



LMS TIMES



Volume 21

Summer: Jul/Aug/Sep 2023

This Issue:

Director's Corner	1
PBC Spotlight	1
LMS Simplification	2
LMS PPL	3
HMGP	3
Florida Resilient Program	4
King Tides	4
LMS Revisions	4

Department of
Public Safety
Division of Emergency
Management
20 South Military Trail
West Palm Beach, FL
33415

PH: 561-712-6400
Fax: 561-712-6464

Director's Corner

By Mary Blakeney,
FPEM, Director,
PBCDEM



As we head into the heart of the 2023 Atlantic Hurricane Season we must remain vigilant of all the risks associated with each and every hurricane independently as they make landfall anywhere in Florida. Seeing the impacts Hurricane Ian had on our peers around the state was overwhelming. Whether we are confronted with a direct landfall or are hundreds of miles away from landfall; every storm is different. We need to continuously remind our resi-

dents that every storm poses different risks and we need to focus on those risks for OUR county.

Because of these risks, this is why our Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) and the work our community puts into mitigation is so important. We need to all provide our input into our LMS updates this year to ensure we are clearly identifying those risks and leveraging every opportunity to mitigate our communities. Every dollar of mitigation could save us six dollars in recovery.

We look forward to a continued partnership with everyone serving our LMS.

Mitigation Matters!

Palm Beach County Spotlight

County Warning Point

The County Warning Point (CWP) is located at the Palm Beach County's Emergency Operations Center and is staffed with Communicators 24 hours a day, seven (7) days a week who serve as Palm Beach County's primary point of contact for a wide variety of both natural and human-caused emergencies, including technological hazards. The CWP collects, organizes, and disseminates information in reference to emergency and non-emergency events within the County.



The CWP ensures that the County's population and emergency management agencies are warned of developing emergency situations and can communicate emergency response decisions as mandated by State Law. The CWP is far from a dispatch center. It is a **Situational Awareness** hub that collects, analyzes, and shares information with local, state, and federal partners to aid in their response roles. Their mission is to provide agencies and stakeholders with the most accurate information available relating to ongoing or impending hazardous situations throughout the county and region.

The Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) What is it? Let Me Simplify

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has two major hazard mitigation planning programs:

- 1) local multi-hazard mitigation planning/local mitigation strategy (LMS) and
- 2) floodplain management planning under the Community Rating System (CRS)

Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) or Local Multi-Hazard Planning

Local mitigation plans identify the hazards that may affect a single or multiple local jurisdictions, such as a town, city, or county. Plans assess risks and vulnerabilities, identify actions to reduce losses from those hazards identified, and establish a coordinated process to implement the plan using a wide range of public and private investments.

FEMA requires local governments to develop and adopt such hazard mitigation plans as a condition for receiving certain types of non-emergency disaster assistance, including funding for mitigation projects. Jurisdictions must update their hazard mitigation plans and re-submit them for FEMA approval every five years to maintain eligibility.

Community Rating System

The Community Rating System (CRS) is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management practices that exceed the minimum requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Over 1,500 communities participate nationwide. Palm Beach County's CRS Rating is Class 5. Residents who live in the floodplain within Unincorporated Palm Beach County enjoy a 25% premium reduction. Residents who live outside the floodplain in Unincorporated Palm Beach County enjoy a 10% premium discount.

In CRS communities, flood insurance premium rates are discounted to reflect the reduced flood risk resulting from the community's efforts that address the three goals of the program:

- 1) Reduce and avoid flood damage to insurable property
- 2) Strengthen and support the insurance aspects of the National Flood Insurance Program
- 3) Foster comprehensive floodplain management

LMS and CRS Interconnectivity

In most cases, doing a thorough job of mitigation planning will result in more credit under Activity 510 of CRS (Floodplain Management Planning). As of May 2018, 99 percent of CRS communities also have a local hazard mitigation plan (LHMP). Communities can integrate mitigation planning and CRS planning to produce more effective local flood mitigation actions and to meet the criteria of both FEMA programs more efficiently. There is one overarching difference between LHMP and CRS requirements: LMS/LHMP elements are either met or not met, whereas CRS steps are points-based. Many CRS steps have minimum criteria, but a community earns more points for additional activities. - While CRS requirements are points-based, note that the planning process must address all 10 CRS steps at a minimum level; completely omitting one of the CRS steps could result in no CRS credit or credit capped at 50 points.

PBC LMS Website link: <https://discover.pbcgov.org/publicsafety/dem/Sections/Planning-Local-Mitigation-Strategy.aspx>

State of Florida LMS Website link: <https://www.floridadisaster.org/dem/mitigation/local-mitigation-strategy/>

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Website link: <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/risk-management/hazard-mitigation-planning>

Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Prioritized Project List (PPL)

Each year, the LMS provides two (2) opportunities to submit projects for the PPL. The LMS Steering Committee, upon recommendation of the LMS Evaluation Panel, will approve a single, ranked, prioritized project list, which is one of the ultimate goals of the LMS effort. In order to remain eligible to submit projects, each local government or agency must remain in good standing with the LMS, which includes adopting and continuing to follow Palm Beach County's (PBC) LMS participation rules. All LMS stakeholders have an opportunity to submit new projects to be scored and ranked on the PBC LMS PPL.

The Spring 2023 PPL, approved by the LMS Steering Committee on May 25, 2023, includes:

- 21 new projects equaling \$83,752,983
- 106 total projects equaling \$386,787,283

The entire Spring 2023 PPL can be viewed on the PBC LMS page:

<https://discover.pbcgov.org/publicsafety/dem/Sections/Planning-Local-Mitigation-Strategy.aspx>

Hurricane Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

HMGP Subapplication Development Technical Assistance is still available for potential subapplicants that have not hired a contractor to assist with subapplication development.

The Florida Division of Emergency Management Bureau of Mitigation is offering technical assistance with the development of subapplications for DR-4673 Hurricane Ian and DR-4680 Hurricane Nicole,

Technical assistance will include assistance with completing subapplications and gathering supporting documentation for Benefit-Cost Analyses, Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) requirements, and other requirements. This assistance will be offered at no cost to potential subapplicants (upon request via the survey below) and will be onsite at a preferred location or virtual. After completion of this survey, FDEM Mitigation staff will reach out to the point of contact provided to learn about specific needs and begin scheduling assistance. The deadline to request technical assistance for DR-4673 Hurricane Ian is close of business on August 4, 2023.

- DR-4673 Hurricane Ian HMGP subapplications are due to FDEM by August 29, 2023. Deadline to request technical assistance via the survey is August 4, 2023.
- DR-4680 Hurricane Nicole HMGP subapplications are due to FDEM by October 20, 2023. The deadline to request technical assistance via the survey has not yet been established.

More information can be found at the FDEM <https://www.floridadisaster.org/dem/mitigation/hazard-mitigation-grant-program/>



FLORIDA RESILIENT PROGRAM

The Florida Resilient Program enhances efforts that protect inland waterways, coastlines, and shores that serve as invaluable natural defenses against sea level rise. By providing grants and education, investments in the county’s communities for the impacts of sea level rise, intensified storms and flooding.

Special topics associated with the Resilient Florida Program

- Sea Level Impact Projection (SLIP) Study
- Living Shorelines
- Florida Flood Hub for Applied Research and Innovation
- Statewide Assessment

Palm Beach County Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Project Funding Requests

<u>Year Requested</u>	<u>Municipalities / Agencies</u>	<u>Total Requested</u>	<u>Number of Projects</u>
2022—2023	4	\$27,858,000	11
2023—2024	4	\$3,807,364	4

For more information, follow:
<https://floridadep.gov/Resilient Florida>



PBC LMS Revisions

Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management is requesting public input on the current LMS which can be found at:

<https://discover.pbcgov.org/publicsafety/dem/Sections/Planning-Local-Mitigation-Strategy.aspx>

Email any comments to: PBC-LMS@pbcgov.org

The first draft will be posted on the LMS website in early September. A Public Forum for input has been scheduled for:

September 13, 2023 @ 6:00 pm
 PBC EOC—Operations Room
 20 S Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL 33415

For more information, contact:
 Jerri L. Clairday at (561) 712-6481 or
JClairday@pbcgov.org

King Tides 2023

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), a King Tide is a non-scientific term people often use to describe exceptionally high tides. Tides are long-period waves that roll around the planet as the ocean is "pulled" back and forth by the gravitational pull of the moon and the sun as these bodies interact with the Earth in their monthly and yearly orbits.

Days when Palm Beach County can expect the highest tides in 2023 are:

- September 29—October 2
- October 27—31
- November 26

KNOW YOUR ZONE!!

Do you live near the coast, poor drainage areas, or sheet flow? Access Palm Beach County’s *Flood Zone Look-up Tool* to determine if your address could be adversely affected by the King Tides.

<https://discover.pbcgov.org/publicsafety/dem/pages/know-your-zone.aspx>

Request for LMS Times Articles

We want to celebrate your mitigation efforts that keep Palm Beach County safe and beautiful. We are requesting community input for publication in the LMS Times quarterly newsletter. Has your community implemented or completed a mitigation project? If so, please submit a narrative of approximately 500 words along with high resolution photos to:

Jerri L. Clairday, LMS/CRS Coordinator
JClairday@pbcgov.org