Implementing a Hazard Resilience Tool: The Coastal Community Resilience Index

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Jody A. Thompson
CRI Regional Outreach Coordinator
Auburn University Marine Extension & Research Center
Hazard Risks

Courtesy: NOAA
2010 National Hurricane Survival Initiative poll found

- 77% of coastal residents on the Gulf and Atlantic coasts have not taken any steps in the past year to make their homes stronger
- 47% have no hurricane survival kit
- 45% don’t feel vulnerable to a hurricane or related tornado or flooding
- 36% do not have a family disaster plan
- over half of the participants would not leave home if a major storm was approaching or would only evacuate if ordered to do so by a local official
Increased Exposure
Increased Exposure
Increased Exposure
Evolving into Long-term Crisis
Gulf of Mexico Alliance

“A partnership of the states of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, with the goal of significantly increasing regional collaboration to enhance the ecological and economic health of the Gulf of Mexico.”
Resilience Priority Issue Team

- **MISSION**: Coordinate and enhance efforts of local, state, federal, business and non-profit partners to assist coastal communities and ecosystems in the Gulf of Mexico region in becoming more resilient in structure and function.
- Develop community tool kit to assist Gulf coast communities
Coastal Community Resilience Index

• Purpose:
  • Provide a simple and inexpensive self-assessment to community leaders so they may predict if their community will reach and maintain an acceptable level of functioning and structure after a disaster.
Coastal Community Resilience Index

- A tool communities can use to examine how prepared they are for storms and storm recovery
- Determines a snapshot index (low/medium/high) in key areas
- Community should revisit Index annually
- NOT a method to compare two communities
- NOT a replacement for natural hazard planning or ongoing communication within the community
- Should be completed within 2 hours
Audience

- Planners
- Engineers
- Floodplain managers
- Administrators
- Community liaisons
Topics Covered

- 6 sections:
  - 1A: Critical Infrastructure
  - 1B: Critical Facilities
  - 2: Transportation Issues
  - 3: Community Plans and Agreements
  - 4: Mitigation Measures
  - 5: Business Plans
  - 6: Social Systems

- “Did You Know” boxes give hints for CRS credits
Scoring

- Scoring
  - Low/Medium/High scale based on number of checks
  - Each section scored individually
- Scores are not comparable between communities
- Should be conducted on a regular basis
Pilot Testing

Dauphin Island, AL  Gulf Shores, AL  St. Tammany Parish, LA
Bayou La Batre, AL  Orange Beach, AL  Ocean Springs, MS
Biloxi, MS  Pascagoula, MS  Cameron Parish, LA
Pass Christian, MS  Port Arthur, TX  Steinhatchee, FL
Implementation

Central Training

Texas Agent(s) + GOMA Hazard ROC

Louisiana Agent(s) + GOMA Hazard ROC

Mississippi Agent(s) + GOMA Hazard ROC

Alabama Agent(s) + GOMA Hazard ROC

Florida Agent(s) + GOMA Hazard ROC

TX Community

LA Community

LA Community

LA Community

MS Community

MS Community

MS Community

AL Community

AL Community

AL Community

AL Community

FL Community

FL Community

FL Community

FL Community
Implementation and Evaluation

- Task 1: Curriculum Development
- Task 2: Conduct facilitator workshops using “train the trainer” model
- Task 3: Dissemination at Community Level
- Task 4: Evaluation
Task 2: Conduct Workshops

- February 2011: Biloxi, MS
- July 2011: Lafayette, LA
- November 2011: Tampa, FL

Courtesy: MASGC
Facilitators

• To date, 57 facilitators trained
  • Florida (8)
  • Alabama (5)
  • Mississippi (6)
  • Louisiana (29)
  • Texas (9)
  • Mexico (1)

• Target: NERRs, NEPs, Sea Grant, Extension
To date, 8 communities in addition to pilot communities participated:

- Florida (3)
- Alabama (2)
- Mississippi (0)
- Louisiana (2)
- Texas (1)
Task 4: Evaluation

- Evaluate effectiveness of the tool over next 2 years
- Quantitative data
  - Tracking community scores over time
- Qualitative data
  - Community interviews
  - Progress on self-determined goals/areas of focus
Goal

To create more hazard-resilient communities

Courtesy: MASGC
Questions

Jody A. Thompson
CRI Regional Outreach Coordinator
Auburn University Marine Extension & Research Center
251/438-5690
Jody.thompson@auburn.edu

www.masgc.org/ri