

# NEFRC Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

May 2010

## The Governor's Hurricane Conference: "Resiliency through Preparedness-Protecting our Population"

The 24th Annual Governor's Hurricane Conference (GHC) took place May 23-28 at the Broward County Convention Center. This year's Conference was vital to maintain the sense of commitment and public service because of economic challenges being faced. This yearly gathering of the State's first responders, faith and community-based service providers and emergency management professionals brought together a resilient emergency management team.

The Governor's Hurricane Conference was a 5 day event that had 1,710 registered participants. During the GHC, there were selected training sessions Sunday afternoon through Wednesday morning. The General Session and Welcome took place Wednesday afternoon and Thursday and Friday consisted of one and a half hour workshops. The Exhibit Hall included 639 emergency planning and preparedness exhibitors and was available for participants Wednesday and Thursday. The Conference was full of great learning experiences for all disciplines on emergency preparedness and planning, especially with the start of the 2010 Atlantic Hurricane Season on June 1.

Dr. William M. Gray of Colorado State University presented a forecast of an "active to extremely active" 2010 hurricane season with 14 to 25 named storms, 8 to 14 hurricanes, of which 3 to 7 could be major hurricanes (Category 3,4 or 5; winds at least 111 mph). Please visit <http://tropical.atmos.colostate.edu/Includes/Documents/>

## First Coast Vision Update

NEFRC staff continues its efforts to obtain public input as part of the First Coast Vision process. Staff attended two events in May at which attendees were surveyed regarding preferred development patterns: the Green, Health and Wellness Expo and the inaugural RegionFirst 2060 workshop.

The Jacksonville Green, Health and Wellness Expo was held on May 15-16 at the Prime Osborn Convention Center in Downtown Jacksonville. NEFRC staff built the Region in Lego bricks and spoke with hundreds of attendees about First Coast Vision and collected a large number of surveys.

RegionFirst 2060 held the first in a series of events on May 25, 2010, at University Center at UNF dedicated to imple-

menting the Guiding Principles that emerged from Reality Check First Coast. The event was attended by community leaders and practitioners who discussed strategies for developing the Region in a sustainable way. Experts presented "real world" case studies in rural, urban, suburban and coastal areas that were interactive working sessions. NEFRC, a partner in RegionFirst 2060, used the event as an opportunity to administer the First Coast Vision Survey. For additional information on comparing the growth patterns, please visit [firstcoastvision.com](http://firstcoastvision.com). For additional information please call Ameera Sayeed at 904-279-0885 x151.

Presentations/grayklotzbachftlauderdale2010.ppt for his presentation. Also taught at the Conference was SRESP Transportation Evacuation Model Users Training. This training was designed for transportation modelers, planners and emergency management staff to have a relatively easy way to use the evacuation model. This easy way is the Transportation Interface for Modeling Evacuations (TIME) for scenario management and model execution of the SRES material.

Emergency Preparedness Director, Jeff Alexander, was a key instructor for training sessions and workshops during this event. He taught Evacuation and Re-Entry Planning, Statewide Regional Evacuation Study (SRES) Update and Local Storm Surge Considerations.

Governor Charlie Crist was in attendance and presented during the Awards Luncheon. He had the honor of presenting the Chad Reed First Responder Award (renamed for the heroism the late Captain Reed showed this year). The proclamation was presented to Mr. Reed's family. Major General Douglas Burnett, Adjutant General of the Florida National Guard and Director of the Florida Department of Military Affairs was presented with the Governor's Award.

For more information on the GHC please contact Jeffrey Alexander at (904) 279-0885 x134 or visit <http://www.flghc.org>.

## Council Staff leads Nassau County EOC Exercise

At the request of Director of Nassau County Emergency Management Tom Kochheiser, the Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) created an exercise to test the county's new information software tool, Web EOC, as well as the ability of county staff and local disaster procedures to respond to multiple tornado strikes around the county.

This was a multi-fold exercise in which a scenario was first created where County Responders or Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) worked together in a Unified Command environment to respond to the impact within the county and to communicate using Web EOC, while testing the county's new Emergency Operations Center (EOC) capabilities.

The morning started at 8:30 with a software presentation by a representative of the Web EOC developer. Over forty emergency responders representing various county emergency functions responded to the training opportunity just as they would when responding to the EOC. The presentation covered specific functions of the information sharing software so county staff could use Web EOC for the scenario planned by the Council later in the afternoon.

During the afternoon session, Council staff introduced the exercise scenario. The Table Top Exercise (TTX) was described as a low stress environment where participants are able to discuss what actions they would take using current Standard Operating Procedures already in place and with the flexibility to determine if revisions are necessary without real life consequences.

The TTX began with an overview of three tornadoes striking three key areas of the county causing extreme damage and loss of communications. The County Operations Staff and the County Executive Staff were separated for their discussion then brought back together for a briefing. During the breakout each group had to develop the first five actions deemed most important to accomplish. Both groups were then brought back together and were briefed by the County Staff who had developed a Unified Command and presented their five top priorities.

The last break-out required the Unified Command to use Web EOC to communicate their decisions and to post their Incident Action Plan for the next operational period. The Public Information Officer prepared a press release that was approved by the Executive Staff.

After the exercise concluded, Commissioner Michael Boyle, Chairman Nassau County Commission expressed his appreciation for the hard work by everyone and indicated that tremendous success had been achieved by both groups who responded to the need of citizens. He further expressed that staff are better prepared by participating in the exercise.

For more information on the Nassau County EOC Table Top Exercise, please contact Danny Hinson at 904-279-0885 x113, or [dhinson@nefrc.org](mailto:dhinson@nefrc.org).

## Critical Infrastructure Threat Mitigation System (CITAMS) Update

With the onset of hurricane season, CITAMS II has entered its final phase. CITAMS was launched over three years ago as an innovative risk-management based Critical Infrastructure Threat Mitigation System. NEFRC has gotten our stakeholders in this 13-county Regional Domestic Security Task Force Region accustomed to having their critical infrastructure tracked with the cutting-edge technology supplied by Site Profiler, our vendor-supplied software system. CITAMS is in the uniquely favorable position of having achieved 238% of the original production targets set over three years ago.

Now it is time to enable and empower each county's First Responders to grow, operate and maintain CITAMS on their own. For the remainder of this year, and in all probability through 2011, the Northeast Florida Regional Council's CITAMS Team will be conducting Train-the-Trainer Road Show sessions throughout the Region. The objective is to assist each of our counties in operating and maintaining their own CITAMS environment.

For more information on CITAMS, please contact Steven McMikle at 904-598-6675, or [smcmikle@nefrc.org](mailto:smcmikle@nefrc.org).

## Regional Leadership Academy Talks Economics & Local Government Finance

The Regional Leadership Academy (RLA) continued its tradition of spirited dialogue with a discussion of Economic Development and Local Government Finance at the May 19th session. The morning discussion focused on economic development with presentations by Broderick Green of Cornerstone, Tony Allegretti of the Riverside Arts Market and Alex McCoy of the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce. Specifically, the economic development panelists discussed regional approaches to economic development, the importance of the creative community and challenges

facing rural areas. During the afternoon session, Rip Colvin, the Executive Director of the Florida Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, discussed the options that local governments have under state law to generate revenue. The next RLA session will be held on June 16th and will focus on natural resources. For more information of the Regional Leadership Academy, please contact Jennifer Hewett-Apperson at 904-279-0885 x104, or [jhewettapperson@nefrc.org](mailto:jhewettapperson@nefrc.org).