



State of Florida

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Section 2 Planning Process

Planning Process

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2.1 Documentation of the Planning Process

44 CFR 201.4(c)(1) - The plan must contain a description of the planning process used to develop the plan, including how it was prepared, who was involved in the process and how other agencies participated.

The State Emergency Management Act, Chapter 252 Florida Statutes, designates the Florida Division of Emergency Management (DEM) as the State Coordinating Agency for statewide emergency management activities with the responsibility to create and maintain a comprehensive statewide program of emergency management in coordination with the federal government, other state agencies, units of local government and private sector agencies with a role in emergency management. Under Chapter 252 F.S., the statewide emergency management program must ensure that the state can adequately prepare for, respond to, recover from and **mitigate** all hazards to which the state is vulnerable.

To assist the division in this role, Chapter 252.365 requires each executive department, as well as the executive directors of the seven water management districts and other related agencies to designate a person to serve as the agency's Emergency Coordinating Officer (ECO). The ECO is responsible for coordinating with the division on all emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities.

One of the key elements of the statewide mitigation program is the State Hazard Mitigation Plan. DEM as the State Coordinating Agency is responsible for developing and coordinating the efforts of maintaining the State Hazard Mitigation Plan. To further assist in the development and implementation of the Mitigation Plan, the DEM Director has encouraged and invited the ECOs and representatives from other private and public agencies with resources or expertise relevant to mitigation to convene as the State Hazard Mitigation Plan Advisory Team (SHMPAT). This statewide approach to mitigation planning ensures that the state mitigation plan reflects the opinions and viewpoints of a wide ranging state audience.

The State of Florida created an official State Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2004 to comply with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA2000). As required by 44 CFR the existing 2004 plan was revised and updated in 2007 by the SHMPAT. Included within this section are the combined processes and steps which were conducted in response to the initial requirements of DMA2000 as well as to address the requirements of the revision as stated in 44 CFR.

Narrative Description of Plan Preparation

The preparation of the updated 2007 State Hazard Mitigation Plan was a collaborative effort. This Planning Process section describes in detail the process of how this updated plan was prepared; however the following items provide a high-level executive description of this preparation process.

- 2004 State Hazard Mitigation Plan - The updated 2007 plan was developed from the existing state plan. This 2004 plan was used as the base and new information was added as necessary to reflect the conditions over the three-year period.
- Plan Sections - The existing 2004 plan was divided into distinct sections that could be reviewed and updated by the SHMPAT and the other participating organizations. The distinct sections are as follows:
 - Public Process
 - Hazard Identification and Profiling
 - Vulnerability Analysis and Estimated Losses by Jurisdiction
 - Vulnerability Analysis and Estimated Losses for State Facilities
 - Mitigation Goals and Objective
 - Mitigation Action Items and Prioritization
 - Statewide Capability Assessment including Local Government Capabilities
 - Plan Maintenance and Updating Procedures
- SHMPAT Participation – The State Hazard Mitigation Plan Advisory Team and the related committees were reconvened and re-organized to act as the lead for this plan update process. Each participating organization was solicited for new and updated data related to hazards, vulnerabilities and mitigation strategies.
 - Existing and new programs and activities
 - Existing and new policies, legislation, and regulations
 - Specific details about priority hazards including geographic extent, magnitude and future probability
 - Specific details about the organization’s vulnerability to each priority hazard
- Planning Process – This updated plan was developed with significant input and effort from a large number of individuals. This process has been on-going for the past three years, however a six-month period in 2007 marked the primary planning agenda.
 - SHMPAT meetings
 - Interviews and meetings with state agencies
 - Interviews and meetings with federal organizations involved in this effort
 - Publicly advertised meetings allowing the general public to review and comment on the plan updates

- Committee interaction to develop the plan and make strategic decisions
 - Submission to FEMA and the subsequent review and approval process
- Plan Development – Using all the data and information from DEM, other state agencies, federal organizations and companies and non-profit organizations from the private sector, the SHMPAT developed the actual written plan.
 - Reviews and collation of all relevant and necessary information
 - Plan writing and editing
 - Release of draft versions for comments and feedback
 - Plan finalization for submission to FEMA
- FEMA Review – As sections of the plan were finalized, these were sent to FEMA for official review and comments. As this feedback was received the SHMPAT continued to modify and update the plan in order to meet the requirements and recommendations from FEMA.
- Review of Plan Maintenance Procedures – The SHMPAT developed a detailed procedure for monitoring this plan and continuing the overall planning process.

Involvement in the Planning Process

The development of the original 2004 plan and the 2007 revision was completed with the assistance of a number of individuals and organizations throughout the State of Florida. The following sections describe who was involved in this overall process and specifically in the 2007 plan revision process. It also describes how other state, federal and private agencies and organizations participated. The public was also invited to participate in order to provide feedback and comments about the plan.

Further details about agency participation are also provided in the subsequent sections throughout this plan.

- Coordination among agencies
- Program integration
- State mitigation goals and objectives
- State capability assessment
- Local capability assessment

State Hazard Mitigation Plan Advisory Team (SHMPAT)

The SHMPAT is the primary organization involved in the 2007 revision planning process. The members of this council were all personally involved in the planning process as well as a number of individuals and organizations from around the state

and from the federal government. Details about the SHMPAT and planning process are provided in this section.

The SHMPAT is chaired by the State Hazard Mitigation Officer and represents a collaborative effort from a number of state, federal and regional agencies, local governments, the private sector and the general public. The SHMPAT is similar in function to the county Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Working Groups described in Section 5.2. The primary function of the SHMPAT is to assist the division with the development, implementation and maintenance of the State Mitigation Plan, and maximize the leveraging potential of all state mitigation related resources.

Membership includes state agencies through their ECOs, representatives from the Regional Planning Councils, the Florida League of Cities, the Florida Association of Counties, Water Management Districts, Local Mitigation Strategy Working Groups, private non-profit groups (PNPs) such as the Red Cross, Florida Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH), the Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association, federal agencies and the education community. To enhance agency participation, the ECOs from state agencies with significant mitigation related activities were requested to designate an Agency Mitigation Coordinator familiar with agency mitigation activities to support the ECO's participation. The designated Coordinator provides the division linkage to the agency for mitigation related activities and attends SHMPAT meetings either with or in place of the ECO. A detailed list of agencies and organizations that assisted in the planning process and a discussion of their participation are provided in Section 2.2.

Additionally, as the SHMPAT continues to evolve it will:

- Coordinate the development of state mitigation goals and objectives;
- Conduct a comprehensive state agency mitigation capability analysis;
- Identify and disseminate a comprehensive list of funding sources;
- Coordinate the development of statewide mitigation projects;
- Advise on the development of post-disaster Mitigation Assessment;
- Reports and documentation;
- Evaluate risk assessments;
- Identify mitigation opportunities;
- Document mitigation success stories;
- Foster and promote the integration of hazard mitigation principles and practices into local and state government policies and programs;
- Assist in development, maintenance and implementation of guidance and informational materials to support hazard mitigation efforts of local and state government, and private entities; and
- Advise on ways and assist with marketing mitigation principles, practices and funding sources to the general public.

Although the SHMPAT is **not** a legislatively constituted body with authority to set or enforce mitigation policy, it may examine the policies and program goals of multiple agencies and provide recommendations to the Director of the Division of Emergency Management regarding his duty to reduce or eliminate the state's vulnerability and risk to hazards as established in Chapter 252, Florida Statutes. The director, in turn, provides recommendations to the governor, the legislature, building code organizations, the public, and related interests on mitigation measures designed to reduce vulnerability and risk. Individual agencies remain responsible for implementing their specific programs; however, the SHMPAT is tasked, on an ongoing basis, to identify areas of mission overlap and make recommendations for coordinated actions that would advance the policies and program goals of identified agencies, and result in synergistic benefits for the public.

In 2004, The SHMPAT established four functional committees.

- The Steering Committee
- The Hazards Analysis Committee
- The Policy Evaluation Committee
- The Mitigation Prioritization Committee

As part of the 2007 revision process, the SHMPAT reviewed the consistency and purposes of these committees. Each member of the SHMPAT was asked to select a committee that best represented their agency's interests, and was asked to look for areas of mutual concern. As part of the on-going effort related to this plan, the SHMPAT members identified these mutual concerns and this become the basis for forming partnerships and leveraging state resources by integrating activities. To facilitate this, the Agency Mitigation Coordinators were encouraged to serve on more than one committee. A division staff person will continue to serve as a member and provide staff support to each of the committees.

SHMPAT Members

The SHMPAT members are the primary group of individuals involved in the 2004 and the 2007 plan revisions. Each of these individuals officially represented their agency, department or organization and provided feedback, comments, ideas and data to this overall plan development process. Along with the members of the SHMPAT, other individuals and organizations supported this effort with data, time and strategic input. The following departments and organizations were invited to support this mitigation planning effort. These organizations make up the core of the SHMPAT.

Office of the Governor
Florida Division of Emergency Management
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Florida Department of State
Department of Management Services
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Florida Department of Health
Florida Department of Transportation
Department of Community Affairs
Florida Department of Financial Services
Florida Department of Education
Department of Business and Professional Regulation
South Florida Water Management District
Florida State University
University of Florida
Florida International University
West Florida Regional Planning Council
Apalachee Florida Regional Planning Council
North Central Florida Regional Planning Council
Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council
Withlacoochee Florida Regional Planning Council
Central Florida Regional Planning Council
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council
Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council
Federal Alliance for Safe Homes
Florida Emergency Preparedness Association
Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association
American Red Cross Capital Area Chapter
Florida Home Builders Association
Florida League of Cities, Inc.
Florida Association of Counties
Florida Interfaith Networking in Disaster
Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (Volunteer FL)
South Florida Regional Planning Council
Department of Homeland Security
United States Geological Survey
Federal Department of Transportation
NOAA

Along with the primary state departments, a number of other organizations have participated and have been involved in this planning effort.

- Other State Departments and Agencies
- State Universities
- Federal Agencies and Departments
- Local Government Representatives

- Non-Profit Organizations
- Private Sector Partners

A complete listing of the individuals and organizations participating on the SHMPAT is included in the SHMPAT Appendix.

SHMPAT Support Team

The division staff and designated mitigation planning consultants serve as the technical support staff to the SHMPAT and are responsible for organizing and completing the narrative portion as well as drafting any reports or recommendations as provided by SHMPAT. The State Hazard Mitigation Officer appoints a lead staff person to coordinate the activities of the support team. The primary responsibilities of the support team will include:

- Facilitating meetings;
- Research of key mitigation issues;
- Data collection, analysis and presentation;
- Preparing draft narrative reports; and
- Revising draft narrative reports based on SHMPAT comments.

2007 SHMPAT Support Team Members

The following are identified support team members serving the SHMPAT during the 2007 revision process:

Shirley Collins
Marybeth Groff
Harold Joyner
Joe Myers
Chad Bowers
Peter Hodes
Fulton Wold

At least two weeks prior to each meeting, the support team will provide meeting discussion materials to the SHMPAT members via email invitations and public notices posted at DEM's website, www.FloridaDisaster.org.

Documentation of the Plan Review and Analysis Process

The following sections discuss the process that the SHMPAT instituted in order to review, analyze and update the State Hazard Mitigation Plan. Each section of the plan was considered separately and as an integral portion of the whole document.

The basic process from the 2004 original plan development was used as the basis for the 2007 revision process. However the 2007 process improved on the older methodology and these details are provided below.

2004 Mitigation Planning Process

The most important step in the development of any hazard mitigation plan is the documentation of the planning process. This provides an overview of the rationale used by the planning team to recommend specific mitigation actions to be undertaken. The planning process utilized by the SHMPAT is as follows:

Step 1 - Organize Resources

Step 2 - Develop Goals and Objectives

Step 3 - Review and Analyze Hazards and Risk

Step 4 - Identify and Analyze Existing Resources

Step 5 - Identify and Privatize Mitigation Alternatives

Step 6 - Develop Plan Maintenance Strategy

Step 7 - Obtain Plan Approval

The planning process is theoretically linear but in practice, becomes a series of iterations as the planners grapple with designing a system to accommodate a pre-existing and exceedingly broad-based mitigation process. As existing programs are identified and new program ideas and recommendations generated, the goals, objectives and policies must be re-evaluated for sufficient breadth and direction to accommodate the new information. The following is an overview of the planning process employed by the State of Florida:

1. Organize the Planning Team

The initial work of the support team involved identifying potential members, mailing out invitations and conducting follow-up telephone contacts to set up the SHMPAT organizational meeting. The invitees represented a variety of federal, state and local governments as well as the private sector and related non-profit agencies and the education community. The key presentation at the organizational meeting included an overview of the state's existing mitigation strategy and the potential impacts of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 on this strategy. This was followed by a presentation on the justification and organizational framework for the development of the SHMPAT. The attendees were provided an Agency Capability questionnaire, which was designed to

provide a measure of the agency's current plans and programs that may have a direct relationship toward reducing risk in the State of Florida. The support team developed a web page dedicated to the State Mitigation Plan to allow SHMPAT members to keep up to date on the development of the State Hazard Mitigation Plan.

2. Development of draft goals and objectives

Next followed a series of SHMPAT meetings devoted to visioning as a prelude to setting goals and objectives. Staff from the Division of Community Planning moderated these visioning sessions with assistance from the Division of Housing and Community Development. As the state office responsible for comprehensive planning, Community Planning has staff with vast experience in working with diverse groups to identify common goals and objectives and regularly conduct similar visioning exercises for communities around the state. In the first visioning meeting, SHMPAT members were provided with a set of mitigation categories developed by the support team as an aid in categorizing proposed mitigation activities. The categories covered broad operational categories, such as education and training, coordination between state agencies, coordination with local governments and the private sector and technical assistance. SHMPAT members were divided into two moderated groups and asked to identify problems and potential solutions under each category based on their experience. The support team then used the results to rough out a series of goals and objectives, which were presented to the SHMPAT at the next meeting and further refined to their current form over the next two meetings.

3. Review and analysis of hazards and risk

The support team, in coordination with a planning and engineering firm, worked on revising the natural hazards section of the statewide Hazards Vulnerability and Risk Assessment that was part of the state's 409 Plan. The consultant, using historical data and the HAZUS-MH loss-estimation model, completed the lion's share of this work on the natural hazards analysis. A detail discussion of HAZUS-MH is provided in the Hazards and Risk Assessment section of this document. The consultant also reviewed the risk analyses found in the Local Mitigation Strategies (LMS) and the results were incorporated into the State Plan where appropriate. The State Facilities portion of the plan is being initiated by the consultant who is charged with identifying state facilities (both critical and non-critical) that are located in zones vulnerable to natural hazards. A copy of the draft Hazards Vulnerability and Risk Assessment was provided to each SHMPAT member and the consultant made a presentation at the May 21, 2003 meeting on the methodology used to develop the study. The SHMPAT was given the opportunity to discuss the study and several recommendations were made and incorporated. A Hazards Vulnerability and Risk Assessment group was formed to conduct a more detailed review of study and report its findings to SHMPAT. Also, at the May 21-22 SHMPAT meeting, a working group was formed to develop the

manmade hazards report to be incorporated into the draft Hazards Vulnerability and Risk Assessment.

4. Identification and analysis of existing resources

Step 4 of the planning process involves identifying existing state capability to implement a statewide comprehensive mitigation program. This will include a discussion of key state, federal and non-governmental partnerships that are integral to the implementation to mitigation programs in Florida. Mitigation, however, has proven to be a difficult concept to fully explain to SHMPAT members who have a strong bias toward the traditional response and recovery programs. To ensure that this process is as comprehensive as possible, the SHMPAT members were asked to assist the support team by providing documentation of existing agency capabilities and resources. The support team developed and provided to each state agency and those non-governmental agencies that attended the initial SHMPAT meeting, a questionnaire requesting a list of their programs, plans and/or policies that relate to mitigation. Subsequently, the questionnaire was provided to all state agencies whether or not they attended and participated in the SHMPAT meetings. This effort has the following objectives:

- To identify all agency programs that have a mitigation element so we can fulfill our role as coordinator;
- To identify agency programs that should have a mitigation component but do not so we can work with that program to include mitigation;
- To identify agency policies that have an impact on mitigation in order to revise policies with negative impacts and better support policies with positive impacts by including them in the state plan.

The response to the initial questionnaire was less than satisfactory. Therefore, for those agencies that did not respond to the questionnaire or chose to not participate in the SHMPAT, support staff provided a follow up letter to the agency head offering assistance in completing the questionnaire, as well as offering to visit the agency to discuss a request for information. After exhausting this request for information from non-responsive state agencies, support staff reviewed the agencies' websites to obtain information for inclusion in the initial draft of the State Capability Assessment Report.

The initial draft of the State Capability Assessment Report, which included limited data of each state agency, was provided to the SHMPAT on May 21-22, 2003 for review and approval. The SHMPAT was asked for recommendations for inclusion or deletion of agencies and/or programs highlighted in the report. Because of the absence of many of the key state agencies, this proved to be a difficult process; therefore, staff was directed to revise the draft report to identify the traditional key

state agencies having a track record of working with the state mitigation staff as part of the State Emergency Response Team. These agencies include the state Departments of Community Affairs, Environmental Protection, Transportation, Health, State, Management Services and Agriculture and Consumer Services. The report also includes a discussion of key federal agencies, which include Department of Homeland Security-Federal Emergency Management Agency, Army Corp of Engineers, National Weather Service and Natural Resource Conservation Service. The principle FEMA related mitigation programs administered by the state include the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA), the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), Hurricane Planning and the State Dam Safety Program. In addition, the division administers the Public Assistance (PA) Program, and the state Emergency Management Project Assistance (EMPA) Grant Program. Lastly, a discussion of key non-governmental partners is provided. These organizations, at a minimum, will include the State University System, Federal Alliance for Safe Homes, American Red Cross, Florida Inter-Faith and the Florida Home Builders. Each of these organizations was asked to review their respective agency write up for completeness and identify any additional agency mitigation related opportunities. Upon final review and approval, the State Capability Report will be added to the draft plan.

5. Identification and prioritization of mitigation actions

Next, the SHMPAT was provided an overview of potential mitigation alternatives to address the hazards and risk detailed in the hazard vulnerability and risk assessment report and the state capability report. The SHMPAT was asked to review the goals and objectives, risk assessment and agency capability report to identify potential mitigation initiatives or projects. For each project identified, a list of potential funding sources is provided. The SHMPAT will begin working on developing criteria for prioritization and ranking of potential mitigation projects. These criteria should be directly related to the goals and objectives, and risk assessment identified in the plan. Sub committees will be developed for each goal and objective and tasked to develop this list of potential projects and any associated ranking criteria for their projects.

6. Development of plan maintenance strategy

SHMPAT worked on developing a strategy for plan maintenance that includes implementation, monitoring and updating. The support team will develop a draft plan maintenance strategy to be presented to the full SHMPAT for recommendations and/or final approval.

7. Plan approval

Once the plan receives SHMPAT approval it will be forwarded to FEMA for review and comment. Only after FEMA's comments have been satisfactorily addressed will the plan be submitted to the relevant agency secretaries and the governor for approval.

2004-2007 Plan Maintenance

The original State Hazard Mitigation Plan developed in 2004, provided details and procedures for the routine and on-going maintenance and update of the plan.

- The DEM Mitigation staff was required to monitor and review the progress on implementing the actions and projects identified in the state plan every six months.
- Semi-annually each SHMPAT member was required to submit a progress report on tasks assigned.
- The mitigation staff was required to review and evaluate the reports to determine if assigned tasks are on target and recommend actions needed to assure completion of related activities.
- The mitigation staff was required to hold periodic SHMPAT meetings and provide progress reports.

The 2004 plan also included a procedure for formally updating the plan.

- Annual Review - The plan will be reviewed and updated to gauge the progress as well as assess any changing conditions in the state that may affect mitigation activities and project implementation in Florida. New or better data obtained from reviews and updates of Local Mitigation Strategies will be evaluated and incorporated into revisions of the state plan.
- Three Year Review - Every three years, the State Hazard Mitigation Officer in coordination with the SHMPAT will review and revise the State Mitigation Plan prior to submittal to FEMA for final approval.
- Post-Disaster Review - After each major presidentially declared disaster event, the State Hazard Mitigation Officer will convene the SHMPAT to review the impacts of the event against the state's overall mitigation strategy.

2004-2005 Hurricane Seasons

During 2004 and 2005, the State of Florida was seriously impacted during hurricane season. The results of these storms seriously taxed the available resources of the state and particularly the Division of Emergency Management. The division focused on the overall recovery of the state and mitigation efforts were subjugated to these immediate requirements. The 24-month disruption caused by the hurricanes had a large effect on the state's maintenance process and the requirements for annual updates and post-disaster updates. Members of the SHMPAT met irregularly during this period and data was collected about the hurricanes to be used for the upcoming 2007 FEMA review.

2007 Hazard Mitigation Revision Planning Process

The State of Florida Hazard Mitigation Plan is a product in constant development and has been created by thousands of hours of work contributed by the efforts of people from a wide range of organizations. The plan builds upon a number of mitigation planning initiatives and principles, and the plan and its contents have been revised based on the foundation of the State Hazard Mitigation Plan published in August of 2004. The SHMPAT is currently tasked with updating the 2004 plan to meet the 44 CFR revision requirements.

This section provides an overview and explanation of the continued steps that the SHMPAT has taken to proceed with the revision process. The fundamentals of the planning process in the development of the 2007 revision were based on the process and successes of the 2004 planning effort.

As required, the SHMPAT met three (3) times in 2007 over a period from April 2007 to June 2007 and future meetings and schedules are being developed to ensure that the SHMPAT continues to meet every six months at a minimum going forward. A complete list of members, meeting dates and meeting minutes is contained on the following pages.

Public Participation and Public Documentation

The SHMPAT shares the belief that the state mitigation plan should be developed by a group consisting of representatives from a wide range of areas including the open public. Because of these beliefs, the primary website for DEM, www.FloridaDisaster.org, has been identified as the primary location for posting public information, updates, and announcements regarding SHMPAT meetings, agendas, and the overall planning process. The Internet is a viable approach to providing information in a timely and cost effective manner to the masses.

SHMPAT meetings are posted online at the website and are open to the public for review and comments. Contact information to SHMPAT representatives is provided including phone numbers and email. As planning events continue to progress with SHMPAT, progress can be monitored and reviewed online, including meeting presentations, meeting minutes, changes or updates made to the plan, and final approved versions of the plan. The most current state mitigation plan version available online at this time is the approved plan of 2004. A process to update the 2004 version is currently underway and versions of the revised plan will be provided on the website for public comment. To further encourage review and feedback, the SHMPAT issues public notices requesting input from the public at large by letter, email or directly through attendance at public SHMPAT meetings.

The SHMPAT is committed to allowing the public the opportunity to review the revised 2007 plan and provide comments and feedback regarding the hazards, the vulnerabilities and the current mitigation strategies. In order to provide these

opportunities, the SHMPAT held two open meetings and invited the public to attend, review the plan and provide feedback. These meetings were advertised to the public through the following channels.

- Newspaper advertisements
- Email lists of interested citizens
- Postings on the DEM website

The specific dates of the meetings along with agendas, meeting minutes, sign in sheets and public comments are collated in the SHMPAT Appendix. All public comments were collected and the relevant information has been incorporated into this current version of this plan.

SHMPAT Recommendations for the Future

The SHMPAT has recognized during the process of the 2007 revision the importance of maintaining and updating the plan consistently over time. Members of the SHMPAT have brought forth recommendations that include conducting meetings on a more consistent basis. The members have elected to meet every six months at a minimum to discuss matters and contents of the mitigation plan. In addition, the members have also noted specific times of the year that are both favorable and unfavorable for conducting meetings.

Members of the SHMPAT have decided to conduct a semi-annual meeting just prior to the state's legislative session. Conducting a meeting within this timeframe would allow the SHMPAT to review the current strategies contained within the state mitigation plan and to provide specific recommendations and strategic directions toward future issues of legislation during the legislative session. Times of the year that have been deemed unacceptable are the months between June and September during hurricane season.

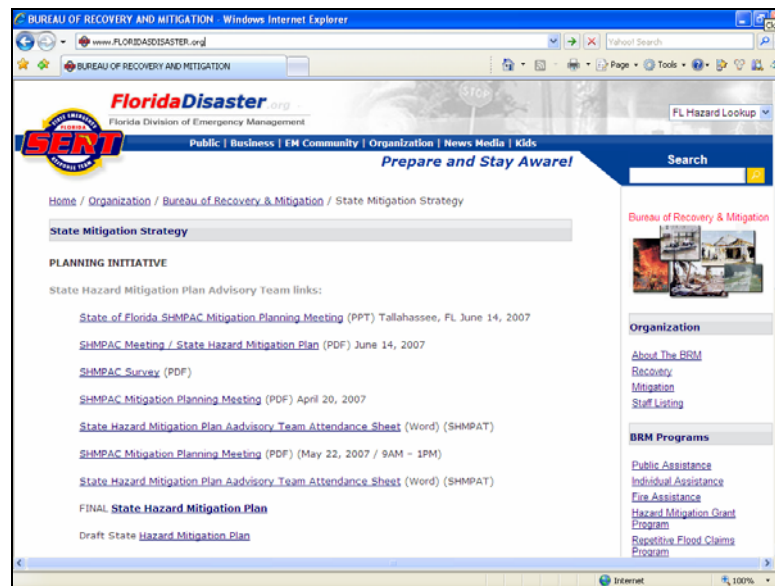
The SHMPAT has also decided that going forward, the state mitigation plan and its contents will be revised on a more consistent basis following the occurrence of SHMPAT meetings to help better prepare for and meet the requirements of the plans revision every three years. A lesson from the process of this past 2007 revision is that the mitigation plan and its contents are a necessary piece of the overall state strategy and that updating the plan in a consistent and ongoing manner will eliminate the need to conduct emergency meetings in 2010 for the next required review and revision.

The SHMPAT has again recognized the importance of including a wide range of participating organizations in the ongoing planning process. Having a diverse group of members will ensure that the planning process is conducted in a way that is designed to meet the mitigation strategy of a diversified and complex state. Recommendations have been made by the SHMPAT to broaden the current list of organizations invited to attend. Members have also been encouraged to continue to

provide recommendations of additional organizations that could participate and improve the planning process.

Outreach Efforts/Public Participation

The SHMPAT has also recognized that because of demanding schedules and other commitments, there are times in which members cannot be in attendance. To address these concerns, the SHMPAT has designated www.FloridaDisaster.org as the online clearing-house for information pertaining to the state hazard mitigation plan. Members of the SHMPAT and the public are now informed that any discussions or topics that the SHMPAT is pursuing can be retrieved electronically for review and comments as needed. These measures will ensure that members, irregular members, or the general public will be provided with the status of ongoing developments within the SHMPAT.



FloridaDisaster.org State Hazard Mitigation Page

Planning Process in 2007

The State Mitigation Officer in coordination with the SHMPAT organized the 2007 planning effort. The current SHMPAT was formed largely from the existing 2004 SHMPAT, which assisted in the development of the DMA 2000 compliant State Hazard Mitigation Plan approved by FEMA in August of 2004.

Specific objectives of the SHMPAT during the 2007 revision process include:

1. Performance of statewide risk assessments for the purpose of identifying hazards and their potential for damage and impact.

2. Establishment of vulnerability in terms of jurisdictions most threatened by the identified hazards, and an overview of potential losses based on assessments provided by local governments.
3. Development of a mitigation strategy that provides an identification, evaluation, and prioritization of cost-effective, environmentally sound and technically feasible mitigation actions for reducing the losses associated with each identified hazard.
4. Development of criteria for prioritizing local jurisdictions that would receive planning and project grants under available funding.
5. Identification of current and potential sources of federal, state, local, and private funding.
6. Technical assistance on sound mitigation techniques and policy.
7. Providing a method for monitoring, evaluating, and updating the State Mitigation Plan.
8. Evaluation and improvement of state laws, regulations, policies, and programs related to mitigation activities in the state.
9. Review and analyze new data as applicable for incorporation into state mitigation planning process.

The SHMPAT has followed a pre-determined process for the preparation of this 2007 Hazard Mitigation Plan revision. The process has consisted of five major elements:

- Reorganization of the Planning Process – The State Hazard Mitigation Officer and DEM established a priority to re-organize and energize the involvement of the SHMPAT and the planning process to update the State Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2007; including the process of inviting attendees, formalizing SHMPAT meeting requirements, and coordinating the initial planning elements.
- Research and Data Collection – The SHMPAT gathered all relevant, existing data from various sources including current plans, databases, the Internet, state and federal resources and interviews with team members.
- Data Collation and Plan Writing – After the initial data collection phase, all the documents and notes were fully analyzed and related information was collated. Using all of this information, the initial drafts of the plan were written and submitted to the SHMPAT for formal consideration, approval and promulgation.
- Review and Comments – The section drafts were finished, and subsequently offered for review by the individual members of the SHMPAT and as a group at team meetings. All comments and ideas were then incorporated into this

finalized edition. As review comments were delivered, these requested revisions were considered and added to the plan.

- Finalization, Adoption and Delivery – After incorporating all the revisions based on feedback from the planning team and the public, the final plan will be approved by the State of Florida.

2007 Revisions and Updates to the Plan Sections

The SHMPAT has reviewed and updated all sections of this State Hazard Mitigation Plan. Each of the sections below was revised with new data during the 2007 update process. The new and updated information is included in each section when applicable. The following sections were revised in 2007:

- Planning Process
- Hazard Identification and Profiles
- Vulnerability and Estimated Losses by Jurisdictions
- Vulnerability and Estimated Losses for State Facilities
- Mitigation Goals and Objectives
- Mitigations Strategies
- State Capability Assessment
- Local Planning Data Integration
- Plan Maintenance

2.2 Coordination Among Agency Mitigation Programs

44 CFR 201.4(b) - The Plan must contain a discussion of how the planning process was coordinated with state agencies and appropriate federal agencies and interested groups.

The Florida Division of Emergency Management is unique in that the governor and legislature have designated it, as the lead state-coordinating agency for emergency management-related issues. The division continues to strive to keep the state's citizen safe, our water and air pure, our beaches pristine, our housing safe and affordable, our vulnerable coastal areas protected and our growth well planned. As such, many of the programs and activities implemented within the division have both direct and indirect impacts on reducing the state's risk to future disasters. In some cases, the division can be viewed as the Department of Mitigation Planning.

The principle Federal Emergency Management Agency related mitigation programs administered by the state include the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), 406 mitigation under the Public Assistance Program, the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program (PDM), the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program, the State Assistance Office for National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), the Hurricane Planning Program and the Dam Safety Program. The State Assistance Office for the NFIP is also responsible for coordinating a statewide Community Rating System, repetitive loss properties activities and Federal Map Modernization activities. The state does not administer the Earthquake Program, given the state's low vulnerability and risk for earthquake hazards. Each of these programs has adopted a policy that all projects submitted for funding must have accompanying endorsements from Local Mitigation Strategy Mitigation Working Groups. In addition, the division administers the Emergency Management Project Grant (EMPG) Program.

All of the above listed programs have representation on the State Hazard Mitigation Plan Advisory Team (SHMPAT) and the program objectives are reflected in the Goals and Objectives Section of this Plan. A more detailed discussion of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) programs and their administration within the state is provided in the State Capabilities Section.

Coordination with State Agencies

The State Hazard Mitigation Officer has identified key state agencies that have a direct impact on implementing mitigation-related activities throughout the State of Florida. The following agencies were identified as key contributors to implementing mitigation programs and are involved in the planning process:

Department of Community Affairs
Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Department of Environmental Protection
Department of Financial Management
Department of Management Services
Department of State
Department of Transportation
Department of Health
Florida Department of Law Enforcement
Water Management Districts
Regional Planning Council

These agencies represent the core of the governmental agencies that contribute to implementing mitigation activities within the state. However, by no means are they the sole governmental agencies contributing to mitigation. Each of the above listed state agencies was invited to participate as a member of the SHMPAT in 2004 and 2007. These state agencies participated in the 2007 planning process in the following areas:

- Participation in the SHMPAT
- Attending SHMPAT meetings
- Individual interviews about agency specific issues
- Collection of agency specific data about hazards and areas of vulnerability
- Participation in the state's mitigation grant program
- Development and implementation of mitigation projects

Further information about each of the participating agencies from the state government is listed in the following sections of this plan:

- The Risk Assessment
- The Mitigation Strategy
- The Capability Assessment
- The SHMPAT Appendix

Coordination with Federal Agencies

Federal agencies were also involved in the process and provided hazard and vulnerability data. The following federal agencies were invited to participate:

Federal Emergency Management Agency
US Army Corp of Engineers
National Resources Conservation Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Weather Service
National Climatic Data Center
National Hurricane Center
Storm Prediction Center
National Forest Service
US Geological Survey
National Interagency Fire Center
National Safety Council
US Drought Monitor
Red Cross
Small Business Administration

2004 Planning Process

FEMA was an active participant in the process; however, the corp was not able to attend due to the lateness of the state's invitation. The lack of participation by other federal agencies is a result of an oversight on the state's part, by not inviting several key federal agencies to participate in a timely manner. These agencies included the National Resources Conservation Service, National Forest Service, Small Business Administration and the National Weather Service. However, a draft copy of the State Mitigation Plan was provided to each of the above referenced agencies for review and comments. Additionally, a formal letter was provided to each agency requesting their participation in future SHMPAT meetings.

2007 Planning Process

All of the federal agencies above were contacted during the 2007 planning process and data from the agencies was used in the development of the following risk assessment. These agencies were asked to provide data about the following subjects:

- Probability of hazard occurrence
- Historical data about hazard
- Vulnerability and loss estimates for hazard
- Grant funding opportunities

Coordination with Other Agencies

The State Mitigation Plan activities are not limited to state and federal governmental agencies, but involve all levels of government as well as private sector businesses, the education community, non-profit agencies, private sector partners, and the public. Toward that end, the following organizations were invited and have served as members of the SHMPAT and were involved in the development of the State Mitigation Plan (SMP).

Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH)
Florida Interfaith Networking in Disasters (FIND)
Florida League of Cities
Florida Association of Counties
American Red Cross
Florida Chapter-American Planning Association
Florida International University-International Hurricane Center
Florida State University
University of Florida
Florida Emergency Preparedness Association
Florida Floodplain Managers Association

Agency Participation

Each of the above listed organizations actively participated in the SHMPAT planning process in the 2004 and 2007 state mitigation planning process. Specific involvement, attendance, and contribution roles are identified in detail in the SHMPAT Appendix. The Florida Emergency Preparedness Association represented the Local Mitigation Strategy Working Groups during the 2004 process and was invited to contribute to the 2007 revision.

The following is a summary of activities completed by those federal, state, local and other non-governmental organizations that participated in the planning process to develop the state hazard mitigation plan as well as the revised 2007 plan:

A. In 2004, each member (all agencies and organization representatives) was required to participate in a series of visioning sessions conducted by DCA's Division of Community Planning. These were facilitated working sessions designed to assist SHMPAT achieve consensus on the overall direction for the statewide mitigation programs. The results of the visioning sessions are the goals and objectives that are provided in Section 4.1 of this Plan.

B. Each member was required to complete the Mitigation Questionnaire designed to obtain an overview of agency/organization programs, plans and/or policies that relate to mitigation. Several agencies did not participate in the

SHMPAT, either because they chose not to attend the meeting or were not invited to meetings. In those instances, to ensure that the planning process was as comprehensive as possible, DEM mitigation staff contacted those agencies to assist in completing the questionnaire and obtaining other needed documentation for inclusion in the state plan. Staff set up interviews with key agency personnel to obtain information on agency plans, programs and policies. Documentation provided was used to develop draft narrative for State and Local Capability Assessment.

C. The hazard analysis and risk assessment were developed by an engineering and planning consultant with input from the SHMPAT. The primary role of the SHMPAT was to review the draft hazard analysis and risk assessment for consistency. The draft risk assessment was revised twice based upon comments from SHMPAT members.

D. Each member was requested to submit a list of potential mitigation measures (alternatives) that will address reducing the state's risk to hazards. The potential mitigation measures must be consistent with the goals and objectives of the plan. The potential measures must address state owned facilities and related projects that have a statewide impact on hazard reduction. These measures were integrated into the Mitigation Measures in Section 4.4 of the Plan.

E. Each member was asked to assist in obtaining a letter of endorsement for plan adoption from their respective agency or organization.

F. In 2007, each member was asked to submit responses to a revised questionnaire regarding hazards and their impact from their organization's specific view.

G. In 2007, each member was asked to submit an updated list of mitigation measures (alternatives) that would address reducing the state's risk to hazards. The potential mitigation measures must be consistent with the goals and objectives of the plan. The SHMPAT was also asked to submit a list of ongoing or completed mitigation measures with details about each measure including funding source, overview, coordination to existing mitigation objectives, and results.

H. Each team member was asked to respond to questions/requests from the support team in a timely manner to meet demanding timeframes for plan revision.

SHMPAT Planning Process and Participation

The State Hazard Mitigation Plan Advisory Team (SHMPAT) is dedicated to the ongoing development and revision of the State Hazard Mitigation Plan. The SHMPAT is committed to meeting regularly to review the contents of the plan and make necessary revisions going forward. The meetings and events that take place as part of this planning process are documented in the appendix and can be reviewed as required online at www.FloridaDisaster.org.

As part of the 2007 revision process, the SHMPAT has reviewed each section individually. The entire plan has been revised as part of this update process. Within each section, specific references are made that indicate the data that was revised and updated.

During the revision of the 2007 plan, the SHMPAT members met on multiple occasions to discuss and coordinate the changes taking place within the plan. The dates of these meetings include:

- **April 20, 2007**
- **May 15, 2007**
- **May 22, 2007**
- **June 14, 2007**

The discussions and findings of these meeting were the foundation for the plan update and overall planning direction.

Prior to each of the meetings, invitations were provided via email to all SHMPAT members. Members not in attendance were provided with information about the meeting's content via email and were requested to comment as needed. Any methods for gathering information from members, including forms, surveys, or questionnaires were provided to members not in attendance to facilitate their participation in the process.

Documentation provided to the SHMPAT members was posted online upon meeting closure at www.FloridaDisaster.org for public review and response.

The following tables provide a general overview of agencies and organizations that participated in the State Mitigation Plan planning process in 2004. Information related to the participating organizations during the 2007 update process is included in the SHMPAT Appendix.

**State Agencies
2004 Participation (Planning Process)**

Level of Participation	FDACS	FDEP	DFM	FDMS	FDOS	FDOT	FDOH	FDLE	FWMD	FRPC	FDCA
Attended initial meeting	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Attended at least two additional meetings	X	X		X		X	X		X	X	X
Provided agency overview for inclusion in State Capability Section of Plan		X				X			X	X	X
Provided analysis of agency plan, policies and programs		X				X			X		X
Provided comments-oral written on plan narrative		X				X			X		X
Provided general discussion on agency pre- and post-disaster mitigation operations		X				X			X		X
Provided list of mitigation initiatives for inclusion in state plan		X				X			X		X
Obtained letter of endorsement for plan adoption											

**Non-Governmental Organizations
2004 Participation (Planning Process)**

Level of Participation	FLASH	FIND	FLOC	FAOC	ARC	FAPA	FEPA	FIU	FSU
Attended initial meeting	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Attended at least two additional meetings	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	
Provided agency overview for inclusion in State Capability Section of Plan	X	X	X		X	X		X	
Provided analysis of agency plan, policies and programs	X	X	X		X	X		X	
Provided comments-oral written on plan narrative	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Provided general discussion on agency pre- and post-disaster mitigation operations	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	
Provided list of mitigation initiatives for inclusion in state plan	X	X	X		X	X		X	
Obtained letter of endorsement for plan adoption									

**Federal Agencies
2004 Participation (Planning Process)**

Level of Participation	DHS-FEMA	CORP	NWS	NRCS	SBA	NFS
Attended initial meeting	X					
Attended at least two additional meetings	X					
Provided agency overview for inclusion in State Capability Section of Plan	X					
Provided analysis of agency plan, policies and programs	X					
Provided comments-oral written on plan narrative	X					
Provided general discussion on agency pre- and post-disaster mitigation operations	X					
Provided list of mitigation initiatives for inclusion in state plan						
Obtained letter of endorsement for plan adoption						

2007 Coordination with Agencies

The overall coordination effort with the state and federal agencies has undergone a change since the original 2004 plan development process. As part of the 2007 revision process, the SHMPAT committed to re-energizing the mitigation planning effort and that included a new push to contact and coordinate with state agencies, federal agencies and other organizations such as non-profits and private corporations. The 2007 coordination effort has been based on the successes of the prior agency interaction, however there have been a number of changes.

- Persistent Follow Up – The SHMPAT has invited all the participating agencies to assist with this 2007 effort. Continual follow up has resulted in improved coordination.
- Expanded Participation – The SHMPAT has invited a larger number of agencies to join the process including more federal agencies and non-profit organization.
- Solicit Feedback – The SHMPAT contacted all the agencies directly to receive information from the agencies about hazards, vulnerability and mitigation strategies.
- Review of Agency Plans – The SHMPAT began a process of reviewing agency plans in order to better integrate the various efforts into an overall mitigation program for the state.

There are a number of changes that have occurred in the process of the 2007 plan revision that related to agency coordination. The SHMPAT will continue to include other agencies in this process and is evolving a stronger and more robust program.

2.3 Integration with Other Planning Efforts

44CFR 201.4(b) – The plan must discuss how the planning process was integrated with other ongoing state planning efforts as well as other FEMA mitigation programs and measures.

A number of on-going state planning effects have been integrated with the State Mitigation Plan development planning process.

State Comprehensive Planning

The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) has initiated a number of activities to integrate hazard mitigation objectives consistent with the State Mitigation Plan and Local Mitigation Strategies into state and local government comprehensive plans. The Florida Growth Management Act (Chapter 163, Part II, Florida Statutes) requires all of Florida's 67 counties and 476 municipalities to adopt Local Government Comprehensive Plans that guide future growth and development. Comprehensive plans contain chapters or elements that address future land use, housing, transportation, infrastructure, coastal management, conservation, recreation and open space, intergovernmental coordination, and capital improvements. The Act requires the department to review and approve comprehensive plans and plan amendments for compliance with the Act. Other agencies, including the Regional Planning Councils, Water Management Districts, the Department of State, Transportation, Environmental Protection and Agriculture and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, review Comprehensive Plans and amendments and issue recommended objections to the department. Many of these agencies have representation on the State Hazard Mitigation Plan Advisory Team.

Additionally, Florida is one of the few states in the nation that has a direct relationship between growth management, land use planning, development decisions and public safety. Rules 9J-2 and 9J-5 of the Florida Administrative Code, in the review of growth management plans, impose requirements on developments in hurricane vulnerable areas to reduce the effect of development on evacuation and other public safety concerns. The linkage between land use and emergency management provides a powerful tool to mitigate the impacts of development on public safety. DEM has worked very closely with the State Land Planning Agency in the review of development plans to mitigate the impacts of new dwellings and other land uses on a community's ability to safely evacuate from hurricanes and other natural hazards.

It is for this reason that DEM through the State of Florida Hurricane Planning Program insisted that the transportation analysis performed as part of the

Hurricane Evacuation Studies (HES) include an abbreviated transportation model (ATM). These ATMs allow emergency management and planners to assess the increase in clearance time caused by a development in a surge vulnerable area, or one with mobile homes. Additionally, land use/mitigation collaborations between land use planners and emergency management include the assessment of impact fees on developments that create additional shelter demand; emergency management service impact fees; safe-room and shutter requirements for non-surge vulnerable developments; community centers as shelters for mobile home and multi-family developments; density restrictions in surge vulnerable areas; roadway improvement impact fees based on evacuation demand; and the limitation of new development permits based on clearance time thresholds as determined by the local hurricane evacuation study, transportation analysis.

Division of Community Planning (DCP) requires all local comprehensive plans to be revised every seven years through the Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) process. DCP has agreed to coordinate the EAR updates with revisions to the Local Mitigation Strategy (plans) required by Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 to promote greater implementation of those strategies through local comprehensive plans. There is no specific requirement that the comprehensive plans be revised based on the findings and recommendations in the local mitigation strategies. In order to provide incentives for local governments to integrate the local mitigation into the comprehensive plan, the division, with the assistance of outside contractors, will assist in evaluation and recommendations and facilitate discussions between local government planning officials and emergency management planners. The intent is to focus on the use of comprehensive planning and other land use strategies to reduce overall state risk to future damages to property and public infrastructure as well as to avoid development in hazardous areas. This integration is an on-going activity.

State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan

The DEM has also initiated integration of portions of the State Mitigation Plan activities into the state's existing Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP). Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, (State Emergency Management Act) mandates the development of the Florida CEMP. The plan is operations oriented and establishes a framework through which the State of Florida prepares for, responds to, recovers from, and mitigates the impacts of a wide variety of hazards that could adversely affect people and property. The CEMP was developed using an all-hazards planning approach to standardize the functional framework under which strategies and resources are used to minimize the consequences of an event.

It unifies the effects of state agencies, special districts, local governments and voluntary organizations for a comprehensive approach to maximize the use of all resources with the state. The plan also provides an integrated and coordinated local, state, and federal response. The State Hazard Mitigation Plan Advisory Team (SHMPAT) in coordination with the DEM Planning and Response Unit is currently working on integrating the Hazards Analysis and Risk Assessment data developed in the State Mitigation Plan into the state's CEMP. The State Mitigation Plan Hazards Analysis and Risk Assessment is an on-going activity and will serve as the state's single point document on hazards and risk. This is consistent with the goals and objectives of the State Mitigation Plan. Understanding the importance that the state has placed on mitigation, the SHMPAT has recommended that the State Mitigation Plan be integrated in the State's CEMP as an Appendix. Since December 2000, the State Mitigation Plan has been listed in the CEMP as a supporting document and provides a reference for other state agencies, special districts, local governments and voluntary agencies seeking guidance and information on statewide hazard mitigation goals and objectives. The state is fully committed to a comprehensive and effective statewide strategy.

Emergency Management Accreditation Program

The Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) is a voluntary review process for state, territorial and local emergency management programs. EMAP was created by a group of national organizations to foster continuous improvement in emergency management capabilities. EMAP provides emergency management programs the opportunity to be recognized for compliance with national standards, to demonstrate accountability, and to focus attention on areas and issues where resources are needed.

EMAP creates a structure for the review of strategic plans, coupled with a methodical and verified assessment done by experienced peers from other jurisdictions, resulting in stronger capabilities and accountability. The EMAP process evaluates emergency management programs on compliance with 54 standards covering 14 program elements, including: planning; resource management; training; exercises, evaluations and corrective actions; and communications and warning. The *EMAP Standard* is the set of criteria by which programs that apply for EMAP accreditation will be measured. The *EMAP Standard* is based on the NFPA 1600 Standard on Disaster/Emergency Preparedness and Business Continuity Programs, 2000 edition, with language added to clarify many elements' meanings for emergency management accreditation purposes

In April 2003, the state invited a team of trained EMAP assessors from a variety of other states and localities to review its materials and to verify compliance with

all criteria in the EMAP Standard. On September 5, 2003, EMAP granted the state of Florida's emergency management program full accreditation. Accreditation is a means of demonstrating, through self-assessment, documentation and peer review, that a program meets national standards for emergency management programs. From the coordination of preparedness and response activities, plans and procedures, communications and warning capabilities, to training and exercise programs, Florida's Division of Emergency Management has demonstrated that it is in possession of the tools and wherewithal to become the first state in the nation to achieve this milestone.

The Mitigation Section, working in concert with the State Hazard Mitigation Plan Advisory Team (SHMPAT) integrated 17 of the 54 EMAP standards into the State Hazard Mitigation Plan planning process. These standards included review of hazard vulnerability and risk assessment; state and local mitigation plans; mitigation grant management; program financial management and other related mitigation issues. To demonstrate the state's mitigation capability, the Mitigation Section provided a host of information from existing documents, which included: the state's pre-Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA2K) 409 Plan (the draft State Hazard Mitigation Plan), the Mitigation Section's Grant Administration Plan as well as the Mitigation Section's Standard Operating Guidelines. Overall, the EMAP Assessors were very complementary of the state's mitigation strategy including the LMS process in particular.

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

To ensure the state's strategy is truly comprehensive, a number of on-going Federal Emergency Management Agency mitigation programs and measures have been integrated into the planning process. Arguably, the most important is the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The State NFIP Coordinator has assisted the SHMPAT in integrating flood plain management activities into the overall state mitigation strategy. Specific details of the meetings can be found in the SHMPAT Appendix.

The State Assistance Officer for the NFIP is charged with coordinating the NFIP activities through the Community Assistance Program (CAP). This includes NFIP statewide coordination, the Community Rating System Program, Dam Safety Program through Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Map Modernization activities, including the Cooperating Technical Communities' Initiative. The State NFIP Coordinator in conciliation with other state agencies and local governments and the State Water Management Districts will determine the priority and funding required to produce improved digitalized flood hazard data. These recommendations will be provided to the FEMA Regional Office that may suggest modifying priorities and funding recommendations when necessary, to: (1) Improve Flood Map Modernization Program performance, (2) Comply with

Congressional recommendations, (3) Comply with adjusted program funding, and (4) Resolve differences between state and local recommendations. The state is coordinating with FEMA on a GIS conversion Repetitive Loss Properties project. This project involves verifying and cataloging into GIS format; repetitive loss properties in high policy count areas. The data is provided to state and local agencies to assist in their mitigation related planning efforts. Prior to the creation of the SHMPAT, many of the SHMPAT members had little or no knowledge of programs implemented by the State Assistance Office for the NFIP.

FEMA Mitigation Grant Programs

The following section describes how the State Mitigation Planning process is integrated with FEMA mitigation programs and initiatives.

The state administers several FEMA mitigation grant related programs, which include; Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Flood Mitigation Assistance Program, Disaster Unmet Needs funding and the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program. These programs provide a sufficient portion of the mitigation funding resources provided to state, local and community based organizations to implement mitigation activities. The state also uses funding from Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG) to support statewide mitigation activities. Section 4.5 provides a general overview of EMPG activities. In 1998 and 1999, funding from FMA and HMGP programs was used as seed monies to assist Florida local governments in developing their Local Mitigation Strategies. FMA funds were made available to seven communities to assist with the development of flood hazard identification and risk reduction measures. HMGP funds along with the US Department of Energy and the Economic Development Administration funds were used to develop all-hazard mitigation plans for local communities. Currently, HMGP 7% funds are being utilized in 47 local governments to assist with updating existing Local Mitigation Strategies to comply with the DMA2K. PDM funds are being utilized in 20 local governments in the state to assist with updating existing Local Mitigation Strategies to comply with the DMA2K. Pre-Disaster Mitigation funds are also being utilized by the SHMPAT to assist in the development and updating of the State Mitigation Plan. Initially, PDM funds were used to outsource the development of the state's Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment Section. This section of the plan was completed using the new FEMA HAZUS-MH Multi-hazard methodology for estimating potential future losses. Additionally, PDM and HMGP planning funds are being used to reproduce the State Plan as well as for administrative expenses associated by plan development and the SHMPAT meetings.

National Hurricane Planning Program

No point in Florida is farther than 65 miles from the coast. This means that although 35 counties are officially “Coastal” all 67 of them can experience category 3 winds or greater. Florida has over 8.1 million people living in category 1 through 5 evacuation zones and in mobile homes. The results of that staggering number are that many local and regional clearance times far exceed the best warning. The magnitude of the hurricane problem in Florida requires a constant and concerted year round effort to address all of the issues associated with hurricane impacts, pre and post-landfall. The state’s ability to respond to and mitigate the impacts of hurricanes as well as other natural and manmade hazards, continues to progress by integrating the National Hurricane Planning Program activities into the State Mitigation Strategy. These activities include addressing the statewide shelter deficit, complex evacuation and related clearance times, traffic issues along with reverse laning, updating hurricane studies that include: Hurricane Evacuation Study (HES) and Sea, Lake and overland Surges from Hurricanes (SLOSH), and providing a liaison with the National Hurricane Center.

Florida Prepares

Florida has implemented an ongoing statewide program called “Florida Prepares.” This Program was designed to build upon the many successes of the FEMA Project Impact Initiative by seeking to promote building disaster resistant communities through the formation of community-based partnerships. These partnerships include the local emergency management program, the local business community, faith based and other community based organizations. These partners focus on developing mitigation, response, preparedness and recovery strategies, or measures that foster and encourage total community involvement throughout all phases of emergency management. The community and faith based initiatives are represented on the SHMPAT by Florida Interfaith Network in Disasters (FIND). Florida Prepares also builds upon the Governor’s Front Porch Initiative as a vehicle to provide information and related assistance to low income and minority communities on emergency management related issues. The division continues to work with the Governor’s Office Front Porch staff by providing direct educational and outreach materials and assisting communities in developing working relationships with their respective LMS Working Groups to that community and faith based mitigation projects are included in the LMS. The Florida Prepares Coordinator is an active member of the SHMPAT and assisted in assuring Florida Prepares Initiative activities are integrated with other state mitigation planning activities.

“Get A Plan!” Campaign

In 2006, the State of Florida launched the “Get A Plan!” Campaign, an unprecedented public opinion and outreach campaign to promote hurricane preparedness across Florida. The multi-million dollar project, called for by Gov. Jeb Bush during his 2006 State of the State address is the largest, most comprehensive public education effort on hurricane preparedness in Florida’s history. With a simple theme calling on Floridians to “GET A PLAN!”, the campaign was targeted toward residents who have the means and ability to be prepared in the event of a major storm, but are not. The campaign included television and radio advertisements, billboards and a new first-of-its-kind web-based family and business planning tool located online at www.FloridaDisaster.org.

Statewide Strategic Beach Management Plan

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has developed this plan that continually surveys the status of the beaches and provides data and plans for combating erosion of the state beaches and other natural resources.

Florida Pandemic Influenza Plan

The Florida Department of Health has developed this plan to prepare for and respond to cases of pandemic influenza in the future. This plan is a major state focus as of the 2007 revision of this mitigation plan.