



In June 1981, the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council released the nation's first regional hurricane evacuation study - a catalyst for a 25+ year program in the Tampa Bay Region that has served as a model for other communities in the State of Florida and other vulnerable areas in the country.

27 years in HURRICANE PLANNING

Partners in Public Safety

The first regional hurricane evacuation study was not formulated in a vacuum. The County Directors of Emergency Management, the American Red Cross and literally more than 100 other public safety partners played key roles in the planning process to insure that the study was viable and addressed crucial issues.

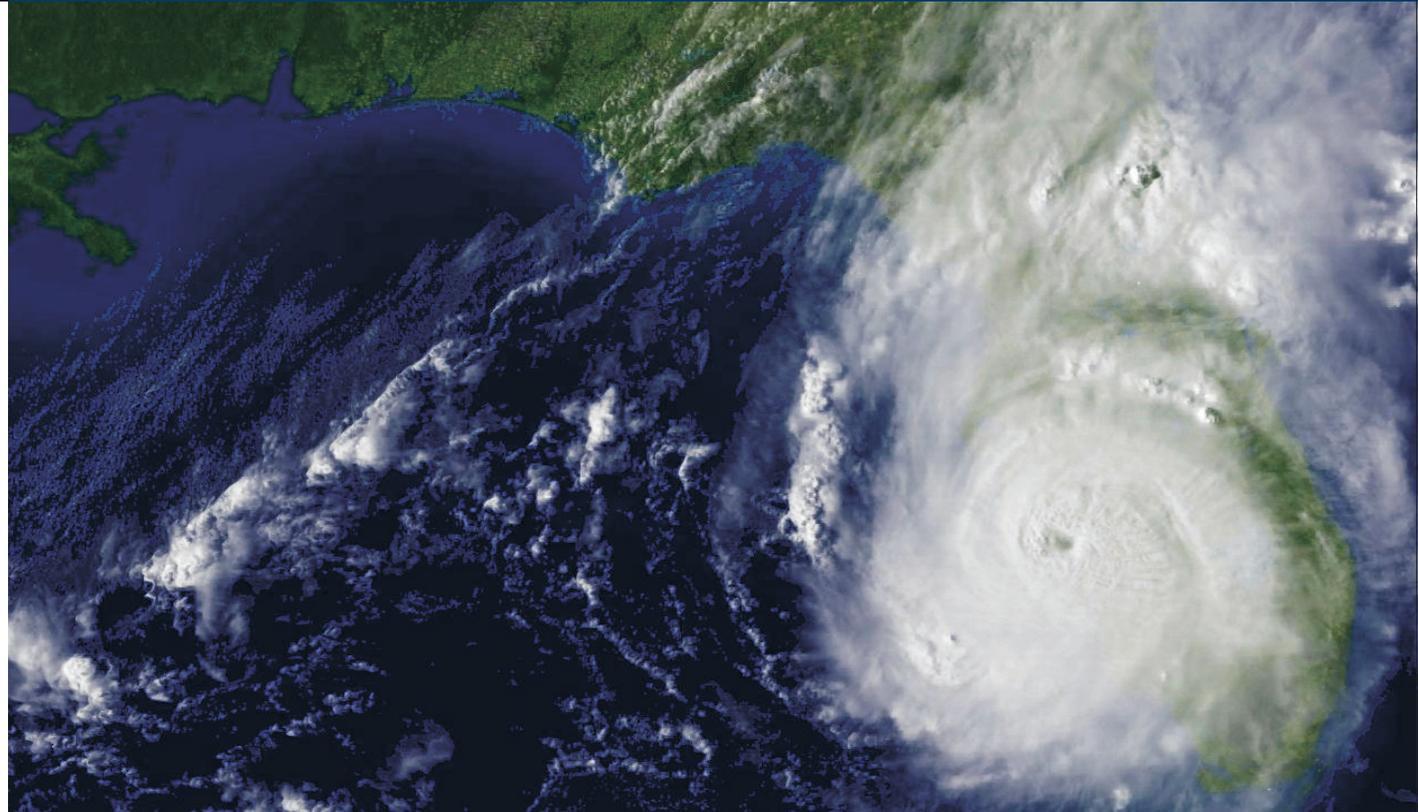
It was their participation 25 years ago and the continued commitment of those who followed that has made the ongoing program successful.

The Key to Preparedness is Informed Citizens



Living in the State of Florida means we all have a responsibility to be prepared for hurricanes and other types of emergencies. Know your risk. Have a family and business disaster plan. For more

information, contact the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council or your local emergency management agency.



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*Tampa Bay Regional
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History of Regional Emergency Management Planning in Tampa Bay

In 1978, the National Weather Service identified the Tampa Bay Region as "one of the most hurricane vulnerable areas in the United States with the potential for large scale loss of life." Tampa Bay's vulnerability was not based on history. We have been extremely lucky - the last landfall of a major hurricane in Tampa Bay was in 1921, but the risk is here. The Bay and shallow gulf waters will dramatically increase our storm surge, a hurricane's most deadly hazard. We have a large mobile home population particularly vulnerable to hurricane-force winds. A large senior and special needs population requires special pre-planning to ensure critical needs are met. TBRPC conducted a Needs Assessment in 1979 which identified these key components of the pilot study.



The significance of the first regional hurricane evacuation study should not be underestimated. For the first time, local emergency managers were provided crucial information regarding storm surge vulnerability using NOAA's new SLOSH model. For the first time, emergency managers had quantitative data to show decision makers who would need to evacuate, how much shelter space was necessary and how long it would take to get their residents out of harm's way.

Learning From the Past



Emergency management professionals at all levels of government learn from each other when disaster strikes. The very nature of their business requires communication and cooperation. Over the past 25 years, the Tampa Bay region has learned from disasters here as well as across the country. Hurricane Elena was the first real test of the Tampa Bay Regional Hurricane Evacuation Study and the county hurricane plans. Elena initiated the largest single county evacuation (600,000+ people), largest shelter operation in US history (325,000 people in shelter) and the largest medical facility evacuation. Although the storm eventually moved away from Tampa Bay before landfall, it caused an estimated \$120 million in damages.

Other disasters include the flooding in 1988, Tropical Storm Keith (1988), Tornado Outbreak (1992), Hurricane Andrew (1992), Storm of the Century (1993), Tanker Collision/Oil Spill (1993), Tropical Storm Josephine (1996), Florida Wildfires (1998), Hurricane Georges (1998), Hurricane Gordon (2000), Tropical Storm Gabrielle (2001), Hurricanes Charlie, Frances, Jeanne and Ivan (2004) and Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma (2005).

Emergency Management Projects in the Tampa Bay Region

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, the County Emergency Management Agencies and our Partners have participated in several unique projects over the past 25 years:

- Hurricane Loss and Contingency Planning Study (1983)
- The Official Hurricane Survival Guide (since 1981)
- The Small Business Disaster Kit / Florida Business Disaster Survival Kit
- Tampa Bay Project Impact/ Tampa Bay Prepares
- Regional Hurricane Exercises
- Regional Recovery Plan
- Continuity of Operations (COOP) Plans for Local Governments
- Local Mitigation Strategies (LMS) guidance and assistance to local governments
- The Hurricane Forum (2005)
- Regional Hurricane Evacuation Study Updates (1984, 1988, 1992, 2000, 2006)

