

Post-Disaster Redevelopment Planning Glossary¹

Administrative Declaration: A disaster declaration that is made by the administrator of a Federal agency such as the SBA. Administrative declarations typically activate the disaster programs associated with that agency and do not require a presidential declaration. Administrative declarations typically do not have to meet the threshold of presidential disaster declarations.

Bridge Loan: Short term loans that are designed to provide swift assistance in a State of Emergency, providing funds to affected businesses and farmers immediately, while the SBA paperwork is being processed.

Business Continuity Planning: Prepared (and tested) measures for protection and restoration of critical business operations from the effects of a loss, damage or other failure of operational facilities. May include a business impact analysis which evaluates the consequences to the business (financial, reputation, or operational) that could result from a disruption in business operations.

Business Recovery Center (BRC): The purpose of BRCs is to provide technical assistance, resources, and information to members of the economic community. These centers can assist businesses with communication with former employees and coordinate re-employment issues.

Charrette: Intensive collaborative design session involving small groups of stakeholders and intended to promote joint ownership of solutions. A charrette is a technique for consulting with all stakeholders. It can involve intense and possibly multi-day meetings, involving municipal officials, developers, and residents. A successful charrette promotes joint ownership of solutions and attempts to defuse typical confrontational attitudes between residents and developers. Residents who participate can provide input into the planning process. For developers and municipal officials charrettes achieve community involvement.

Community Rating System: The National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP

¹ The following definitions are drawn from the Palm Beach County Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan, Planning Advisory Service report *Holistic Disaster Recovery* and FEMA

requirements. As a result, flood insurance premium rates are discounted to reflect the reduced flood risk resulting from the community actions.

Community Redevelopment Area (CRA): Community Redevelopment Areas (CRA) were created by the Community Redevelopment Act of 1969 and are regulated by Chapter 163, Florida Statutes. Florida Statutes establishes that these are areas that have been considered as slum or blighted based on a shortage of affordable housing, deteriorating and economically distressed areas due to outdated building density patterns, inadequate transportation and parking facilities, faulty lot layout or inadequate street layout, or a combination thereof.

Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP): Operations plan required under Section 252.38(1), Florida Statutes, that define the organizational structure, chain of command, and operational procedure for the preparation, response and recovery and mitigation efforts associated with an emergency. The CEMP includes a basic plan as well as a recovery annex and a mitigation annex.

The Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) establishes the framework to ensure that Pinellas County will be adequately prepared to respond to and recover disasters resulting from natural, man-made, or technological hazards that may threaten the lives and property of residents and visitors in Pinellas County. The CEMP outlines the responsibilities and coordination mechanisms of County agencies, municipalities, constitutional officers and other taxing districts in a disaster. The CEMP also outlines the coordination of response and recovery activities with voluntary organizations active in disasters and the business community. This CEMP defines the responsible organizations and their responsibilities, and points to supporting documentation to detail how these responsibilities will be implemented.

Comprehensive Plan: Adopted by the 1985 Legislature, The Local Government Comprehensive Planning and Land Development Regulation Act (see Chapter 163, Part II, Florida Statutes) - also known as Florida's Growth Management Act - requires all of Florida's 67 counties and 410 municipalities to adopt Local Government Comprehensive Plans that guide future growth and development. Comprehensive plans contain chapters or "elements" that address future land use, housing, transportation, infrastructure, coastal management, conservation, recreation and open space, intergovernmental coordination, and capital improvements. A key component of the Act is its "concurrency" provision that requires facilities and services to be available concurrent with the impacts of development.

Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP): Plans by individual departments and agencies to ensure the continued performance of minimum essential functions during a wide range of potential emergencies. This is accomplished through the development of plans, comprehensive procedures, and provisions for alternate facilities, personnel, resources, interoperable communications, and vital records/ databases.

Critical Facilities & Infrastructure: Critical infrastructure is a term used by governments to describe assets that are essential for the functioning of a society and economy. Typically they are essential to public safety and security, public health, economic vitality. Disruption to these systems or facilities would have a debilitating effect on the community or beyond.

Disaster: Any natural, technological, or civil emergency that causes damage of sufficient severity and magnitude to result in a declaration of a state of emergency by a county, the Governor, or the President of the United States. Disasters shall be identified by the severity of resulting damage, as follows:

(a) "Catastrophic disaster" means a disaster that will require massive state and federal assistance, including immediate military involvement.

(b) "Major disaster" means a disaster that will likely exceed local capabilities and require a broad range of state and federal assistance.

(c) "Minor disaster" means a disaster that is likely to be within the response capabilities of local government and to result in only a minimal need for state or federal assistance (Chapter 252.34, F.S.).

Disaster Recovery Center (DRC): A Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) is a readily accessible facility or mobile office where applicants may go for information about FEMA or other disaster assistance programs, or for questions related to obtaining individual assistance. For more information, visit: <http://www.fema.gov/assistance/opendrcs.shtm>

Emergency Operations Center (EOC): An EOC is a central command and control facility responsible for carrying out the principles of emergency preparedness and emergency management, or disaster management functions at a strategic level in an emergency situation. An EOC is responsible for the strategic overview of the disaster, and does not normally directly control field assets, instead making operational decisions and leaving tactical decisions to lower commands. The common functions of all EOC's is to collect, gather and analyze data; make decisions that protect life and property, maintain continuity of the organization, within the scope of applicable laws; and disseminate those decisions to all concerned agencies and individuals.

Emergency period: The period commencing immediately with the onset of a natural disaster during which a community's normal operations, such as communications, transportation, and commerce, are disrupted or halted, and ending when danger from the hazard itself has ceased and initial response activities, such as search and rescue and debris clearance and removal, have commenced, at which point the community can begin to restore normal services and functions.

Emergency response plan: A document that contains information on the actions that may be taken by a governmental jurisdiction to protect people and property before, during, and after a disaster.

Emergency Support Function (ESF): Found in the CEMP and the NRF, ESFs detail the missions, policies, structures, and responsibilities of agencies for coordinating resources and response actions.

100-year Floodplain: The level of flood water expected to be equaled or exceeded every 100 years on average. The 100-year flood is more accurately referred to as the 1% flood, since it is a flood that has a 1% chance of being equaled or exceeded in any single year.

Floodway: A floodplain, or flood plain, is flat or nearly flat land adjacent to a stream or river that experiences occasional or periodic flooding. It includes the floodway, which consists of the stream channel and adjacent areas that carry flood flows, and the flood fringe, which are areas covered by the flood, but which do not experience a strong current.

Florida Statutes: The formal written enactment of a legislative authority that governs the State of Florida which command or prohibit something, or declare policy. They are the written laws decided by the legislative branch of government.

Geographic Information System (GIS): GIS captures, stores, analyzes, manages, and presents data that is linked to location. GIS includes mapping software and its application with remote sensing, land surveying, aerial photography, mathematics, photogrammetry, geography, and tools that can be implemented with GIS software.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP): HMGP provides grants to States and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration. The purpose of the HMGP is to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and to enable mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery from a disaster. The HMGP is authorized under Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

HAZUS-MH: HAZUS-MH is a powerful risk assessment software program for analyzing potential losses from floods, hurricane winds and earthquakes. In HAZUS-MH, current scientific and engineering knowledge is coupled with the latest geographic information systems (GIS) technology to produce estimates of hazard-related damage before, or after, a disaster occurs.

High Density Area: Areas of high density population.

Incident Command System (ICS): The Incident Command Structure (ICS) is a standardized, on-scene, all-hazard incident management concept. ICS is based upon a

flexible, scalable response organization providing a common framework within which people can work together effectively.

Individual Assistance (IA): FEMA's disaster assistance for individuals. When the President declares a disaster and authorizes providing Individual Assistance, FEMA's Individuals and Households Program (IHP) can help homeowners and renters affected by the disaster with housing needs and necessary expenses.

Land Development Code: The Land Development Code implements and enforces the objectives and policies outlined in the Comprehensive Plan.

Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS): The term used in Florida for the local government hazard mitigation plans required by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. Pursuant to the federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390), state and local government must develop hazard mitigation plans as a condition of federal grant assistance. The LMS is a community plan to promote hazard mitigation that includes a guiding principles section, a vulnerability assessment, and mitigation initiatives, as well as capital projects.

Long-term Redevelopment: The process of returning all aspects of the community to normal functions and, to the extent possible, to conditions improved over those that existed before the disaster. Long-term redevelopment is the period where improvements and mitigation activities such as strengthening building codes, changing land use and zoning designations, improving transportation corridors, replacing affordable housing stock, and restoring economic development activity are considered. Other changes such as quality of life improvements can take place during long-term redevelopment.

MEMPHIS: MEMPHIS is an acronym for Mapping for Emergency Management, Parallel Hazard Information Systems was created by Kinetic Analysis Corporation and the University of Central Florida's Department of Statistics for the Florida Division of Community Affairs. Although the program has some shortfalls it is a good resource for risk assessments and vulnerability analyses. MEMPHIS is a web-based program and very user friendly. More information can be obtained at: <http://lmsmaps.kinanco.com>.

Mission Essential Function: Prioritized agency or department functions that must be performed under all operational conditions. COOPs are created to ensure that these functions can continue to be performed even following a major disaster.

Mitigation: Mitigation efforts attempt to prevent hazards from developing into disasters altogether, or to reduce the effects of disasters when they occur. The mitigation phase differs from the other phases because it focuses on long-term measures for reducing or eliminating risk. The implementation of mitigation strategies can be considered a part of the recovery process if applied after a disaster occurs. Mitigation measures can be

structural or non-structural. Structural measures use technological solutions, like flood levees. Non-structural measures include legislation, land-use planning (e.g. the designation of nonessential land like parks to be used as flood zones), and insurance.

Mutual Aid: Mutual aid is an agreement among emergency responders to lend assistance across jurisdictional boundaries which may occur as a result of an emergency response that exceeds local resources.

National Incident Management System (NIMS): NIMS is a system used in the United States to coordinate emergency preparedness and incident management among various federal, state, and local agencies. It is mandated under Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD)-5.

National Response Framework (NRF): The NRF is part of the National Strategy for Homeland Security that presents the guiding principles enabling all levels of domestic response partners to prepare for and provide a unified national response to disasters and emergencies. Building on the existing National Incident Management System (NIMS) as well as Incident Command System (ICS) standardization, the NRF's coordinating structures are always in effect for implementation at any level and at any time for local, state, and national emergency or disaster response.

Non-conforming use: Non-conforming uses arise when zoning for a particular area is changed in a way that does not encompass some land uses already present in the affected zoning district.

Planning for post-disaster reconstruction: The process of planning (preferably before an actual disaster) the steps a community will take to implement long-term reconstruction with one of the primary goals being to reduce or minimize its vulnerability to future disasters. These measures can include a wide variety of land use planning tools, such as acquisition, design review, zoning, and subdivision review procedures. It can also involve coordination with other types of plans and agencies but is distinct from planning for emergency operations, such as the restoration of utility service and basic infrastructure.

Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan (PDRP): A plan that is required for coastal communities and encouraged for inland communities by Section 163.3177(7)(I), Florida Statutes. The purpose of the plan is to act as a single reference for guiding decision-making and action during the difficult disaster recovery period, as well as detailing actions that can be taken before a disaster strikes to speed the recovery process. It addresses disaster recovery and redevelopment issues with long-term implications. Post-disaster redevelopment planning identifies policies, operational strategies, and roles and responsibilities for the implementation of the community's previously identified growth management and hazard mitigation goals within the process of long-term recovery and reconstruction.

Preparedness: Ensures that people are ready for a disaster and will respond to it effectively; it includes steps taken to decide what to do if essential services break down, developing a plan for contingencies, and practicing that plan.

Presidential Declaration: Sometimes referred to as a Federal Disaster Declaration, it is the formal action by the President to make a State eligible for major disaster or emergency assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Public Law 93-288, as amended.

Public Assistance (PA): The purpose of the PA Grant Program is to provide assistance to State, Tribal and local governments, and certain types of private nonprofit organizations so that communities can quickly respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies declared by the President. The PA Program provides supplemental Federal disaster grant assistance for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and the repair, replacement, or restoration of disaster-damaged, publicly owned facilities and the facilities of certain Private Non-Profit (PNP) organizations. For more information, visit: <http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/pa/index.shtm>

Reconstruction: The long-term process of rebuilding a community's destroyed or damaged housing stock, commercial and industrial buildings, public facilities, and infrastructure.

Recovery: The process of getting back to normal after a disaster. It includes restoring public or utility services (electricity, water, communications, and public transportation), perhaps starting during but extending beyond the emergency period. Short-term recovery does not include the reconstruction of the built environment, although reconstruction may commence during this period. Long-term recovery (see reconstruction) is the process of returning all aspects of the community to normal functioning and, to the extent possible, to conditions improved over those that existed before the disaster.

Recovery Operations Center (ROC): The CEMP states that the Pinellas County ROC “will be established, when needed, to manage the activities associated with recovery operations. The decision to activate the ROC will be made by the Public Safety Director based on the extent of damage in the County. The ROC will be established and manned by representatives from all levels of government and agencies involved in the recovery process. The organization and staffing of the ROC will be in accordance with the CEMP and the current Recovery Operations Center SOP.”

Response: Activities that address the immediate and short-term effects of an emergency or disaster. Response activities are contained within the Emergency Support Functions of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and include immediate actions to save lives, protect property, meet basic human needs, and restore water, sewer, and other essential services.

Short-term recovery: Encompass such activities as damage assessments, public information, temporary housing, utility restoration and debris clearance. Short-term recovery does not include the redevelopment of the built environment, economic sector, or normal social networks. Emergency repairs and minor reconstruction, however, will occur during this period.

Structural Marker: Engineering attributes or characteristics of a structure that may indicate potential areas of vulnerability or weakness to hazards.

Transfer of Development Rights (TDR): A method of reducing density in hazardous areas by allowing property owners to sell or transfer their development rights to developers of property in other, non-hazardous areas of the community. This technique is applicable across all hazard categories if properly framed to define the boundaries of the transferring and receiving areas and the circumstances under which rights may be transferred.