PRIORITIZING SAFETY & BUILDING RESILIENCE:
LESSONS LEARNED FROM HURRICANE IRMA

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Resiliency is shaped by what happens before the storm…

BUILDING A CULTURE OF SAFETY & PREPAREDNESS
Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)

Developing a training program to ensure safety and knowledge is a priority for residents (and students) before the storm.

Basic CERT Training Course

- Disaster Preparedness
- Fire Suppression
- Disaster Medical Operations
- Search & Rescue Operations
- Disaster Psychology & Team Organization
- Terrorism

USF C-CERT
In the event of a large-scale disaster, emergency response agencies can be overwhelmed. Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) are nationally recognized by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and are designed to improve personal preparedness in the event of a natural or man-made disaster.
Preparedness for those Experiencing Homelessness

- Homeless Count with Hillsborough County Social Services and conducting surveys
- Interviews with City & County emergency planners, and homeless services on Homelessness in disaster response
- Developed a pamphlet to educate homeless on disaster preparedness for the Tampa Bay Street Medicine (TBSM) Team
Hospital Mass Casualty Exercises

- Collaborate with Hillsborough County Department of Health
- Placed in 16 hospitals
- Students serve as evaluators for hospital response to mass casualty event
- Submit official reports for after action report
• Collaborate with Hillsborough County OEM for their State-wide Hurricane Exercise

• Planning with HC & City of Tampa OEM for their Annual Hurricane Expos & Port Safety Day Events

• Community canvassing and outreach in area with high Social Vulnerability

• Help develop training modules on safety for the Florida Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services

• Installing smoke alarms with the American Red Cross
When Disaster Strikes: Preparing for Irma
Special Needs Shelter at USF Sun Dome
Our Roll in the Response to Hurricane Irma

- Support staff at both the Hillsborough County & City of Tampa Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) assisting with calls, mass care, volunteer & donation management, transportation, training;
- Staffing call centers in four different locations (HC & City of Tampa EOC, Channel 8 & ABC Action News)
- Setting-up and staffing three special needs shelters throughout Hillsborough County
- Managing and staffing 18 shelters
- Assisted the Sunshine Line arrange transportation of residents to special needs shelters & hospitals
- Assisting with Points of Distribution (POD) sites for food and water
- Joined Code Enforcement Damage Assessment Teams serving as the Disaster Survivor Assistance Teams (DSAT) conducting surveys from residents who were impacted so HC Social Services can begin identifying the population needs in the community
Hurricane Irma Recovery
Partnership with USF College of Public Health, Florida Center for Community Design & Research (FCCD+R), Hillsborough County & City of Tampa Government to look at Vulnerability.
Community Vulnerability Study

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The project will conduct a Risk Assessment and Vulnerability Analysis, considering how sea level rise and the perils of flood will affect:

- Built Environment Assets
- Community and Population Vulnerabilities
- Environmental Hazards
- Ecological Services

It will also provide:
- Design Scenario Examples
- Policy Recommendations
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