Timeframe of the Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan

As Floridians know well, natural disasters are reoccuring events. To become more disaster-resilient, communities must prepare and mitigate before a disaster, respond and recover/redevelop in the aftermath, and then begin preparing and mitigating for the next one. (Please see definitions of these disaster phases on the "Terms" handout.)

The PDRP has an implementation role in both the pre-disaster and post-disaster phases but the intent of all PDRP implementation activities are to improve the community's ability for long-term recovery and redevelopment. In looking at the above disaster cycle graphic, the PDRP is active during the blue pre-disaster phase of the cycle, the orange phase that is short-term recovery or the transition between response and post-disaster redevelopment, and the yellow phase that represents long-term post-disaster recovery and redevelopment.

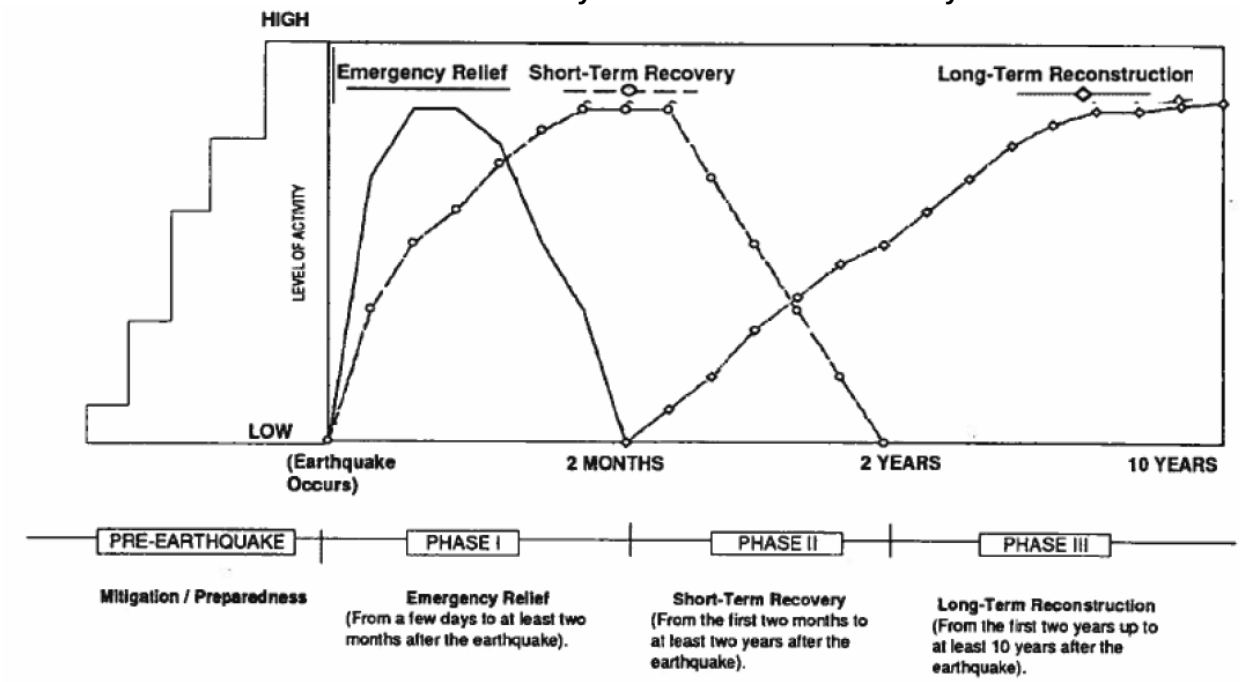
Pre-disaster Phase (blue) – The PDRP is a tool for preparing a community for a more rapid and sustainable recovery and is best developed before a disaster occurs. Preparatory activities detailed in the plan should be implemented on an on-going basis during normal operations sometimes referred to as "blue skies". The PDRP should also be exercised prior to a disaster event so that all stakeholders with a post-disaster implementation role are familiar with their responsibilities.

Short-term Recovery Phase (orange) – The PDRP has a role during the short-term recovery phase to begin organizing for long-term redevelopment activities in addition to guiding short-term recovery decisions that may have long-term implications. (i.e. placement of temporary housing) The short-term recovery phase will begin as the response phase winds down and will continue until critical services are restored. The length of time for this phase will depend on the severity of the disaster and the level of preparedness of the community; it could range from several weeks to a year to complete this phase.

Long-term Recovery and Redevelopment Phase (yellow) – The PDRP is most active during this phase. The phase begins as short-term recovery activities are accomplished and can last from a couple years for a minor disaster to 10 or more years for a major or catastrophic disaster.

The figure below represents the overlap of levels of activity of the different phases in the aftermath of a disaster. While this depicts the phases of an earthquake it can also apply to recovery from a hurricane or other disaster with widespread impacts.

Post-Disaster Recovery Phases and Level of Activity



Source: Southern California Earthquake Preparedness Project, 1991

The table below shows some examples of PDRP activities that could take place during the different phases of a disaster. This again shows the overlap between phases and also shows the many PDRP activities that should occur or be planned in the pre-disaster phase.

Timeline for Post-Disaster Plan Elements

FUNCTION	PREDISASTER	EMERGENCY PERIOD	SHORT-TERM RECOVERY	LONG-TERM RECONSTRUCTION
ORGANIZATION AND AUTHORITY				
Select recovery task force				
Empower recovery task force				
Designate lead agency				
Operations policy				
Set up accounting systems for disaster assistance				
Coordinate with emergency manager				
Public participation and hearings				
REHABILITATIVE				
Temporary housing	Identify sites			
Refuse disposal	Identify sites			
Damage assessment	Train teams, set MOUs			
Restore utility services				
Establish reconstruction priorities				
Reoccupancy permits	Set policies			
Emergency demolition	Set policies			
Emergency permitting	Set policies			
LAND USE				
Identify new lessons from damage assessments	Review case studies			
Compliance of rebuilding with regulations from new lessons				
Replanning of stricken areas	Identify nonconforming uses, pre-FIRM bldgs.			
Identify sites for emergency operations				
Reexamine street patterns	Plan			
Feasibility of emergency evacuation plans	Identify shelters, road capacity, vulnerability			
Historic preservation	Identify vulnerable structures			
Implement building moratoria	Adopt policies			
Reevaluate and update plan				
REGIONAL COORDINATION				
Coordinate with relief agencies	Predisaster planning			
Temporary housing	Identify sites			
Financial assistance channels	Prepare inventory			
Transportation	Plan			
Emergency legislation				
Media contact	Predisaster education			
Mutual aid agreements		Put into effect		

Source: Planning for Post-Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction, 1998