



The Hazard Mitigator

Spring 2013

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Visit NHMA's Moore,
Oklahoma Tornado
Information Page
<http://nhma.info/moore>
to learn about steps to
a safe and sustainable
recovery

Message from the Executive Director

Dear NHMA Members,

Our hearts go out to all of those impacted by the Moore Tornado on May 20, 2013. The crucial need for safe rooms in buildings such as schools has been brought home to all of us once again. We will be working with our partners to promote the mitigation message, particularly the value of safe rooms in tornado prone areas - as we continue to hope for a future in which the media coverage will have nothing to focus on other than the success of the measures in place and not on the horrific impacts to young children and others.

On a more cheerful note, we hope that you are making plans to join us at the 2013 NHMA Mitigation Practitioners Symposium. You can find additional information in an article later in this newsletter. Also, please keep an eye out for notifications regarding NHMA's webinar series. The most recent webinar focused on the experience of practitioners in Northeastern Oklahoma utilizing low impact development and green infrastructure. They shared examples of bioswales, green roofs, pervious concrete, and rain gardens, and how to overcome potential roadblocks in implementing such practices.

Sincerely,

Alessandra Jerolleman

Safe Building Code Incentive Act of 2013 (S.924)

UPDATE: The NHMA Policy & Public Affairs Committee is currently reviewing the Safe Building Code Incentive Act of 2013. If you would like to be involved in helping to review this proposed legislation, please contact Jim Murphy at jim.murphy@urs.com or Lillian Robison at lillian.p.robison@accenturefederal.com. The NHMA participates in a coalition that supports building codes. We also have several subject matter experts who are helping to inform and advise those in rebuilding who faced the recent tornado tragedy in Moore, Oklahoma and also the aftermath of the Superstorm Sandy disaster last Fall.

SUMMARY: The Safe Building Code Incentive Act, co-sponsored by Sen. Menendez (NJ), Sen. Lautenberg (NJ) and Sen. Schumer (NY), is a proposed amendment to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to enhance existing programs providing mitigation assistance by encouraging States to adopt and actively enforce State building codes, and for other purposes. This was introduced in the Senate on May 9, 2013, read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. If you'd like to review the proposed legislation, you can take a look at this link: <http://beta.congress.gov/113/bills/s924/BILLS-113s924is.pdf>

Oklahoma Silver Jackets Coalition Focuses on Teamwork

By Ann Patton

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Teamwork. It's the way to get things done.

That's the vision behind a new Oklahoma coalition named Silver Jackets. The Oklahoma Silver Jackets Team is creating a new national model for collaboration to foster sound floodplain and hazard management.

"The new Oklahoma Silver Jackets Team links together our state, local, and federal governments with grassroots citizens and nonprofits groups, into a partnership working on specific problems and projects," says Gavin Brady, the state's flood program coordinator at the Oklahoma Water Resources Board.

The Oklahoma initiative includes not only governments but also diverse non-government partners. In addition to the OWRB, members of the evolving Oklahoma SJ Team include the US Army Corps of Engineers, FEMA, Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management, Tulsa's city and county governments, Tulsa Drainage District #12, Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association, Tulsa Partners, and the Natural Hazard Mitigation Association.

Silver Jackets is a national program sponsored by the Corps of Engineers to offer a common forum and leverage resources that can address state risk management priorities, said Gene Lilly, SJ manager in the Tulsa District Corps office. "Traditionally, different agencies wear different colored jackets when responding to emergencies. For example, FEMA personnel wear blue and USACE personnel wear red. The name Silver Jackets is used to underscore the common mission of the diverse agencies involved."

Two Oklahoma SJ pilot projects are under way to address the state's priority (in the 2012 Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan) to promote local risk management: an extended floodplain mapping project in Miami, OK; and an innovative project focused on the Tulsa/West-Tulsa levees along the Arkansas River. The project is also relevant to the Jenks and Haikey Creek levee systems, said Ed Rossman, planning chief for the Tulsa District Corps.

The Tulsa pilot is expanding a Corps geographic information tool named SimSuite to help local governments plan risk-reduction and resilience measures, including public education, emergency planning, and levee repairs.

"We're particularly focused on an area behind the Tulsa/West-Tulsa levees that has a number of challenges," said Tim Lovell, executive director of Tulsa Partners, a nonprofit that is working with a number of stakeholders on education and outreach to residents on the area known locally as the Sand Springs Line. "We're developing a strategy to help the community understand the neighborhood's risk and what can be done to mitigate those hazards along the river."

The levees are in critical need of repair, said SJ Team member Todd Kilpatrick, levee commissioner for Drainage District 12 that manages the Tulsa/West-Tulsa levees. "The people who live and work behind the levees need better protection, and we welcome the help of the Silver Jackets team."

Another team member is the Natural Hazard Mitigation Association, a national nonprofit that links together supporters of hazard mitigation. NHMA is working with the Oklahoma Silver Jackets team to share the lessons learned in the Oklahoma SJ pilot, said NHMA Executive Director Alessandra Jerolleman. "We're pleased to help spread the word about this exciting endeavor, starting with a national webinar early next year," she said. "We want to encourage others to learn from and replicate the innovative work of the ground-breaking Oklahoma Silver Jackets team."

For more information, see www.nfrrmp.us/state and www.NHMA.info.



Planners for the Tulsa pilot project for the Oklahoma Silver Jackets Team include (clockwise from left) Gene Lilly and Ed Rossman, Tulsa District Corps of Engineers; Ann Patton, Natural Hazard Mitigation Association; Chris Baker, Corps; and Tim Lovell, Tulsa Partners.



The Tulsa Silver Jackets pilot project focuses on the Tulsa/West-Tulsa levees.

NHMA Policy Watch

By Lillian Pitts Robison, PMP, CFM

National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council recommendations to FEMA on Levees and the NFIP

UPDATE: The NHMA Policy & Public Affairs Committee is currently reviewing the Statement of Task originally provided by FEMA to the NRC and will then apply our Policy Analysis Worksheet to the Recommendations and Conclusions included in the report. This NHMA review will be complete by May 31st

SUMMARY: FEMA asked the National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council, to form a committee to provide advice on Levees and the NFIP. FEMA received this report from the committee in late-March. If you'd like to review the reports and recommendations, you can obtain this thru the National Academies Press:

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=18309

WRDA (Water Resources Development Act of 2013)

UPDATE: The Senate passed the WRDA of 2013 (S.601) on May 15, 2013 (83-Yea / 14-Nay). The bill is now with the House.

SUMMARY: The current Senate bill makes a strong commitment to our nation's critical water resources infrastructure. Elements include, (1) Creates a National Levee Safety Program, (2) Reauthorizes the National Dam Safety Program, (3) Restores trust to the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, (4) Creates a new Water Infrastructure Finance Innovations Authority (WIFIA), (5) Streamlines the project approval process for water resources projects, (6) Requires that "Extreme Weather" be addressed in projects (also see the STRONG Act below), (7) clarifies "work in kind credits, contributions, and transfers", (8) echoes Biggert Waters requirements that the USACE and FEMA align the levee programs and also provides authority for the USACE to conduct levee certification/evaluation, (9) authorizes the USACE to restore hurricane and storm damage reduction projects, and (10) implements a pilot program to evaluate the cost-effectiveness and project delivery efficiency of allowing non-Federal interests to carry out flood risk management, hurricane and storm damage reduction, coastal harbor and channel inland navigation, and aquatic ecosystem restoration projects.

Implementation of the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012

UPDATE: FEMA is moving forward to implement elements of the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012. Last week, FEMA updated their website to provide additional materials to help stakeholders understand impacts and changes that are ahead.

SUMMARY: In 2012, the U.S. Congress passed the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 which calls on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and other agencies, to make a number of changes to the way the NFIP is run. As the law is implemented, some of these changes have already occurred, and others will be implemented in the coming months. Key provisions of the legislation will require the NFIP to raise rates to reflect true flood risk, make the program more financially stable, and change how Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) updates impact policyholders. The changes will mean premium rate increases for some – but not all – policyholders over time.

Continued on next page

NHMA Policy Watch (continued)

The STRONG (Strengthening The Resiliency of Our Nation on the Ground) Act (S.904)

UPDATE: The STRONG Act is currently under review in Senate Committee. The NHMA Policy & Public Affairs Committee is currently reviewing the current draft of S.904, the STRONG Act by applying our Policy Analysis Worksheet. This NHMA review will be complete by May 31st

SUMMARY: The Strengthening The Resiliency of Our Nation on the Ground (STRONG) Act, co-sponsored by Sen. Gillibrand (NY) and Sen. Wicker (MS), is focused on Extreme Weather resilience, and requires analysis and resilience action plan. This is similar to a piece of legislation for Extreme Weather that was proposed but not passed last year that was sponsored by Sen. Kerry (MA)

New Coastal Flood Risk Webpages and Email List

The FEMA Federal Insurance & Mitigation Administration (FIMA), Risk Analysis Branch is pleased to announce brand new Coastal Flood Risk webpages on FEMA.gov and Coastal email list. As a result of FEMA Headquarters' collaboration with Federal Coastal Partner Agencies, FEMA Regions, and contractors, the Coastal Flood Risk webpages:

- Provide information about current and ongoing FEMA coastal flood mapping projects;
- Explain the Coastal Flood Risk Study Process;
- Feature a Coastal Frequently Asked Questions;
- Offer guidance on Rebuilding After a Coastal Storm; and
- Include almost 200 Coastal Flood Risk Resources organized by Hurricane Sandy, including Webpages/Resources, Brochures/Fact Sheets, Data, Guidance (Technical & Non-Technical), Toolkits, Videos, Websites

To meet the needs of the wide variety of citizens concerned with coastal flood hazards, tailored webpages were also developed for the following stakeholders:

- Homeowners, Renters, Business Owners and General Public
- Community Officials
- Real Estate, Insurance, and Lending Industry Professionals
- Cooperating Technical Partners, Engineers, Surveyors, and Contractors
- Home Builders, Developers, and Construction Professionals

In addition, webpages have been developed for stakeholders on the Atlantic, Pacific, Great Lakes and Gulf of Mexico coastlines. Each webpage features locally specific information about potential coastal hazards and links to FEMA Regional websites for more details.

For periodic news in your email about FEMA's coastal flood hazard mapping studies and other coastal specific information, please sign up to the [Coastal Flood Risk email list](#).

To recommend any additional resources or tools be added to the Coastal Flood Risk Resources webpage, feel free to email darin.tambascio@associates.fema.dhs.gov.

US Forest Service Presents New Report: Wildlands, Wildfire and People

Fire has historically played a fundamental ecological role in many of America's wildland areas. However, the rising number of homes in the wildland-urban interface (WUI), associated impacts on lives and property from wildfire, and escalating costs of wildfire management have led to an urgent need for communities to become "fire-adapted." We present maps of the conterminous United States that illustrate historical natural fire regimes, the wildland-urban interface, and the number and location of structures burned since 1999. We outline a sampler of actions, programs, and community planning and development options to help decrease the risks of and damages from wildfire."

Key Points

- People who live in the wildland-urban interface or WUI in particular may face increasing risk and property damage from wildfires of all sizes in coming decades. From 1990 to 2000 alone, the WUI increased by 18 percent and is expected to increase further in the years ahead
- Homes and other structures across the United States, in a wide range of vegetation types from forests to shrub lands and grasslands, have already been lost to wildfire.
- Numerous opportunities are available for planners, developers, and others to help WUI communities adapt to wildfire through education, planning, and mitigation activities that can help limit the number of ignitions, reduce flammable vegetation, create Firewise homes, and thereby establish fire-adapted communities.

The report can be downloaded or hard copies requested from the website link provided above. Please contact Sara J. Comas (Natural Resource Specialist, US Forest Service), if you have any comments or questions.

Building Resilience Workshop Report

By Jeana Wiser

The Building Resilience Workshop (BRW) was held March 7th – 9th, 2013 in New Orleans, Louisiana. This was the fourth annual workshop of its kind to be held in New Orleans, bringing together diverse perspectives and facilitating peer learning with a primary goal of implementable solutions for coastal communities. BRW was fortunate to have NHMA's support as the fiscal sponsor of the workshop, in which approximately 120 people attended the three-day event.

The workshop featured speakers and panelists from parishes in Southeast Louisiana, including community groups, local, state, and federal government, and academia, as well as national and international perspectives. This year the panels and speakers discussed pressing and controversial topics, including: relocation of communities, sheltering in place vs. evacuation, alternatives to levees, communicating risk, and decision-making in the face of uncertainty. The workshop also included a coastal community case study from Terrebonne Parish and an update on Louisiana's Coastal Master Plan.

To build on the success of BRW IV and to expand the scope and relevance of the Building Resilience Workshop, planning is already underway to hold BRW V, March 13th-14th, 2014. The BRW Steering Committee authorized changes in April 2013 to the BRW organizational structure, allowing for increased input from community experts, encouraging streamlined decision making, and facilitating the planning process.

The Steering Committee is also exploring links between BRW and other related organizations to foster a culture of resilience throughout the year. BRW will continue its valued partner relationship with NHMA, and its two-year partnership with the Idea Village Water Challenge. Inspired by the workshop participants' interest, BRW will be co-hosting webinars with NHMA throughout the year on the topics raised at BRW IV. Additionally, BRW is expected to coordinate with the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana (CRCL) to host the 2014 BRW V back-to-back with the State of the Coast conference. This partnership will allow for participants to attend valuable discussion at both of these events aimed at creating safer, more sustainable coastal communities.

NHMA Committee Updates

Update from the **Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Committee**:

NHMA's [Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Committee](#) fosters connections between hazard mitigation and adaptation communities of practice to help enhance local community resilience to extreme weather and a changing climate. In recent months, we have been very busy.

We've spent a great deal of time improving the understanding of information, policy, and technical assistance communities need to integrate climate adaptation and hazard mitigation efforts. We've stated compiling a [Climate Change Resources Page](#) with helpful adaptation resources, added a section to NHMA's [Patchwork Quilt](#), and are working with Springer to collaborate on their academic journal [Natural Hazards](#). If you have any information we can share or would like to collaborate in these efforts, please let us know!

We've also been **fostering connections** between hazard mitigation and adaptation professionals through a myriad of conference sessions, talks, and webinars. Recently we've organized sessions at the European Climate Change Adaptation Conference (March 18-20, 2013) and the National Adaptation Forum (April 2-4, 2013), and helped out with many other conferences such as the Building Resilience Workshop. Recent webinars include: [Bridging the Gap Between Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation](#), [Adaptation and Flood Mitigation in the Netherlands](#), and Adaptation, Emergency Management, and Hazard Mitigation in Southeast Florida. We were also invited to share our insights at the US Environmental Protection Agency's webinar, [Climate Change Adaptation for State and Local Governments—Attracting Funding for Adaptation](#). We are looking forward to partnering with other groups to host a webinar. Let us know if you're interested!

The Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation committee has a lot of great events planned. Upcoming sessions, talks, and other events are planned at the [ASFPM Annual National Conference](#) (June 9-14, 2013), the [AGU Science Policy Conference](#) (June 24-26, 2013), the [Annual Hazards Workshop](#) (July 13- 16, 2013), and the [NHMA International Practitioners' Meeting](#) (July 16-17, 2013). Through these efforts, we're helping encourage professionals to identify scientific, technical, policy, and operational solutions that incorporate hazard mitigation and adaptation into local planning efforts. We also anticipate that this education and outreach work will help facilitate design of local, state, and national decision makers integrate both hazard mitigation and climate adaptation into short- and long-term planning efforts. If you'd like to get more involved, or have a funding proposal we might collaborate on, please let us know!

2013 NHMA International Hazard Mitigation Practitioner's Symposium

NHMA will host its fourth annual INTERNATIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PRACTITIONERS SYMPOSIUM, in conjunction with the Natural Hazards Center Research & Applications Symposium, on July 16-17 at the Omni Interlocken Resort in Broomfield, Colorado. It focuses on providing practitioners ideas and tools to assist them in their daily jobs. We are anticipating 150-200 attendees. The theme of this year's Symposium is **"From Grassroots to Global: Reducing Disaster Losses through Mitigation and Adaptation."** The sessions will revolve around the following topic areas:

- Integrating "green" Approaches to Hazard Mitigation;
- Creative People and Creative Solutions to Hazard Mitigation;
- Mitigation Entrepreneurs;
- Role of Insurance in Promoting Mitigation, Safer Development and Redevelopment;
- Best Practices: Cities Moving to Reduce Risk;
- Racial/Ethnic/Cultural Approaches, faith Based and Gender-based Action to Climate Change Adaptation and Hazard Mitigation;
- Mitigation Philanthropy; and
- Resilient Neighbors Network.

NHMA would like you to consider attending and possibly becoming a sponsor. You can find information on registration and sponsorship by going to www.nhma.info click on Symposium/Workshop in the header then click on Sponsorship form. Fill it out and send it to Natural Hazard Mitigation Association, P.O. Box 55352, Metairie, Louisiana 70055. Questions, call Lincoln Walther, (772) 219-3017.

List of Resources for Recovery Planning

- NOAA Coastal Services Center publication about hazard, resiliency planning, and land use. It may be useful in local recovery planning. http://www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/_pdf/hazard-and-resiliency-planning.pdf
- <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=1558> *Planning for Post-Disaster Recovery*
- <http://www.floridadisaster.org/Recovery/IndividualAssistance/pdredevelopmentplan/index.htm> (Florida Division of Emergency Management)
- <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/pdrp/> (Fairfax County Pre-Disaster Recovery Plan)
- http://www.csc.noaa.gov/cz/CZ07_Proceedings/PDFs/Wednesday_Abstracts/3131.Leduc.pdf (PRE-DISASTER PLANNING FOR CATASTROPHIC DISASTERS RECOVERY. André Le Duc, Oregon Natural Hazards Workgroup, University of Oregon)
- http://coastalhazardscenter.org/dev/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/State-Disaster-Recovery-Planning-Guide_2012.pdf (State Disaster Recovery Planning Guide : The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)
- <http://www.floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/programs/technical-assistance/community-resiliency/post-disaster-redevelopment-planning/toolkit#RedevPlanLinks> (Florida Department of Economic Opportunity: Best Practices Guidebook)
- http://www.floridajobs.org/fdcp/dcp/hazardmitigation/files/Protecting_FL_Comm.pdf (Protecting Florida's Communities)
- <http://restoreyoureconomy.org/> (Restore your Economy.org)



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