

LMS Executive Summary

The Federal and State government requires that Brevard County have a Hazard Mitigation Plan in compliance with the local hazard mitigation requirements of Section 322 of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 as implemented in 44 CFR 201.6(b)-(d); and, 27P-22 Florida Administrative Code. In 1998, public and private sector interests of Brevard County joined together as Brevard Prepares to pre-identify critical facilities and projects and programs that could be done to help reduce the impacts of future disasters. The projects and programs are called mitigation initiatives. Currently, the Brevard Prepares Steering Committee hears new initiatives and guides the LMS process on an annual basis. However, every 5 years the State reviews and approves the Strategy using state and federal guidance documents. The Brevard Prepares Steering Committee has undertaken a comprehensive planning process in conjunction with Brevard County Emergency Management, culminating in the publication of this 2020 update of the Brevard County Local Mitigation Strategy.

The Brevard County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) provides the framework to reduce identified hazards within the county with an objective of increasing the County's resilience. The purpose of the LMS through its guiding body Brevard Prepares Steering Committee is to decrease the vulnerability of the citizens, governments, businesses and institutions of Brevard County, Florida, to the future human, economic and environmental costs of natural, technological, and societal disasters. The Brevard Prepares Steering Committee develops, monitors, and maintains the local strategy for hazard mitigation which is intended to accomplish this purpose. The representatives of the Brevard Prepares Steering Committee build and sustain a culture of preparedness and mitigation-mindset that will make the County more socially, ecologically, and economically resilient before, during, and after an incident. Resilience in our communities depends on working together.

The LMS is a multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan, and the planning effort has been conducted through the coordinated, cooperative effort of local governments and other organizations and agencies within Brevard County. The local governments include the City of Cape Canaveral, the City of Cocoa, the City of Cocoa Beach, the Town of Grant-Valkaria, the Town of Indialantic, the City of Indian Harbour Beach, the Town of Malabar, the City of Melbourne, the Town of Melbourne Beach, the City of Palm Bay, the Town of Palm Shores, the City of Rockledge, the City of Satellite Beach, the City of Titusville, the City of West Melbourne and Brevard County.

Other key participant organizations and agencies involved with this project include Waste Management, Canaveral Port Authority, St. John's River Water Management District (SJRWMD), Harris Corporation, Florida Institute of Technology, and Brevard Public Schools.

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For this 2020 update, a new hazard and risk analysis was completed by Brevard County Emergency Management in cooperation with partner jurisdictions. Brevard Prepares Steering Committee worked to identify, justify and prioritize specific proposals for projects and programs that will mitigate (avoid or minimize) these vulnerabilities in the future. These proposed projects and programs are also referred to as Mitigation Initiatives in this the LMS.

Other items besides the hazard descriptions. and the mitigation initiatives include:

- A description of the activities of local government and private organizations that promote hazard mitigation; a description of the policies, ordinances or programs that guide those activities; and any deficiencies in the policies, ordinances, and programs with recommendations to correct those deficiencies.
- A description of the methods used to engage private sector participation.
- A statement of general mitigation goals
- A description of the procedures used by the Brevard Prepares Steering Committee to review the LMS at regular intervals to ensure that it reflects current conditions within the County.
- A hazard assessment to include, at the minimum, an evaluation of the vulnerability of structures, infrastructure, special risk populations, environmental resources and the economy to storm surge, high winds, flooding, wildfires and any other hazard to which the community is susceptible.
- A statement of procedures used to set the order of priority for projects based on project variables which shall include technical and financial feasibility.
- A list of approved projects in order of priority with estimated costs and associated funding sources.
- A list of critical facilities that must remain operational during and after a disaster.
- A list of repetitive loss structures.
- Maps, in Geographical Information System (GIS) format, depicting hazard areas, project locations, critical facilities and repetitive loss structures.

At the conclusion of each planning cycle (5 years), the updated LMS is submitted to the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM), who also has the authority to review the document on behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), for review in comparison to the requirements from the Local Mitigation Plan Review Guide, revised by FEMA in October 2011. Once it is determined that this plan adequately addresses these requirements and receives conditional approval; the plan is then submitted to the participating jurisdictions for formal adoption and approval. Adoption resolutions will be attached to the plan as Appendix VII. In accordance with Federal practice, the participating local jurisdictions have one year from the date of State approval of the plan to complete the formal adoption.