

Mitigation “Best Practices”

Mitigation? Isn't that what birds do when they fly South?
What exactly is Mitigation anyway?

Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, defines mitigation as:

- Any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long term risk to people and property from hazards and their effect;
- Any ongoing effort to lessen the impact of disaster;
- The cornerstone of emergency management.

Mitigation isn't new to Interfaith/Interagency's response in disaster's aftermath. Art Jackson, Christian Reformed World Relief Committee, CRWRC, reminds us that "faith-based organizations have been building back "better" for years. In the wake of Hurricane Floyd in North Carolina, we not only elevated homes, we built them back stronger, to meet or exceed building codes." While Federal and State disaster relief programs are designed to help families return to pre-disaster status, faith resources are not so restricted. "It makes no sense to rebuild homes the way they were. There's too good a chance we'd be back again next year, and possibly the year after, rebuilding and rebuilding," Jackson explains. "That would be poor stewardship of the resources entrusted to us."

Rebuilding homes better, higherstronger, in disaster's aftermath, is mitigation.

In every major disaster since 1994, FIND has worked to bring faith and social organizations leaders together with government and each other to address unmet needs. **Community Interfaith/Interagency Networks, CIINS**, (see page 4) have worked to rebuild homes, lives, and community. Always the realization, "if we had only been organized before the disaster struck, we would not have wasted so much time and energy organizing. We could have been so much more effective in our efforts. Recognizing this frustration, FIND is committed to proactively helping communities through Florida develop CIINS before disaster strikes. That's mitigation.

But what can these community collaborations be about doing once disaster unmet needs are resolved? Working with Florida CIINS mitigation models have been developed. This publication is to help you, and your CIIN, to identify ways you can better fortify your community against disaster. It's all about community collaborations making a difference. It's all about a commitment to

***Make
Mitigation
Happen!***

FIND
Florida Interfaith
Networking in Disaster

Mitigation Can

- Fortify your home and property against the wind
- Help churches, businesses, and industry survive disaster
- Reduce the cost of response and reconstruction
- Reduce pain and suffering

See inside for mitigation models

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