan
- Evacuation plan/program – Begin with population/ housing analysis possibly following the 2000 census. Perform transportation analysis using updated traffic counts and roadway capacities.
 - o H – Based on Population
 - o M – Based on Population
 - o L – Based on Population
- Sheltering plans – Perform structural analysis of shelters and incorporate population analysis.
 - o H – No hurricane shelters
 - o M – Small number of shelters
 - o L – Adequate shelters

Table XI-1 Action Items by Jurisdiction

| | Bronson | Cedar Key | Chiefland | Fanning Springs | Inglis | Otter Creek | Williston | Yankeetown | Levy Unincorp. |
|---|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|--------|-------------|-----------|------------|----------------|
| Actions that promote control of hazards | | | | | | | | | |
| Storm water controls – Stormwater management plans through grants and fees. | M | H | M | H | H | M | L | H | M |
| Structures to lessen hazard impacts – Hurricane shutters are one of the most cost-effective mitigation measures. All critical public facilities should be “hurricane hardened.” New facilities should be built to current structural standards from withstanding hurricane winds. | L | H | M | M | H | M | L | H | M |
| Actions that protect public facilities and infrastructure | | | | | | | | | |
| Adjust infrastructure location, design – Avoid building new public infrastructure that will encourage growth in high hazard areas. Design new public infrastructure to withstand disasters. | M | M | M | M | M | L | L | M | L |
| Retrofit community facilities – Shutters, hurricane clips, roof retrofits, door braces | M | H | M | M | H | M | M | H | M |
| Hazard-proof new community facilities – Assure proper elevation, back-up generators, safeguard computers and communications systems. | M | H | M | M | H | L | M | H | M |
| Site community facilities to maintain services – Site community facilities near trunk lines for utilities and ensure that access roads don’t flood. | L | L | L | L | L | L | L | L | M |
| Actions that promote emergency preparedness and response | | | | | | | | | |
| Preparedness plan/program – increase communications system and warning procedures for all disasters. Increase weather monitoring capabilities. | M | M | M | M | M | M | M | M | M |
| Emergency response plans – Continue ongoing efforts for planning, preparedness and training. Focus on issues identified in needs assessments. | M | M | M | M | M | M | M | M | L |
| Evacuation plan/program – Begin with population/ housing analysis possibly flowing the 2010 census. Perform transportation analysis using updated traffic counts and roadway capacities. | L | M | L | L | M | L | L | M | L |
| Sheltering plans – Perform structural analysis of shelters and incorporate population analysis. | L | M | L | M | M | L | L | M | M |