

City of Tallahassee/Leon County Local Mitigation Strategy
Hazard Mitigation Procedures Initiatives
2009 Progress Report

1. Increase intergovernmental coordination in the area of stormwater management.

Status: In April of 2005, the City of Tallahassee and Leon County created the Interlocal Watershed Management Policy Board. The board is comprised of state and local officials charged with creating a joint watershed management plan to address stormwater issues by looking at the needs of the region's stormwater basins rather than focusing on stormwater management needs within jurisdictional boundaries. It is anticipated that the watershed management plans will include structural and non-structural recommendations such as public education and/or land development practices.

2. Improve the disaster resistance of existing site built housing stock.

Status: The Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross facilitates various structural mitigation activities on low-income, owner occupied homes. To date, the Red Cross has retrofitted many homes in Leon County. Through public outreach, residents have been encouraged to make use of the My Safe Home program to evaluate their homes. <http://www.mysafefloridahome.com/>

3. Advocate that FEMA provide greater flexibility to local communities that elect to establish more accurate flood elevations.

Status: The City of Tallahassee and Leon County continue to cooperate with the Northwest Florida Water Management District through a Cooperating Technical Partnership with FEMA, which will be instrumental in accomplishing this goal.

4. Promote disaster resistant neighborhoods.

Status: The community continues to partner with the local Red Cross and local media outlets to provide public service announcements and outreach programs supplying information to citizens related to disaster resistant neighborhood strategies.

5. Improvement in floodplain boundary identification and implementation of the FEMA map amendment process.

Status: The City of Tallahassee continues to work with FEMA and its sub-contractors to adopt updates to the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM). A countywide FIRM update went into effect August 18.

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2009. The update included significant improvements in flood hazard mapping for the City and the County.

6. Explore methods to eliminate additional development in the 25-year floodplain.

Status: The City of Tallahassee, Growth Management Department continues to consider new ordinance language to accomplish this goal.

7. Identify shuttering/hardening needs for Tallahassee Memorial Hospital (TMH) and Capital Regional Medical Center (CRMC).

Status: Once a possible funding source is identified, the committee has discussed applying for window protection at TMH. TMH has developed an application for hazard mitigation and is ready to proceed, when funding becomes available. Tallahassee community hospital is now Capital Regional Medical Center, and they have hardened windows installed.

8. Strengthen the land development code dealing with finished floor elevation.

Status: The Growth Management Department and Stormwater Management are continuing work on potential regulatory changes to the floodplain section of the municipal code. This initiative continues to be a priority, and it is under consideration by the Local Mitigation Strategy Steering Committee.

9. Expand the County's housing inspection program.

Status: The Leon County Housing Inspection Program continues to focus on the inspection and rehabilitation of owner-occupied housing of low to moderate-income residents. Residents are made aware of the program through outreach projects, which advertise potential assistance availability. Once an inspection and rehabilitation project is completed, the house will meet current code requirements. Leon County also funds a Red Cross program that removes or trims trees that could damage a house if they fall during a storm.

10. Improve current efforts to remove dead, dying or diseased trees or branches next to roadways and power lines.

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Status: The City of Tallahassee Electric Department and City of Tallahassee Streets and Drainage Division in cooperation with the Leon County Public Works Department, continues to remove those trees and limbs that pose a hazard to overhead power lines and roadways.

11. Flood related capital improvement projects.

Status: See attached list of City of Tallahassee, Stormwater Capital Projects drainage improvement projects.

12. Identify equipment needs for responding to a weapons of mass destruction threat, a hazardous materials release or similar disaster.

Status: Our community emergency management officials have identified the equipment needed and have purchased many of the items through the homeland security funding. There is a committee that outlines items to be purchased, and funding is coordinated through the Regional Domestic Security Task Force. However, available funding for this initiative is decreasing.

13. Require flood hazard disclosure in the deed for the sale or transfer of improved or unimproved property in the floodplain.

Status: It continues to be standard practice for the City of Tallahassee Public Works Department, Real Estate Division to record development limitations and drainage easements on the deed of any property sold within the floodplain. In addition, all properties acquired using federal funding for flood relief such as the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program also must have deed restrictions recorded at the time of purchase.

14. Acquire parcels in the 100-year floodplain.

Status: The City and County continue to evaluate potential acquisition projects and possible funding sources for property acquisitions within the 100-year floodplain. Many parcels within the 100-year floodplain have been purchased by the City of Tallahassee and Leon County during previous years to provide flood relief to flood prone property owners. Some of these acquisition projects were entirely funded using local dollars. Others were funded through state and federal programs while also making use of local matching funds. Examples of these

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programs include the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, both of which are FEMA programs administered by the Florida Department of Community Affairs.

15. Evaluate requirements and feasibility for the County's participation in the NFIP Community Rating System.

Status: Leon County does not participate in the Community Rating System due to the historically low numbers of residents who purchase flood insurance and the small reduction in premium value.

16. Establish audible warning systems at the dam.

Status: The C. H. Corn, Hydroelectric Power Plant at the Lake Talquin Dam continues to operate warning siren and paging system that is used to warn boaters downstream of the dam to move further downstream prior to increasing flow through the dam.

17. Explore the feasibility of adding a full build-out component to the Leon County Master Stormwater Management Plan

Status: Based on information from the Leon County Public Works Department, there are no plans to update the Master Plan at this time due to staffing limitations and current allocation of available resources.

18. Retrofit shelters to correct known deficiencies.

Status: Deficiencies have been identified by the state and corrected. All new construction (Schools) will conform to enhanced hurricane performance standards.

19. Consider addressing the economic impact of different disaster scenarios, as information becomes available.

Status: The City of Tallahassee and the Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross both continue to have programs in place to assess the impacts of disaster immediately following an event. Damage Assessment Teams are also deployed following a disaster on a countywide basis to document disaster-related damages.

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20. Replacement of overhead electrical distribution lines with underground lines along Woodward Ave.

Status: As of September 2009, this initiative is complete.

21. Identify decontamination-training needs for Tallahassee Memorial Hospital and Tallahassee Community Hospital personnel.

Status: As of September 2009, this initiative is complete.

22. Identify needs for improving the disaster resistance of critical facilities.

Status: The Local Mitigation Strategy Steering Committee continues to work to identify additional security measures to protect critical facilities within the community. The City has installed extra security measures at certain critical facilities throughout the City. The North Florida Regional Domestic Security Task Forces, is provided funding to address K-12, Universities, Court houses and communications towers, funding is still needed to protect utilities.

23. Identify, develop and implement training courses for emergency responders.

Status: Through continued cooperation between City and County emergency managers, incident command training sessions will continue to be provided to City, County and other community representatives with emergency response roles.

24. Host an annual or semi-annual disaster fair.

Status: The Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross regularly facilitates hurricane exercises for businesses and neighborhoods to increase community preparedness. Further information related to the Red Cross hurricane exercises can be found online at www.tallytown.com/biz.

25. Develop a program to promote a community-wide debate comparing community vulnerability with available resources.

Status: The Local Mitigation Strategy Steering regularly meets to discuss these issues.

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26. Develop program to deploy flood-warning devices at critical facilities and/or locations.

Status: There are several flood-warning devices in place and functioning within the community, which include the flood warning system at Franklin Boulevard, the warning system at the Lake Talquin Dam as well as the Capital Area Flood Warning Network and City of Tallahassee Rainfall Data Telemetry System. The Capital Area Flood Warning Network and the City of Tallahassee Rainfall Data Telemetry System provide real-time rainfall totals and water levels at key points within the community. Emergency Management Officials can then use this information during major storm events to identify potential areas of flooding.

27. Develop regional hazardous materials response capability; identify needed assets, training and local agreements.

Status: The Apalachee Regional Planning Council, Tallahassee, Gainesville, Thomasville, Valdosta and other surrounding communities have worked together on regional responses. In Florida, surrounding communities have agreed to support each other through the Fire Chief's Association and the Regional Domestic Security Tasks Forces. There are 7 of these in Florida, and they will support each other as needed. There has been no change in the status of this initiative since the previous publication of this report.

28. Develop automated telephone warning/notice system tied to chemical releases at fixed facilities.

Status: Funding needs to be identified, to support such a system.

29. Identify populations at risk under different scenarios.

Status: The Local Mitigation Strategy Steering Committee regularly meets to discuss these issues. Additional coordination has also taken place using the digital information available through the community's Geographic Information System. In addition, the Florida Department of Health and the Florida Division of Emergency Management also considers this topic for hazardous materials.

30. Build a single, community-wide emergency operations center.

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Status: The City of Tallahassee and Leon County have committed to constructing a Joint Dispatch facility, while this facility does not include a joint emergency operation center that is under construction; this facility lends itself to better communications and coordination between the City and County. Additional funding could be used to support such a facility in the future.

31. Develop and implement program(s) to promote better understanding between hospital and local emergency service provider personnel regarding hospital emergency plans and local emergency plans/capabilities.

Status: The County/State Health Department conducts meetings and full scale exercises in an effort to bring all parties together to test plans and procedures.

32. Encourage the establishment of community-based emergency shelters.

Status: The City of Tallahassee and Leon County have a total of 15 school campuses and 72 buildings, which meet the Red Cross standards and can be used as emergency shelters. In addition, the City of Tallahassee is now providing transportation to persons who regularly ride StarMetro seeking shelter.

33. Compile a more comprehensive hazardous materials database.

Status: According to Local Mitigation Strategy Steering Committee information, the Solid Waste Departments are responsible for maintaining the hazardous materials database. However, there is no record of a recent update to this information on file. Leon County Division of Emergency Management and the Local Emergency Planning Committee is responsible for identifying and mapping all facilities storing EPA section 302 chemicals. Annually, they publish a document identifying these locations as part of the community right to know act.

34. Establish a community emergency medical needs working group.

Status: The Leon County Health Department indicates this initiative is currently being met via a health care committee coalition.

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35. Establish an exercise design team.

Status: This initiative is currently met. Support is being provided through the North Florida Regional Domestic Security Task Force and the Apalachee Regional Planning Council.

36. Develop and implement policy requiring health care providers (hospitals, adult congregate care living facilities, nursing homes, etc.) to provide necessary staff support at special needs shelters.

Status: This is now a requirement, which is met by the Leon County Health Department.

37. Establish an Emergency Services Working Group.

Status: The Local Mitigation Strategy Steering Committee includes Emergency Services Personnel, and Emergency Services needs are discussed during LMS meetings.

38. Identify and deploy typical resource needs prior to a disaster occurring.

Status: This is a standard procedure for all governmental departments when sufficient notice of impending disaster occurs. The local emergency management officials both City and County along with the staff from the Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross and the Community Organizations Active in Disasters <http://volunteerleon.org/coad/>.

39. Place an audible warning system at the wastewater treatment plant and potable water sites.

Status: The City of Tallahassee Water Quality Administration has initiated a remote detection system to determine the run status and condition of the potable well facilities. This system achieves the goal of an audible alarm system for our potable water system. The Lake Bradford Road wastewater treatment plant has audible alarms on chlorine gas releases. In addition, a separate monitoring system has audible alarms for all equipment in the Thomas P. Smith wastewater treatment plant on Springhill Road.

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40. Develop and disseminate a public awareness safety strategy.

Status: The City of Tallahassee, Leon County , and Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross performs this initiative on a regular basis.

41. Identify major land-based transportation corridors and establish safe zones around those corridors based on the exposure pathway for different chemicals.

Status: The Apalachee Regional Planning Council has developed a transportation study for hazardous materials. In addition, local Emergency Management officials have developed preliminary mapping of safe zones, 1-2 miles along the major routes through the community.

42. Deploy a low-power public radio station.

Status: Currently, no funding has been obtained to purchase the system. Therefore, Emergency Managers would make use of NOAA Alerts and Public Radio for required radio broadcasts of public announcements in the event of an emergency.

43. Establish community emergency response teams.

Status: The City of Tallahassee and the Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross both have emergency response teams in place to assess the impacts of disaster immediately following an event. Damage Assessment Teams would be deployed following a disaster to document disaster-related damages throughout the County, which would allow further analysis of economic impacts of the disaster.

44. Establish regional mitigation teams.

Status: Each time there is a regional or large-scale exercise, regional mitigation teams are formed including all key players, and usually the same people are involved. However, this group of individuals has not been formally assigned to a team. This approach will most likely continue to be used to allow flexibility in staffing for such exercises.

45. Create an emergency management-coordinating group.

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Status: There are numerous coordinating groups in Tallahassee and Leon County, which have emergency management officials as members including the Local Mitigation Strategy Steering Committee.

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Table 1: City of Tallahassee Drainage Improvement Projects

The City has identified the following 16 drainage improvement projects in its current Capital Improvement Program (FY2008-2013). The estimated cost of these projects totals \$64,650,400.

Project	Cost (\$)	Prior Year	Current Status
Campus Circle Flooding	4,280,000	Completed	Completed
Central Ditch Flood Reduction	10,900,000	On-hold (1)	On-hold (1)
Chapel Drive	1,200,000	Completed	Completed
Connie Drive Flooding	4,275,000	Under Construction	Completed
E Georgia & Meridian	2,575,000	Design	Under Construction
Emory Court	9,000,000	Design	Design
Ford Street Drainage Improvements	950,000	Construction	Under Construction
Frenchtown Stormwater Master Plan	11,645,400	Design	Under Construction (see note below)
Lafayette Park Outfall	2,200,000	Design	Design
Meginnis Creek at Sharer Road	4,725,000	Construction	Completed
Northeast Ditch at Lonbladh	1,500,000	Construction	Completed
Park Ave. Tributary No. 1 Improvements	2,400,000	Study	Study
Pickett Court	1,000,000	Study	Study
Rainfall and Stream Gauging	390,000	Data gathering	Data gathering
Small Projects Initiative (see below)	4,250,000	See Table 2 below	See Table 2 below
Stormwater Infrastructure Inventory and Mapping	3,360,000	Data gathering	Data gathering
Total	\$64,650,400		

Notes:

1. Projects listed as “On Hold” have been recommended and approved in the Capital Budget and are awaiting implementation.
2. The Frenchtown Stormwater Project has been segmented into multiple phases. Once phase has been constructed while other phases are in various stages of implementation.

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Table 2: City of Tallahassee Drainage Improvement Projects - Small Projects Initiative

Project	Priority Year Activity	Status
1103 Bonnie Drive	Under Construction	Completed
2212 Eastgate Way	On hold	On hold
O'Brien and Grey Abbey Court	Under Construction	Completed
Sandhurst Drive	Future	Design
2925 Edenderry Drive	Under Construction	Completed
926 Millard Street	Design	Under Construction
3449 Mahoney Drive	Study	Design
Villages of Killlearn/Kinsail	Design	Completed
2764 Faringdon Drive	Design	Completed
1102 Tanner	Design	Under Construction
1503 Spruce Avenue	Future	Future
Shamrock North at Edenderry Drive	Study	Design
Stonehouse Road	Study	Design
3068 O'Brien Drive	Future	Future
3933 Runnymede	Future	Future
1341 Hutchinson	Future	Future
605 Putnam Drive	Future	Future
2329 Limerick Drive	Future	Future
1423 Devils Dip	Future	Future
519 Short Street	Future	Future
2005 Florida Avenue	Future	Future
312 & 316 Ridge Road	Future	Future
2905 Brey Court	Future	Future
1829 Ivan Drive	Future	Future
Randolph / Belleauwood /Jenette/2235 & 2243 Trescott	Future	Future
823 Ausley Road	Future	Future
510 Middlebrooks Circle	Future	Future

Note: All "Small Projects Initiative" projects that are listed as "On Hold" have been recommended for construction and are awaiting implementation. SPI projects listed as "Future" are planned in the SPI program and will be implemented in the order listed.