

Adoption of the LMS

We are hoping that the LMS will be approved by the BOCC on July 28, 2015. Congratulations to Doral and Aventura for their recent local adoption of the LMS. Local communities are welcome to do their adoptions at any time. If you are a CRS community, ISO will be looking to you to do your own adoption if you use the LMS as your floodplain management plan.

Community Rating System

I have submitted a review of the LMS plan for CRS Activity 510 credit to Sherry Harper of ISO. I will await to hear how we did for points. If you are having your ISO visit this year, please share with me county-wide items you submit so we can assist other communities with this process. Our goal is to try to help all of you maximize your points.

Alerts and Damage Assessment

Miami-Dade County has an app for that! You can sign up for emergency alerts, marina alerts and after the storm the public can report damages through the damage assessment app. All three can be found at the following website.

<http://www.miamidade.gov/mobile-applications/>

Damage Assessment



Use this app to assess your property following a disaster. With it, you'll be able to tell us the general damage level of the property, as well as the flood depth. We'll be able to effectively use this information to better visualize which areas were hit hardest following a disaster, and in turn, provide assistance to the neediest areas quickly.



Available on the Droid
Damage Assessment

Sign Up
Emergency Alerts



Emergency Alerts

Sign-up for free Miami-Dade County Alerts and we'll notify you about the kinds of things that just can't wait -- public safety issues like weather advisories and more. In the event of an emergency, you'll get a message on the device of your choice with details.

LMS Calendar

Next LMS Quarterly Meeting:

Date: September 16, 2015

Time: 9:30-11:30 am

Location: TBD

All Working Group Members and the public are welcome to attend.

SubCommittee Meetings:

None at this time

Future Quarterly Meetings:

December 9, 2015 – tentatively in Bay Harbor Island



Sign Up
Marina Alert



Marina Alerts

Want to know when there are boat ramp closures and re-openings? Be alerted when hazardous weather is approaching, in order to secure your vessel? Now you can, by signing up for Miami-Dade Marina SMS Alerts.

Lightning Safety – From the Weather Ready Nation

As of July 8, 2015, 17 people have died from lightning strikes in the United States - - ALL of these deaths were avoidable. This is double the average number of year-to-date lightning fatalities (8.8) over the past five years (2010-2014). There are several possible reasons for this, such as more convective activity across the country; an improved economy resulting in more people taking vacations this summer; the possibility of people taking more risks than usual; and the element of chance. **But the most important issue is behavior: People must go indoors when they hear thunder!**

The Weather Ready Nation Team asks you and your Ambassador organization to engage your employees, and reach out to your stakeholders to stress the dangers of lightning. Resources can be found below, and join the conversation using hashtags: **#LightningSafety** **#SummerSafety**

- Main NWS Lightning Safety Website: <http://www.weather.gov/lightning>
- Shortened URL: bit.ly/NWSlightning
- Understanding Lightning: <http://1.usa.gov/1FCBomY>



Damage Assessment - Trees

In my quest to find information that could be useful to all of you, I came across a brochure that was developed on Assessing Damage and Restoring Trees after a Hurricane. This document was created after the 2004-2005 busy hurricane seasons and has a lot of great information including safety tips, assessing the damage, restoration pruning, palms and pines, prevention and wind resistant species.

Research was conducted between 1992 and 2005 to identify how well trees withstood tropical storm and hurricane winds. A listing of these species can be found on page 12 of the brochure. Making your trees hurricane resistant is a combination of right tree, right place and proper maintenance.

For the full brochure go to:

<http://www.miamidade.gov/environment/library/reports/trees-damage-assess.pdf>

Assessing and Restoring Palms



Remove or Restore?

Is my palm dead or alive? Will it recover? These are commonly asked questions after hurricanes. Palms grow differently from other trees. The growing point of a palm is located at the top of each trunk, surrounded by leaves (called fronds). All fronds originate from this one point (called the bud). If the bud is severely damaged or killed, new leaves fail to develop and single-stemmed palms will die. On multi-stemmed palms, the undamaged trunks could recover as long as their buds are not damaged. If the trunk is snapped in half, the palm is dead. However, for palms left standing, the bud is often not visible or accessible, making it difficult to determine whether it is damaged. For these palms, follow these guidelines:

- **Allow at least 6 months or longer for palms to put out new growth.**
New leaves may be stunted, discolored or abnormally shaped.
- **It may take 1 to 2 years or more before palms appear normal with a full canopy.**
- **Irrigate 3 times a week for 6 weeks if there is not sufficient rainfall; longer if drought persists.**

Assessing Damage and...

Right after a wind storm or hurricane, communities and homeowners need to decide what to do with their storm damaged trees. Although damage to trees may seem devastating, some trees can be treated and saved while others need to be removed. Some trees may not require any special treatment and can be left alone. These two possible approaches – removing or restoring – will be discussed in detail to help you make an informed decision about trees in your yard.

When to Remove a Tree

The lower trunk is cracked or broken

- This tree has a large broken branch and the crack extends well into the trunk. The crack will not close and the tree poses a risk.
- The remaining trunk is likely to fail.



Photo courtesy of Norm Easley

The tree is leaning towards a target

- If a leaning tree is likely to fall on a person, building, power line, roadway or other high value target, it should be removed.
- Leaning trees usually have major roots broken, and are unsafe.



A large stem has split from the tree

- Notice the dark area at the top of the split – it is a bark inclusion.
- Bark inclusions (see arrow) are weak unions between branches and are very susceptible to breakage.



The remaining tree structure is highly susceptible to breakage

- Restoration is difficult for this large tree because of its poor initial structure (with multiple trunks, codominant stems and bark inclusions).



The major roots are severed or broken

- Medium-aged and mature trees should not be righted because major roots are usually severed, making the tree unstable and unsafe.
- Large trees need large roots for structural support.



Large limbs are broken

- Trees with most of the canopy damaged due to large diameter (greater than 8 inches) branch breakage are more difficult to restore.



Remember!
If you remove a tree, plant another one in its place!

For a list of wind resistant tree species, see page 12.

Building and Grounds Maintenance Webinar

I listened to a webinar on building and grounds maintenance with a presenter from Jefferson County Public Schools in Kentucky and the Ringling College of Art and Design in Sarasota. Both speakers addressed the challenges of aging schools and how routine maintenance is key. It was stressed that too often facilities may cut plant operators and custodial staff to save money but that will often equal deferred maintenance which in the long run can cost you a lot more money. How many staff should you have for your facility? They shared this formula with us.

Custodial Formula

- Each school has a plant operator and a custodian based on the following formula:
 - 1 per 22,500 sf + 1 per 120 students divided by 2 = total housekeeping positions (This formula automatically adjust for schools with high enrollment and low square footage and vise versa)

$$\text{ONE} \text{ } +1 \text{ } \div \text{ } 2 \text{ } = \text{Positions}$$

Note: A line I use with principals is that **the roll of a custodian is not to clean the building**, and after they look at me funny, I go on to say **they maintain the health of the building**. Also don't cut your custodial staff, or short change custodial supplies or equipment.

Some of the other items they shared are that as institutions grow sometimes the original intended use of a building or room gets changed. Some uses will require a higher level of air conditioning and humidity control than others, and they stressed how it is important for the occupants and the facility managers to discuss best uses of spaces. The speakers both noted that they have built regular assessments of their facilities into their schedules so they can monitor conditions and note when a certain building may be costing more in maintenance, heating or cooling, electrical or plumbing costs. When do you stop fixing things and go for an upgrade to systems? What are the short term vs. the long term goals for a facility? The speaker from Sarasota noted that they have done aggressive maintenance with their buildings that are less than 10 years old to help prevent future problems. Their older structure have greater signs of wear and present greater challenges each year to maintain. One simple thing that the KY school district did to save money was to standardize the color of paints that can be selected for interiors and exteriors and they contract painters for the nights and weekends to perform the work.

For your convenience, the presentation is now available on-demand for the next 3 months at:

<http://w.on24.com/r.htm?e=999644&s=1&k=8EE0B6932842776E92E58C3BC5DC560B>

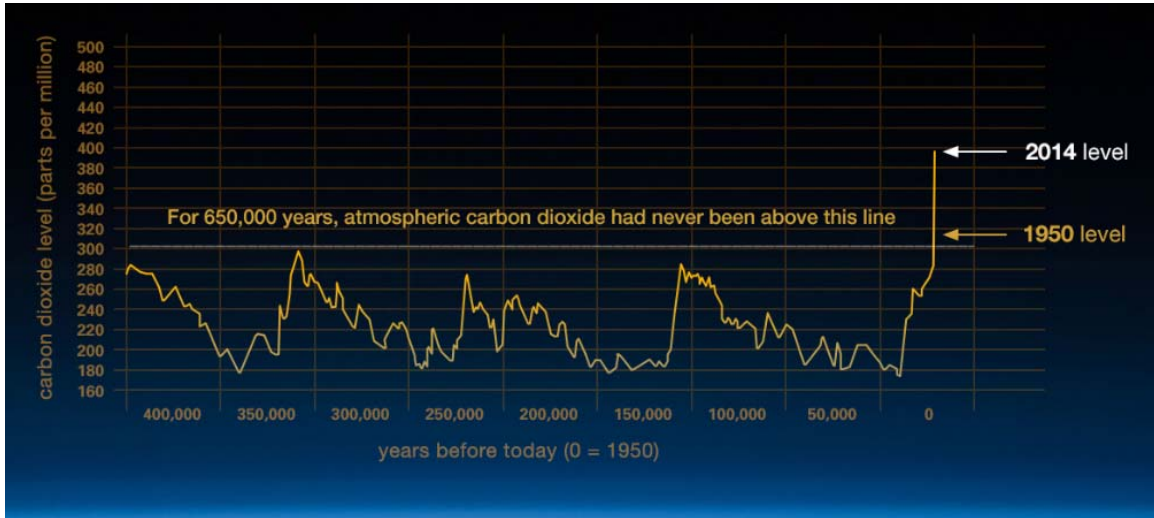
Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) Training

We have classes being held in Doral on July 30 and August 1-2. To sign up go to <http://www.blueskiesps.com/registration/>

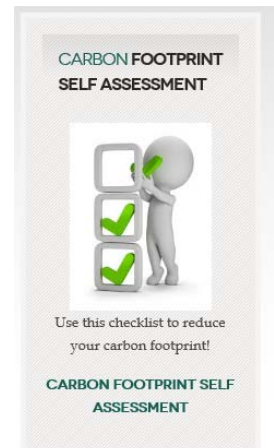
Climate Change and Sea Level Rise

I had the pleasure of attending a presentation put on by the CLEO Institute on the 15th to hear a presentation on climate change and see a presentation of the Climate Central Surging Seas tool. There are still a lot of people that are denying that climate change is an issue. Yes carbon dioxide levels have fluctuated over the centuries but the trend of the increase since the industrial revolution demonstrates how our world is facing something more than the normal fluctuation. See this graph, courtesy of NASA

Climate Change research, that shows how historically our carbon dioxide levels had never been above 300 ppm until 1950. And there are more and more nations that are becoming industrialized that will add to these levels.



As mitigators, where do we start? Start locally, at home then build the momentum at work and through outreach and projects. What are you designing for your community/agency and how have you taken climate change into consideration? Are you reducing your carbon footprint? What level of sea level rise are you building to? You can take a Carbon Footprint self-assessment at http://www.cleoinstitute.org/images/self_assessment.pdf



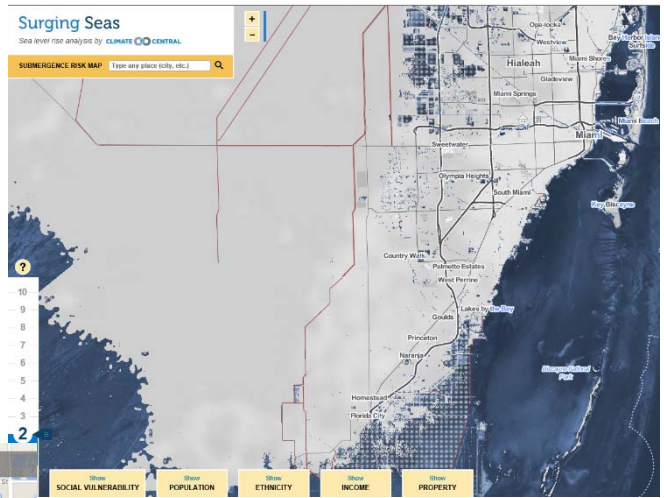
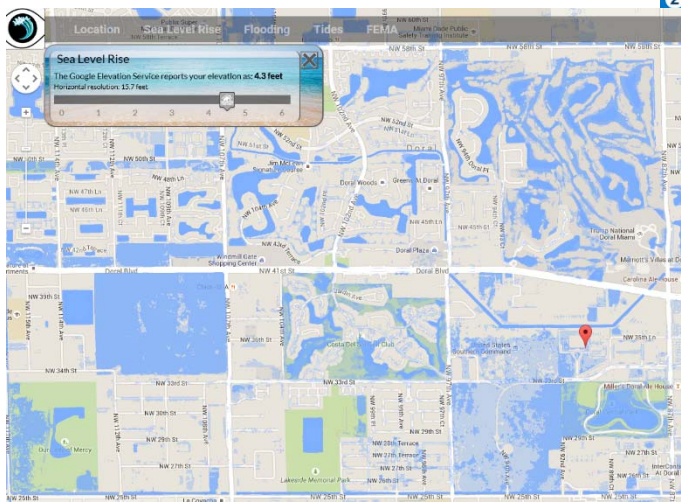
The Cleo Institute also has information for businesses and cities on what they can do as well. Check out the publication “Doing Business in a New Climate” for ideas. Interesting ideas, even how a Canadian Laundromat switched to solar panels and got two fold benefits, lower energy bills and more customers who wanted to support their efforts. You can download the document for free at: http://www.davidsuzuki.org/publications/downloads/2010/Doing_Business_2010.pdf

For some additional ideas you can check out the “What You Can Do” page by the EPA. <http://epa.gov/climatechange/wycd/> there is also a link for communities and government <http://www.epa.gov/statelocalclimate/>.

Climate Central has a website and you can look at one model of what sea level rise may look like in your community. You can access the information at <http://sealevel.climatecentral.org/>

You can set the gauge to determine how much sea level rise you want to assess. Keep in mind this is a bathtub model and does not take into account our special hydrogeological factors here in South Florida but this may give you some planning guidance. It also provides some analysis of social vulnerability, population and properties.

FIU also has a sea level rise tool available at <http://digir.fiu.edu/sealevelrise/>



You can also add flooding reports that have been received by 3-1-1.



There is more work being done locally to help determine what the impacts may be and we will provide you more information as this is accomplished.

Registration for the 7th Annual SE FL Climate Change Summit is now OPEN - <http://greenkeys.info/>

