



Natural Disaster Component



Adoption

The BrowardNEXT2.0 Comprehensive Plan was adopted on March 28, 2019 (Ordinance No. 2019-11).

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Natural Disaster Component

Hurricanes, tornadoes, extreme heat, floods, fires, storm surge, and other natural disasters may threaten the safety of Broward County's residents, visitors, and properties. South Florida is most vulnerable to the threat of hurricanes and storm surge. Hurricane season begins on June 1 and ends on November 30, but planning and preparation are year-round activities. Broward County must work to protect over 1.9 million permanent residents, 15 million annual visitors, billions of dollars in tangible properties, 23 miles of beaches, as well as over 150,000 coastal residents and mobile home occupants living in mandatory evacuation zones. Accommodations must be made to protect Broward's vulnerable population groups such as the homeless, the elderly, and the physically challenged. Broward County's goal is to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to life and property from hazardous events. Broward County and its municipalities, in coordination with partner agencies, should put in place a post-disaster recovery and redevelopment strategy to ease the rebuilding process and remove potential obstacles that would support a sustainable community after a major disaster.



South Florida and Broward County are most vulnerable to the threat of hurricanes and storm surge.

Broward County should evaluate properties that have a history of repetitive loss for possible purchase and conversion to open space. In addition, a dune and shoreline vegetation management program

should be implemented to help break the destructive waves and storm surge that accompany a hurricane.

Policy History

- 2000 [The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 \(DMA 2000\)](#) is established and requires all local governments to have a hazard mitigation plan in place in order to receive mitigation funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- 2017 The Broward County [Enhanced Local Mitigation Strategy \(ELMS\)](#), which serves as the Countywide comprehensive mitigation plan, is approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Focus Areas

- Limit Capital Improvements in High Hazard Areas
- Protect Human Life Against the Effects of Natural Disasters
- Support Planning Techniques to Reduce Evacuation Times
- Maintain and Update Broward County's Enhanced Local Mitigation Strategy
- Create a Countywide Community Recovery Plan
- Ensure integration of climate adaptation into disaster planning

Legal Authority



Chapter 163.3177, Florida Statutes: *The natural disaster component outlines principles for hazard mitigation and protection of human life against the effects of natural disaster, including population evacuation, which take into consideration the capability to safely evacuate coastal population before an impending natural disaster.*

The Natural Disaster Component includes Goals, Objectives and Policies that support the Focus Areas. Once the policies are adopted by the Board, government agencies, partners, and the community work together to advance and implement those policies.

BROWARD COUNTY FLORIDA

READY. SET. SAFE.

EMERGENCY Checklists

- 10-Step Family Plan
- Shelter Kit
- Special Needs Shelter Kit
- Pet Survival Kit
- Emergency Kit

For more preparedness information, visit Broward.org/Hurricane and Broward.org/AtRisk

10-Step Family Plan

STEP 1 — Hold a family meeting.
Discuss what can happen in an emergency. Encourage children to talk about their fears and explain some of the things you'll be doing to keep everyone safe. Start a written list of things you'll need to take care in advance and encourage everyone in the family to contribute their ideas.

STEP 2 — Discuss whether you'll need to evacuate.
Determine whether you live in an evacuation zone and, if so, where you will go if an evacuation order is given. Going to a family or friend's house or hotel outside the evacuation area is your best choice. If a hurricane is approaching and you choose to go out of town, do so well in advance of the storm. Since shelters provide for only basic needs, this should be your choice of last resort.

STEP 3 — Ensure your assets are protected.
Inventory your home possessions and videotape, record or photograph items of value. Review your insurance policies to ensure you have adequate coverage. Know that once a hurricane watch has been issued, insurers will not issue new or additional coverage.

STEP 4 — Assess your home for vulnerable areas.
Do a walk-through of your home and property to evaluate your roof, windows, garage door, landscaping, etc. and determine what actions you will take.

STEP 5 — Make a plan to protect your vehicles.
Decide where you will store or park your vehicle, boat or RV. Check your vehicle insurance policy and keep it in the same safe place as your homeowner's policy.

STEP 6 — Secure your home.
Decide what actions you will need to take to protect your home and your property (shutters, generator, tree-trimming), and to keep as comfortable as possible during recovery.

STEP 7 — Determine if anyone in your home has special needs, or is vulnerable in an emergency.
If anyone in your home has special needs in an emergency because of a medical condition, or because they are elderly or disabled, make arrangements in advance to accommodate those needs.

STEP 8 — Make a plan for your pets.
Determine how you will address your pet's needs and make a plan in case you have to evacuate. Be sure to plan for large outdoor animals as well, such as horses, pigs and cows.

STEP 9 — Gather your supplies.
Use the checklist provided to determine your family's food, water and medical needs and assemble your emergency kit according to those needs.

STEP 10 — Notify others of your plan.
Let family or friends know what your emergency plan is so they can check on you in the aftermath of the event. Establish an out-of-town contact.

Broward.org/Hurricane
READY. SET. SAFE.

[Ready. Set. Safe.](#) Broward County's Official Hurricane Preparedness Guide is designed to provide valuable information that residents can use before, during and after a storm.

Goals, Objectives, & Policies

GOAL NATURAL DISASTER

Protect human life and limit public expenditures in the Coastal Area subject to destruction by natural disasters.

OBJECTIVE ND1– Limit Capital Improvements in High Hazard Areas

Limit public expenditures that subsidize development and establish criteria for prioritizing capital improvements.

POLICY ND1.1 Public expenditures should focus on projects that restore or enhance natural resources, such as beach nourishment.

POLICY ND1.2 Broward County and municipalities should not utilize public funds for infrastructure expansion or improvements in coastal high-hazard storm areas unless such funds are necessary to provide services to the existing development or to provide adequate evacuation in the event of an emergency and mitigate the impacts of sea level rise.

OBJECTIVE ND2 – Protect Human Life Against the Effects of Natural Disasters

Direct population concentrations away from known or predicted “Coastal Storm Areas.”

POLICY ND2.1 The Broward County Planning Council shall maintain a Broward County Coastal Storm Area Map with information received from the [Regional Emergency Services & Communications](#) (RESC) office as part of the Natural Resource Map Series of the Broward County Land Use Plan.



OBJECTIVE ND3 – Support Planning Techniques to Reduce Evacuation Times

Maintain or reduce predicted hurricane evacuation times in the Coastal Hurricane Evacuation Plan (CHEP) and the South Florida Regional Planning Council’s Regional Evacuation Model Study.

POLICY ND3.1 Municipalities shall assign sufficient and appropriate personnel to assure that tasks necessary to expedite evacuation are completed.

POLICY ND3.2 Broward County shall revise the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and the CHEP, as needed, to reflect new techniques or programs useful in accelerating evacuation.

POLICY ND3.3 Broward County shall update the South Florida Regional Planning Council's Regional Hurricane Evacuation Model Traffic Study and any applicable local studies to reflect changes as needed.

POLICY ND3.4. Broward County shall continue regular meetings of local, regional, and State evacuation planning professionals.

POLICY ND3.5 Broward County shall continue solicitation of data from municipal police and fire departments regarding transit dependent evacuation needs of mobile home park residents within municipalities.

POLICY ND3.6 The Regional Emergency Services & Communications office and the State Department of Health should continue their procedures to inform persons with special medical needs of evacuation transportation and shelter services that may be available to them.

OBJECTIVE ND4 – Ensure That Residential Uses and Densities Within Mandatory Hurricane Evacuation Zones Do Not Hinder Evacuation Processes

Establish residential densities within the mandatory hurricane evacuation zones so they do not negatively impact the hurricane evacuation clearance standards.

POLICY ND4.1 Broward County shall discourage land use plan amendments which propose residential or hotel uses within hurricane evacuation zones that negatively impact hurricane evacuation clearance times and emergency shelter capacities.

POLICY ND4.2 Broward County shall establish a methodology to estimate the short- and long-range planning horizon impacts of proposed residential uses within hurricane evacuation zones on hurricane evacuation clearance times and emergency shelter capabilities.

OBJECTIVE ND5 – Maintain and Update Broward County's Enhanced Local Mitigation Strategy

Broward County shall maintain and update the Enhanced Local Mitigation Strategy and mitigation project lists to support mitigation that reduces the exposure of life and property to hazards.

POLICY ND5.1 Broward County shall support incentives to purchase and/or redevelop Repetitive Loss Properties to reduce future property damages and losses.

POLICY ND5.2 Broward County shall encourage local governments to implement prioritized hazard mitigation projects.

POLICY ND5.3 Broward County shall utilize the Enhanced Local Mitigation Strategy to encourage resilient infrastructure Countywide promoting green infrastructure where and when possible, mitigate existing critical facilities, and promote activities which address climate change concerns.



In 2017, City of Sunrise Fire Department was awarded a Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Grant in the amount of \$178,873. The grant provides funds to assist in reducing the overall risk by upgrading and replacing an existing generator at Fire Station 92.

OBJECTIVE ND6 – Create a Countywide Community Recovery Plan Addressing Post-Disaster Redevelopment

Broward County shall develop a Countywide Community Recovery Plan focusing on post-disaster redevelopment and mitigation utilizing guidance as outlined in Broward County’s Recovery Plan, which highlights the planning process.

POLICY ND6.1 Post-disaster redevelopment should distinguish between immediate repair and cleanup actions needed to protect public health and safety and long-term recovery and redevelopment activities.

POLICY ND6.2 Post-disaster redevelopment should address the removal, relocation, or structural modification of damaged infrastructure, as determined appropriate by Broward County, but consistent with federal funding provisions and unsafe structures.

POLICY ND6.3 Broward County should incorporate the recommendations of interagency hazard mitigation reports into the Broward County Comprehensive Plan as applicable.

POLICY ND6.4 All new construction along the beachfront should be consistent with design criteria established pursuant to the designation of the Coastal Construction Control Line (CCCL).

POLICY ND6.5 Regulations contained within the Florida Building Code shall be enforced to reduce exposure of life and property to the damaging effects of a hurricane.

POLICY ND6.6 Broward County disaster specific mitigation plan addendum recommendations should be incorporated into the Community Recovery Plan with focus on post-disaster redevelopment.

POLICY ND6.7 Broward County shall limit post-disaster redevelopment in areas of repeated damage, where legal and financially feasible.

OBJECTIVE ND7 – Ensure Integration of Climate Adaptation into Disaster Planning

Ensure adequate planning and coordinated response for emergency preparedness and post-disaster management in the context of climate change.

POLICY ND7.1 Broward County shall ensure adequate planning and response for emergency management in the context of climate change by maximizing the resilience and self-sufficiency of, and providing access to, public structures, schools, hospitals, and other shelters and critical facilities.

POLICY ND7.2 Broward County shall continue to develop disaster mitigation plans and monitoring programs to address the impacts of climate change on households and individuals especially vulnerable to health risks attributable to or exacerbated by rising temperatures, including low income households and the elderly.

POLICY ND7.3 Broward County shall continue to communicate and collaboratively plan with other local, regional, state, and federal agencies on emergency preparedness and disaster management strategies. This includes incorporating climate change impacts into updates of local mitigation plans, water management plans, shelter placement and capacity, review of major trafficways and evacuation routes, and cost analysis of post-disaster redevelopment strategies.

POLICY ND7.4 Broward County shall work to encourage dialogue between residents, businesses, insurance companies, and other stakeholders, through public education campaigns and workshops, in order to increase understanding regarding the potential impacts of natural disasters and climate change on our coastal communities and evaluate the shared costs of action or inaction in human, ecological, and financial terms.

POLICY ND7.5 Broward County shall cooperatively develop model codes and policies to encourage post-hazard redevelopment in areas with less vulnerability to storm surge, inundation, flooding, sea level rise and other impacts of climate change, and incentivize locally appropriate mitigation and adaptation strategies.



The Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.

POLICY ND7.6 Broward County shall develop strategies and policies to address post disaster redevelopment issues, such as:

1. Expediting demolition of abandoned significantly damaged structures;
2. Requiring utility and infrastructure improvements that reduce vulnerability to storms and disasters;
3. Promoting energy efficient, heat reduction, and storm resilient features in the redevelopment of neighborhoods, including solar farms and replanting trees;
4. Improving drainage and raising structures, driveways and streets to avoid flooding damages;
5. Restricting redevelopment of properties in areas prone to repeat flood, wind or fire damage;
6. Addressing resiliency of mobile homes and other types of manufactured homes; and
7. Transferring of title of abandoned properties within a reasonable time frame to promote expedited redevelopment.