

HELENE/MILTON UPDATE 12/6

(Please see previous updates for additional important information)

All updates available on townofnrb.com

Future Updates will be on Fridays

Substantial Damage Letters and Permitting

Per the Building Official, substantial damage letters continue to be issued with a total of 113 completed. All of these will have been sent or delivered by the end of today. Letters for properties that are substantially damaged are being sent Certified Mail. If the property is not substantially damaged, they are being put in mailboxes. They are also emailing the letters if your email is on file. If you have not submitted your email, send it to redington@safebuilt.com. The building department has brought in extra staff and is working diligently to issue permits once the letter is received.

The town is not given any of the information on which houses have received letters or have been determined substantially damaged as that information goes only to the property owner.

Permit Fees

There have been inquiries as to if the Commission is going to waive permit fees as other towns have done. As our situation is different from neighboring towns, this is not possible. Whereas other towns have had much higher tax rates to subsidize in-house building departments over the years, NRB has maintained the lowest tax rate in the county (other than Belleair Shore) by outsourcing services. For example, the NRB tax rate is 1.0 whereas the towns waiving fees are Madeira Beach with a tax rate of 2.75 and Treasure Island at 3.8129 Neither Redington Beach (1.8149) nor Redington Shores (1.6896) are waiving fees.

In order to keep your tax rate low, the town has outsourced the building department since 2000, first to Pinellas County and then in 2015 to Safebuilt. Both contracts have been structured the same way in that NRB does not pay for building services. The only revenue they receive is from

fees associated with permits. This arrangement reduced the cost of personnel, liability and additional space for operations, allowing the town to pass along this savings to residents in the form of lower taxes. However, this requires the fees to be paid at this time as the town cannot fiscally cover the cost of the fees, as they are not reimbursable from FEMA and Safebuilt cannot work for free.

We understand that permit fees are another expense, in a long line of expenses, at this point and hope it is understandable why this is not fiscally possible.

Request from Pinellas County

As we have included in the update previously, many people are contacting the county believing they are involved in the processing of substantial damage letters. The county is **not** involved in the process of issuing substantial damage letters. The information is entered by the contracted inspectors into the FEMA calculation tool and the calculations are then uploaded directly to the town building official. The local building official then issues the letters. If you have questions regarding the letters or if your letter says your property is substantially damaged, those questions must be directed to Safebuilt, please do not contact the County.

Final Storm Clean Up

LTS has completed the final clean up of the town and we are pleased to be getting so many compliments on the final results.

Free Dinner on Wednesday

Fluffy's Mobile Hibachi (www.floridahibachi.com) will be back to provide another round of free meals in the town hall parking lot on Wednesday, December 11th from 4:00 til 8:00 pm.

Water/Sewer Credit Clarification

Pinellas County confirmed today that they are not issuing credits for pool refills after the storms. Residential sewer is billed at a flat rate so there is no increase in cost for a pool refill.

Pinellas County Property Appraiser

Mike Twitty, the Pinellas County Property Appraiser, has added a page to their website with valuable post storm information. The page is located at <https://www.pcpao.gov/how-do-i/storm-damage-faqs>.

Mitigation Grant Program

Please see the Residential Mitigation Flyer below that FDEM (the State) released earlier this week with current grant program information. Links below to both programs. We anticipate more guidance in the coming weeks regarding updated eligibility and funding.

[Hazard Mitigation Grant Program | Florida Disaster](#)
[Flood Mitigation Assistance Program | Florida Disaster](#)



Residential Mitigation

What is mitigation?

Mitigation is the reduction or elimination of potential risk to life and/or property. Mitigation is a cost-effective way to avoid future damage from disasters, such as flooding or high winds. Typical residential mitigation projects include:

- o Structure Elevation: Physically raising an existing structure utilizing a variety of methods
- o Structure Mitigation Reconstruction: Construction of an improved, elevated building where an existing building has been partially or completely demolished or destroyed
- o Structure Acquisition & Demolition (Buyout): A local community purchases a structure from voluntary sellers and it's demolished

Is there grant funding for mitigation projects?

There are two federal mitigation grant programs that the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) administers under which residential projects are eligible. For each project there may be a homeowner cost share, due at contract signing. Please see below for details regarding each program and cost share information.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

This program is federally funded and becomes available after a major disaster declaration. The cost-share requirement is 75 percent federal and 25 percent non-federal, meaning the property owner would ultimately be responsible for 25 percent of the project cost. Learn more at <https://www.floridadisaster.org/dem/mitigation/hazard-mitigation-grant-program/>

Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Swift Current

This program is federally funded and appropriated funding annually. Under this program the residential property must have a National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) flood policy. The cost-share varies based on the number of flood claims for the property:

- o If the property is a severe repetitive loss (SRL) property, the cost share is 100 percent federal
- o If the property is a repetitive loss (RL) property, the cost share is 90 percent federal and 10 percent non-federal
- o If the property is not an SRL or RL property, the cost share is 75 percent federal and 25 percent non-federal

The definitions of properties are explained at <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/floods/before-you-apply>. For more information about FMA, visit <https://www.floridadisaster.org/dem/mitigation/flood-mitigation-assistance-program/>.

What is the timeline?

It is important to remember for any of these programs, project work cannot begin until after a contract has been executed. FEMA will not proceed with a mitigation project if work begins before the contract is executed.

Things to remember and next steps:

In Florida, each county has a Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Working Group. These groups are made up of community stakeholders and are responsible for coordinating mitigation within the county including maintaining the Local Mitigation Strategy Plan and prioritized project list.

Previously, the decision to put forward an application was solely at the discretion of the local government, however, there is an upcoming opportunity for homeowners to apply directly with the State for structure elevations, mitigation reconstruction, and structural acquisitions. If you would like to receive future updates about this program, please scan the QR code in the bottom left or subscribe to receive FDEM Residential Mitigation Communications at <https://www.floridadisaster.org/subscription-topics/>



Scan to the left to subscribe to FDEM Residential Mitigation Communications!

For your county's LMS Working Group contact or for further questions, email your information to residentialmitigation@em.myflorida.com or scan the code to the right!



Current as of 12/2024



ELEVATE FLORIDA

The Florida Division of Emergency Management is excited to announce Florida's first statewide Residential Mitigation program, Elevate Florida.

The goal of this program is to enhance community resilience by mitigating private residences against natural hazards.



Elevation

Physically raising an existing structure utilizing a variety of methods



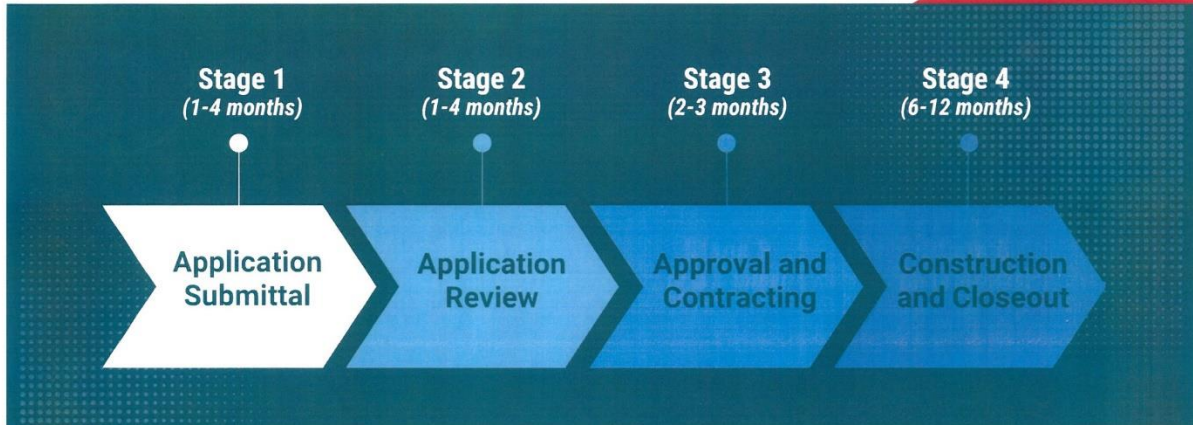
Mitigation Reconstruction

Construction of an improved, elevated building where an existing building has been partially or completely demolished or destroyed



Acquisition

A local community purchases a structure from voluntary sellers and it's demolished



Next Steps

More information about how and when to apply is coming soon.

Subscribe to receive future communications by selecting at Residential Mitigation Communications at <https://www.FloridaDisaster.org/Subscription-Topics/>.

You can prepare for the application by compiling the following information:

- Photos of any flooding inside or outside of the home (if available)
- Photos of high-water marks and photos measuring the height of the marks
- Insurance claim payouts or assistance documentation (if available)
- Receipts or estimates for repairs from previous events
- Records and receipts for any disaster-related assistance received
- A list of aesthetic alterations to the home and year completed (if home is over 45 years old)
 - Window/door replacement
 - Roof replacement
 - Remodeling
 - Painting or re-siding
 - Additions, decks, landings or garages
 - Any historic use of structure

Where can I find additional information?

For updated important information, please visit Pinellas County's Emergency Management website for a full list of resources at:

<https://pinellas.gov/emergency-information/>

Please see previous updates at townofnrb.com for additional town specific information