



# LMS TIMES



Volume 24

Spring: Apr/May/June

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## Director's Corner



By Mary Blakeney, FPEM, Director, PBCDEM

I want to congratulate all of our partners and our staff who worked so hard to update the County Local Mitigation Strategy for submission to the Florida Division of Emergency Management and ultimately to FEMA. This was a TEAM effort and I am truly grateful.

As we count down to the beginning of the 2024 Atlantic Hurricane Season the Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management is encouraging all resi-

dents to prepare their homes and businesses for potential storms which could impact our communities. The 2024 Atlantic Hurricane Season begins June 1st and runs through November 30, with the historical peak of the season beginning in September yet, the South Florida season historically is most active September and October. Regardless of hurricane season predictions, it only takes one storm to harm our communities.

As part of this preparedness, please feel free to use any of the resources found on our website [www.readypbc.com](http://www.readypbc.com) and educate our community how mitigation is so vital to preparedness which leads to a robust response and ultimately a smooth recovery....it's all connected.

## Palm Beach County Spotlight

### Palm Beach County's Emergency Notification System



AlertPBC is Palm Beach County's Emergency Notification System allowing you to opt in to receive notifications via phone calls, text messaging, email, and more based on locations you care about. You can choose to receive notifications about events that may affect your home, workplace, family's schools, and more.

The information you provide is protected and will not be used for any other purpose.



App available on:



### HOW AlertPBC WORKS

When we issue a notification about a potential safety hazard or concern, you will receive a message on the voice or text communication method that you have registered. If requested for the notification, you can confirm that you have received the message and will not be contacted by any subsequent methods regarding that particular notification. If you do not confirm, the system will continue to attempt to reach you at all of the contact paths that you have registered.

All information provided will be kept strictly confidential.

## Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Prioritized Project List (PPL)

The Prioritized Project List (PPL) is a consolidated list of mitigation projects within the County that are reviewed, scored, and ranked twice per year. Spring project submission period will be April 26—May 10, 2024.

Review your Capital Improvement Plans for projects applicable for submission. Projects are submitted through WebEOC at <https://webeoc.pbcgov.com/eoc7/default.aspx>. Guidance documents are located on the PBC DEM webpage at [ready.pbc.com/LMS](https://ready.pbc.com/LMS) or <https://discover.pbc.gov/publicsafety/dem/Sections/Planning-Local-Mitigation-Strategy.aspx> Qualifying project categories are:

Beach/Seawall	Hazmat	Other
Communication	Infrastructure	Outreach
COOP/Government	Infrastructure-Building	Planning
Counterterrorism/ Homeland Security Initiative	Infrastructure-Roadway	Public Information & Education
Cyber Security	Infrastructure-Water/Sewer/Drainage	Shuttering and Wind proofing
Equipment	Mechanical Maintenance/Improvement	Traffic Control
Exercise	Mitigation	Training
Flood Control/Reduction and Waterway MGMT	Notification	USAR

Contact the PBM LMS Coordinator for more information and details. PBC DEM strives to have 100% compliance with the FEMA PPL participation requirement.

Jerri L. Clairday, LMS Coordinator, [PBC-LMS@pbc.gov](mailto:PBC-LMS@pbc.gov) or 561-712-6481

### Community Input Request for LMS Times Articles

We are requesting community input for publication in the LMS Times quarterly newsletter. Has your community implemented or completed a mitigation project? If so, please submit a narrative of approximately 400 words along with high resolution photos to:

Jerri L. Clairday, LMS/CRS Coordinator

**Electronic submission:**  
[JClairday@pbc.gov](mailto:JClairday@pbc.gov)

**Hardcopy submission:**  
 20 Military Trail  
 West Palm Beach, FL 33415

## Palm Beach County Climate Risk Assessment and Action Plan

By Stessy Cocerez, Resilience and Sustainability Analyst

Palm Beach County (PBC) is developing a Climate Risk Assessment and Action Plan to address environmental hazards and climate risks exacerbated by climate change and sea level rise and provide a comprehensive roadmap for PBC to enhance its resilience. The Florida Department of Commerce's Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) Program, on behalf of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), through the Resilient Florida Grant program, funded this initiative.

The PBC Climate Risk Assessment will systematically identify PBC's susceptibility to adverse impacts from climate threats, particularly as they relate to assets owned or maintained by the County, and determine their potential exposure. This assessment covers rainfall flooding, tidal flooding, storm surge flooding, sea level rise, extreme heat, drought, severe storms, wildfires, and coastal erosion hazards. This assessment will focus on unincorporated PBC, the Glades region, and PBC assets that are located within other PBC municipalities. The results will contribute to disaster mitigation planning efforts and improve plans at the state, regional, and local levels.

The Climate Risk Assessment's findings will inform the County's Resilience Action Plan, which will offer strategies for County-wide resilience to prepare for the risks identified. The Action Plan will prioritize projects based on the Climate Risk Assessment and consider hazard mitigation efforts, emergency preparedness, land use planning, code and policy development, infrastructure investment, and public health policies and programs. The Action Plan will provide realistic, cost-effective implementation plans to benefit PBC.



Ultimately, the Climate Risk Assessment and Action Plan will create a cohesive and collaborative strategy for a resilient region, addressing various environmental hazards and complying with state legislation requirements. The resulting action plan will guide County actions and partnerships with the broader community. Additionally, it will allow PBC to become eligible for future State and Federal grant funding to address climate change and sea level rise adaptation and resilience projects.

For additional information on the VARAP, including valuable resources and workshop recordings, please visit the Office of Resilience website at <https://discover.pbcgov.org/resilience/>. To receive additional updates regarding the VARAP, please consider signing up for the OOR Newsletter at <https://discover.pbcgov.org/resilience/Pages/Newsletter-Sign-Up.aspx>.

Community input is valued and critical for advancing resiliency in PBC. Throughout this project, PBC has requested feedback from the community at key points in the planning process through both in-person and hybrid workshops and community surveys. To participate in the Climate Change Survey, please use the following link:

To help us document flooding events in Palm Beach County, please use the following link: <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/776e3273a0c0461ca2246fa1e778128b>. Please note that the

surveys are not continuously monitored, and any flooding emergencies should be directed at (561)233-3950.

### LOCAL MITIGATION STRATEGY (LMS) 2024 SUBMITTED TO FDEM

On Friday, April 5, 2024, PBC Department of Public Safety’s Division of Emergency Management, in collaboration with the LMS Revisions Sub-Committee and approval from the Steering Committee, formally submitted the LMS2024 revision to Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM). FDEM will review, request edits or any additions if needed, and make recommendations to FEMA for approval. Once we receive “Approved Pending Adoption (APA)” status, the LMS will be taken before the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for adoption. Each local government will then need to formally adopt within 12 months.

Special thanks to the LMS Revisions Sub-Committee for their tireless commitment and unending support through the process. Their hard work is evident in the finished LMS2024. Thank you!

### BILLION DOLLAR WEATHER & CLIMATE DISASTERS 1980-2024

The US has sustained 378 weather and climate disasters since 1980 in which damages/costs reached or exceeded \$1 billion.

#### Florida Flood Direct Damages & Deaths (October 1—September 30)

Water Year	Damages	Fatalities
2022	\$1,044,664,200	5
2021	\$37,533,000	0
2020	\$47,843,000	0
2019	\$667,100	0
2018	\$72,000	0
2017	\$548,045,710	3

Just one inch of floodwater can cause up to \$25,000 in damage. Most homeowners insurance does not cover flood damage. It is important to protect your most important financial assets — your home, your business, your possessions. For National Flood Insurance Program information, log onto:

<https://www.fema.gov/flood-insurance>

### DO YOU KNOW IF YOU ARE IN A FLOOD ZONE?

Access Palm Beach County’s *Flood Zone Look-up Tool* and type in your address with no punctuation. <https://discover.pbcgov.org/publicsafety/dem/pages/know-your-zone.aspx> .

To understand your zone designation, FEMA explains:

Flood hazard areas identified on the Flood Insurance Rate Map are identified as a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). SFHA are defined as the area that will be inundated by the flood event having a 1-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. The 1-percent annual chance flood is also referred to as the base flood or 100-year flood.

SFHAs are labeled as Zone A, Zone AO, Zone AH, Zones A1-A30, Zone AE, Zone A99, Zone AR, Zone AR/AE, Zone AR/AO, Zone AR/A1-A30, Zone AR/A, Zone V, Zone VE, and Zones V1-V30.

Moderate flood hazard areas, labeled Zone B or Zone X are also shown on the FIRM, and are the areas between the limits of the base flood and the 0.2-percent-annual-chance (or 500-year) flood. The areas of minimal flood hazard, which are the areas outside the SFHA and higher than the elevation of the 0.2-percent-annual-chance flood, are labeled Zone C or Zone X.

<https://www.fema.gov/glossary/flood-zones>

