

Lessons from Hurricane Irma for Increasing Resilience

From Practice to Revising Plans and Policy

Tuesday, November 28 – 1:00-5:00 pm

Marine Industries Association of South Florida – Fort Lauderdale, FL

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

1:15-2:20 pm

Panel: Evacuation - moderated by Colin Polsky, FAU Florida Center for Environmental Studies

Brian Wolshon, Louisiana State University

Evacuation, Event, and Incident Traffic Management as Components of Transportation Resilience - [PDF PRESENTATION](#)

The evacuation associated with Hurricane Irma, like those Katrina and Rita in 2005, illustrate the critical need for regional transportation planning and management for major disasters. Each of these events also reveal the limitations in our ability to move mass traffic volumes, across long distances, over extended periods of times. However, recent observational experience and research evidence suggest that there are relatively simple, low-cost methods to improve conditions without requiring costly investments in capital infrastructure and sophisticated information and control systems. Rather, significant improvements can be gained through the application of better planning, resource allocation, and innovative transportation management thinking. Dr. Wolshon's presentation will highlight recent experiences with these tools and techniques and discuss how they should not be thought of as rare, "one-off" uses, but rather components of a broader resilience posture that can permit such methods to be scaled up and down in size and sophistication to improvement transportation in any event or condition; large or small; emergency or routine.

Scott Parr, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Evacuation Flow Fundamentals: Investigating Hurricane Irma Traffic Data - [PDF PRESENTATION](#)

This research investigated 510 magnetic loop detectors from across the state of Florida during a 34-day period spanning the Hurricane Irma evacuation and reentry. The dataset contains hourly traffic volume and average travel speeds, collected hourly. This rich

dataset has allowed for a microscopic analysis of fundamental properties which constitute the evacuation traffic flow phenomenon.

Evangelos Kaiser, Florida Atlantic University

Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience - [PDF PRESENTATION](#)

We all know how important critical infrastructure is to our economy, our society and our way of life. We are not merely talking about economic assets here. It was only a couple of months ago that we saw the chaos that can occur when a part of a major city like Miami were under water and loses an important part of its critical infrastructure.

John Renne, Florida Atlantic University

Best Practices for Evacuating Carless and Vulnerable Populations: Lessons for Communities across Florida - [PDF PRESENTATION](#)

Evacuation planning for carless and vulnerable populations is vital in Florida. This presentation will discuss best practices from across the United States, including plans in Miami, which are some of the best. Other cities and communities in Florida are not as prepared. This presentation will address special needs registries, specialized transportation plans for individuals with specific needs, and the importance of a pick-up location plan, a multimodal evacuation plan, and a pedestrian evacuation plan.

Jillian Sandoval and Aubry Kyle, Evacuteer.org

Evacuteer.org and New Orleans' City Assisted Evacuation Program: Partnerships, Perceptions, and Implications for Florida
[PDF PRESENTATION](#)

This presentation introduces [Evacuteer.org](#), explains the role that volunteers serve in New Orleans' City-Assisted Evacuation Program, presents preliminary research findings of citizen perceptions associated with utilization of assisted evacuation services in New Orleans, and looks forward to what planners need to know when considering adopting similar programming for their regions. Such information could be useful for emergency planners and managers in Florida when assessing the lessons from Hurricane Irma and developing future plans.

2:20 – 3:15 pm

Panel: Evacuation - moderated by James Galvin, FAU Institute for Healthy Aging and Lifespan Studies (I-HeAL)

Zayne Smith, AARP

Will change come around, this time? - [PDF PRESENTATION](#)

We will take a look at the brief history of attempts to address hurricane preparedness for Florida's most vulnerable in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Now we will explore current legislative proposals and administrative actions taken to address hurricane preparedness post Irma.

Lauree Simmons, Big Dog Ranch Rescue

Animal Welfare

How to take care of your animals during and after a hurricane
The importance of shelters letting owners bring their animals with them to the shelter.
Food distribution to shelters and for people who have stayed behind with their animals.
Discussing what happened to the people in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands getting on planes and leaving their animals behind to take care of themselves.

Jeffrey Huber, Florida Atlantic University

Relief from heat, just not where you think - [PDF PRESENTATION](#)

Most of us fear losing power and rightly so, our modern world is mechanically augmented for thermal comfort. In the wake of Hurricane Irma, we are reminded of our addiction to air conditioning as we sweat and curse utility companies for their inability to get the electricity back on. However, this is chasing the symptom and not the root cause of contemporary buildings.

3:30 – 5:00 pm **Panel & Facilitated Discussion: Lessons, Policy Actions and Research Needs - moderated by John Renne, CUES**

Mayor Josh Levy, City of Hollywood

Mayor Levy will discuss:

Lessons to be learned about regulating tree canopies, power and a community's infrastructure

Coastal vulnerability to storm surge and tidal flooding

Emergency preparedness and functional resiliency

Karl Kim, University of Hawaii

Extreme Event Planning for Resilience: Lessons From Florida

This talk will cover some of the challenges and lessons from recent events (Harvey, Irma, Maria) and the lessons and challenges for Florida, Texas, Gulf Coast, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands and other communities exposed to the impacts of climate change, hurricanes, and the related hazards and threats associated with urbanization and bad urban planning.

Patxi Pastor, Celebration of the Sea & KeysStrong.org

How private-public partnerships can support large-scale efforts such as climate change education and disaster recovery

This talk will show the storm-impacted Florida Keys, large scale donation distribution, debris removal and recovery efforts.