

APPENDIX D

**PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION
PROGRESS REPORT**

PUBLIC-PRIVATE SECTOR PROGRESS REPORT

- The Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group adheres to the “Government in the Sunshine Regulations” for open meetings. ¹ Consistent with state regulations, the meetings are noticed on the County web site. Prior to consideration by the Board of County Commissioners and the City Councils, at least one public meeting is held to solicit public comment.
- All documents are public and made available at the Hillsborough County Planning and Growth Management Department, and the public libraries a website site www.Hillsboroughcounty.org/pgm/hazardmit/localmitigation.cfm has been developed which introduces the Local Mitigation Strategy, provides an overview of the strategy; a downloadable version of the strategy for public review; the LMS survey and plan adoption activities. This website was advertised in the Hillsborough County Office of Neighborhood Relations July/August 2209 Issue of *the Neighborhood Connection newsletter*. *The newsletter is available online and is emailed out to all 1,000 neighborhood associations presidents registered with Hillsborough County Office of Neighborhood Relations. The newsletter is then disbursed via email to association members.*
- Emergency management has developed a mitigation handbook for homeowners on how to protect their homes. The book is developed and printed through a public private partnership at no cost to the County.
- Hillsborough County Hazard Mitigation Office invited many organizations/ departments to help in the planning process. Minutes and agendas are provided to the following participants and interested parties to ensure their continued participation:

Hillsborough County Emergency Management, Affordable Housing Department, Community Code Enforcement, Public Works, Stormwater, and Economic Development Departments

City of Tampa Emergency Management, Stormwater, Floodplain Management Departments

City of Temple Terrace

City of Plant City

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce

Tampa Electric

- The importance of personal mitigation and Local Mitigation Strategy was

¹ Florida is renowned for putting a high priority on the public's right of access to governmental meetings and records. In fact, the principles of open government are embodied not only in Florida Statutes, but also guaranteed in the State Constitution. *Reference Florida's Government in the Sunshine Manual.*

discussed at town hall meetings; citizens had the opportunity to provide input.

- Expos and Neighborhood Conferences are held annually, exhibiting mitigation methods and materials. Several LMS members; planning departments, United Way, and others, helped staff these events.
- Since the adoption of the Local Mitigation Strategy in 1998, the County assisted in developing a County Flood Management Plan, which was approved by the Insurance Services Office and FEMA, to satisfy a Community Rating System Requirement. The County conducted several meetings at public libraries and community centers throughout the county to receive citizen input and questions regarding the flood hazard and mitigation opportunities. See Section V for more information on public education and outreach.
- Since the adoption of the LMS in 1998, the County has also spearheaded the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program for the unincorporated areas. Meetings were held to inform citizens of the program, the need to take precautionary action to prevent future damages and to receive citizen input. Similar meetings were held in many of the participating NFIP/CRS communities as well.
- Hillsborough County participates in a regional public education campaign on the importance of mitigation and preparedness for all types of disasters. The RPC and the County coordinate to produce and distribute brochures, press releases and power point presentations.
- Hillsborough County also participates with private sector partners including the utilities, chambers of commerce and economic development agencies in the development and distribution of Business Disaster Planning Kit which features an interactive CDROM, guidebook, template and web site.

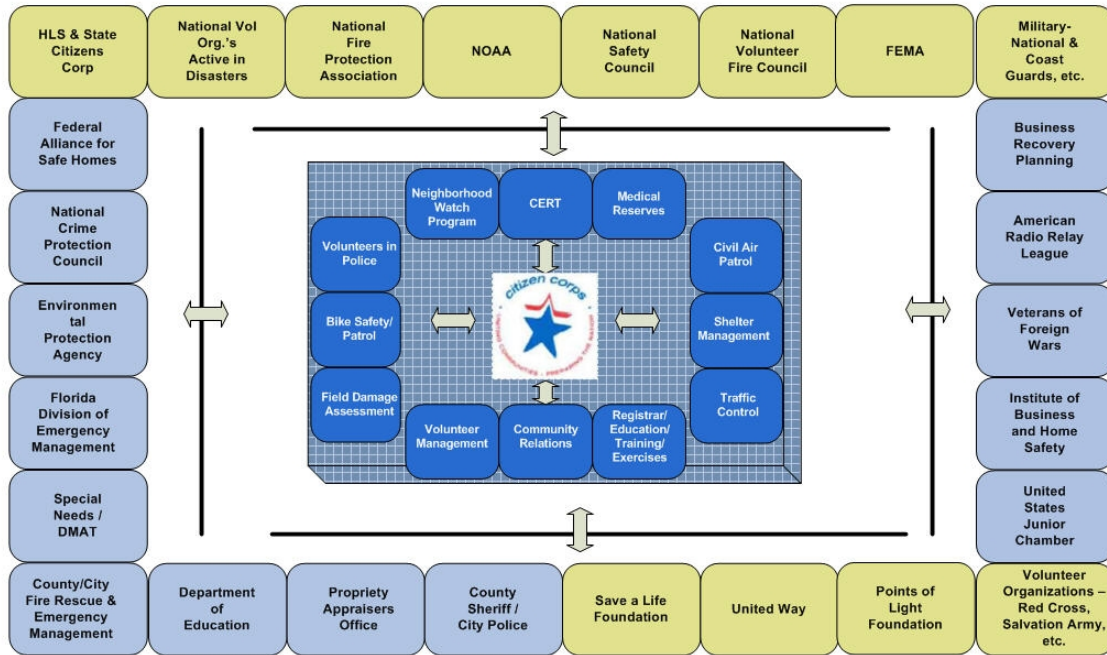
CITIZEN CORPS AND CERT

Hillsborough County has a successful Citizen Corps Council which includes the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. CERT training promotes a partnering effort between emergency services and the people that they serve. The goal is for emergency personnel to train members of neighborhoods, community organizations, or workplaces in basic response skills. CERT members are then integrated into the emergency response capability for their area.

The Citizen Corps is the umbrella organization that integrates and coordinates the outreach programs involved in citizen participation including CERT, USA on Watch/Neighborhood Watch, Volunteers in Police Service, Fire Corps, and Medical Reserve Corps, as partner programs. Citizen Corps also helps to coordinate with affiliate organizations such as, United Way and American Red Cross. The coordination through the Citizen Corps will continue to pull resources from within and outside the county to coordinate the development of this program.

Many municipalities have established Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)/ Citizen Corps programs to train residents how to prepare and respond to emergencies when public emergency forces are serving more critical areas. The program includes personal and property preparedness.

Figure D.1



The Target Audience for Citizen Corps/ CERT includes:

- Neighborhood Associations
- Businesses
- Faith-Based Groups
- Scouting Organizations
- School Staff/ Students
- Clubs/ Organizations
- Amateur Radio Emergency Services

Approximately 26 percent of the coastal area is devoted to residential development. Because of their vulnerability, these neighborhoods are targeted for public outreach activities. In addition, input from residents is sought as there is an obvious need for these residents/ businesses to be involved in the development of the LMS and the Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan, as well as the CERT training and mitigation strategies. A preliminary list of the neighborhood organizations include:

Port Tampa Beach Park
 Bel Mar Shores
 Sunset Park

Beach Park Isles
 Davis Island

Culbreath Isles
Palmetto Beach
Bayshore Beautiful
West Riverfront
Ridgewood River
Wellswood
Old Seminole Heights
Sulphur Springs
Ruskin

Harbour Island
Ballast Point
Old Hyde Park
Tampa Heights
Riverside Heights
South Seminole
Lowry Park
Apollo Beach
Riverview

Tampa Homeowners Association of Neighborhoods (THAN)

TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY

Tampa Electric Company (TEC) has been an active partner in the LMS process since 1998. TEC has not been a stranger to emergency preparedness, response and mitigation. For years, TEC has had in place storm plans for the energy production and delivery departments detailing steps to power restoration; have upgraded facilities in accordance with mitigation plans; and implemented emergency response plans in compliance with environmental regulations.

In 1999, there was a company movement to consolidate protocols for TEC and have an all hazards approach to emergency response. As a result, the Incident Command System (ICS) was adopted for the entire company and an emergency preparedness position was created in 2000.

Since then, the emergency preparedness function has expanded to an emergency management (EM) group. An emergency management program has been developed and implemented; there is top-down commitment to business continuity; each TEC Officer has been ICS trained and participates in annual exercises; key employees have received ICS and emergency response hazard-specific training; departments have plans in place; plans are tested annually; vulnerability assessments are performed to determine mitigation needs; and mitigation is performed, as applicable.

TEC understands that employees are key to business continuity. The goal of the TEC EM Group is to assign primary and alternate emergency assignments to each TEC employee. Employees are trained annually in their assigned emergency functions.

An intranet emergency management web application was developed internally and implemented. The web application is used to manage assignments; provide important information for family preparedness; manage critical company documents, temporary employees and emergency services use during an emergency event.

As a part of the company efforts to encourage preparedness and mitigation in the community, TEC has partnered with the County and the regional planning council to

produce and distribute the Business Disaster Preparedness Kit through company commercial accounts and safety sections.

TEC has developed a strong emergency management program that allows the company to decrease business vulnerability to different hazards, thereby providing better service with minimal power disruption.

TAMPA BAY REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) supports and participates in the county's mitigation initiatives and outreach programs through the following projects:

- Annual Hurricane Survival Guide (1 million copies produced and distributed in 8 counties in two languages)
- Annual update of emergency preparedness and mitigation information in the "Emergency Info" section in all local telephone directories
- Production, distribution and promotion of business preparedness through the Florida Business Disaster Survival Kit. (see www.fldisasterkit.org)
- Participation at Hurricane Expos, Home Shows, and town meetings
- Presentations at civic groups and conferences concerning mitigation and preparedness activities in the region
- Web site design for county and regional LMS efforts
- Support for the statewide PDRP Pilot efforts

IDENTIFICATION OF OTHER PRIVATE SECTOR INTERESTS AND METHODS FOR PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT

Hillsborough County has a varied and diverse economy that includes agriculture, tourism, land development, service and health care. Additionally, the county has become a dynamic center of operations for many international and national corporations. It is paramount that local business community leaders are made aware of, and are included in, the development and implementation of local hazard mitigation programs. These entities can be involved through various means, including meetings, workshops, and committees and through the timely dissemination of information.

The Local Mitigation Strategy Work Group enlisted the support of both public and private organizations within the Advisory Committee; however, additional private interest groups are required to fully implement local mitigation strategies. For example, within the City of Tampa, a registry of business associations is maintained and will be used to provide a sound coordinating structure.

Such business associations within the City of Tampa include:

The Downtown Partnership
The Westshore Alliance
The Tampa Chamber of Commerce
The Channel District Council
The Ybor City Chamber of Commerce, and
The South Tampa Chamber of Commerce

There are also major commercial centers in the coastal area that can also be added to the list including, Old Hyde Park Village, Britton Plaza and the Westshore Plaza.

Finally, due to their regional economic impact, representatives from Mac Dill Air Force Base, the Tampa Port Authority and the Tampa International Airports are kept informed of proposed hazard mitigation efforts and invited to participate in helping to make the community more disaster resistant. These entities participate on a regional level at the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC); however, they are partners in outreach initiatives.

Building partnerships within the community is an ongoing effort countywide. This section will be updated annually as part of the LMS maintenance.