



Local Implementation On Other Disasters & Other Best Practices



Lesson Learned: Baton Rouge

- In 2016, East Baton Rouge Parish and surrounding areas experienced catastrophic flooding resulting in thousands of homes being significantly flooded.
- A 2020 FEMA NFIP audit found that East Baton Rouge Parish and their municipalities did not conduct a thorough substantial damage assessment process and over 1,200+ homeowners were permitted to repair their substantially damaged homes back to pre-disaster condition without elevating their homes and/or making other building code required improvements.
- Local officials pushed back on FEMA seeking assistance from their legislative representatives to identify mechanisms to waive requirements or provide funding to assist homeowners to become compliant.
- 4 years after the disaster, the local governments issued substantial damage letters informing residents they were not permitted to make any additional changes to their residences until the properties were brought into compliance with current building code.
- Unfortunately, most disaster dollars had been committed or expended.
 - Louisiana provided some assistance utilizing regular annual Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

Panama City – Hurricane Michael



- Panama City and Bay County were catastrophically damaged by Hurricane Michael in October 2018. Over 90% of homes were damaged and 60% percent were considered significantly damaged or destroyed.
- The City of Panama City requested assistance from FDEM to conducting substantial damage assessments.
 - FEMA provided the necessary inspectors to complete the substantial damage assessments and provided the data to the local floodplain managers and building officials to issue letters notifying homeowners that their properties were likely substantially damaged and the process to follow.
- Simultaneously, the City and County officials successfully advocated for the Florida legislature to make a special allocation of \$42 million to the State Housing Initiative Program (SHIP) and Hurricane Housing Recovery Program (HHRP) to Bay County.
 - The City and the County collaborated to create the “RehouseBay” program which provided home repair and replacement assistance, rental assistance, first time homebuyer assistance, and funding to develop new low to moderate income housing.

Palm Beach County Best Practice Pre-Disaster Planning



PBC Emergency Management took the lead to develop training on 1206 to educate the other departments within the County on the following topics:

- 1206 activities that are eligible for reimbursement;
- Review of PBC relevant policies;
- Steps that should be taken prior to a disaster to track eligible costs and maximize the work that can be done within the 180-day period.



Best Practices Implemented



- Dedicated project manager activated to EOC with the authority to bring together and task Floodplain Management, Permitting, Code Enforcement, External Affairs, Procurement/Finance, Housing/Community Development, and HR/Recruiting.
 - Dedicated individuals from these departments that are activated post disaster.
- Surge staffing strategies:
 - Standby contracts for surge staffing: substantial damage inspections, permitting, code enforcement, project management.
 - Position descriptions for temporary hires and clear temporary hiring process.
- Established reporting requirements for project manager(s) for Senior Leadership visibility.
- Establish messaging for different stakeholders' pre-storm:
 - Public – social media, canned language for traditional media, jurisdiction's website.
 - Jurisdiction leadership.
 - Elected officials.
- Training and position assists.
- Discuss how funding can be reprogrammed for immediate housing programs.



Minute Break