

**ANNEX D**

**FLOOD WARNING AND RESPONSE**

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## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. Purpose

1. This program establishes a framework through which the City of North Port may mitigate the impacts of, prepare for, respond to, and recover from fresh water flooding conditions that could adversely affect the health, safety and general welfare of North Port residents, businesses and guests.
2. Provisions are made for the needed flexibility of direction, coordination, and method of operation to enable government and non-government entities to accomplish their objectives of mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. This Annex also provides the framework for rendering support to other counties, municipalities, States and the Federal government in their flood management efforts.

### B. Scope

1. Describes the various types of flooding that could occur and provides procedures for disseminating warning information and for determining, assessing and reporting the severity and magnitude of flooded areas.
2. Establishes the concepts under which the City government will operate in response to flood emergencies.
3. Creates a framework for expeditious, effective and coordinated employment of local resources.
4. The National Weather Service administers/disseminates flood warning information to the County, City and other municipalities.
5. Response operations are conducted under the authority of the City of North Port and Sarasota County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans.

### C. Planning Assumptions

1. The business centers of Sarasota County government and State agencies of Florida have certain expertise and resources at their disposal that may be used in relieving emergency or disaster related problems that are beyond the City's capability.
2. When the City declares a State of Local Emergency and requests County and State assistance following a flooding disaster, the Governor may

declare a State of Disaster Emergency, and the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) will be activated if conditions warrant.

3. Should State assistance be inadequate to cope with the flooding disaster, the Governor will request Federal assistance under a Presidential Disaster Declaration.
4. The National Weather Service (NWS), Tampa Bay, will issue flood advisory, watches and warning information to both government and the citizens via the Emergency Alert System (EAS). The State Warning Point will follow-up the NWS' warning information with direct contact with the Sarasota County Warning Point, who will issue a notification alert to the City of North Port.

#### D. Situation

1. Because of the seasonal possibility of large-scale flooding events within the City of North Port, the City must be adequately prepared to reduce the vulnerability to, deal with, and recover from these flood emergencies. The Emergency Management functions within the City must be coordinated as much as possible with other City government and non-governmental agencies as well as with Sarasota County Emergency Management and Florida Division of Emergency Management and surrounding jurisdictions to ensure the most effective preparation and use of manpower, resources, and facilities in response to flood threats and/or emergencies.
2. The principal causes of flooding affecting the City of North Port are as follows:
  - a. Weather systems, both tropical and non-tropical, can produce up to 20 inches of rain over a five-day period. These occur primarily during the hurricane season but can occur at other times. This flooding can cause the Myakkahatchee Creek and canals to overflow their banks.
  - b. Severe thunderstorms, which are local in nature, can cause flashflood-like isolated flooding from torrential rains, which may or may not be accompanied by high winds. These usually occur late May to late September, but also can occur at any time of the year.
  - c. Hurricanes/tropical storms generate high winds and widespread flooding over much of the populated area of the City. Storm surge has the potential to affect up to 100% of the population depending on the intensity of the storm. Although tropical systems can form

during any month of the year, hurricane season begins on June 1 and ends on November 30.

3. The City of North Port is in the southern portion of the Big Slough Watershed, which covers approximately 195 square miles (See Figure 1). The current land uses within the watershed north of the City boundaries are predominantly agricultural with some mining activities. A large portion of the runoff from the Big Slough Watershed drains through tributaries to the Myakkahatchee Creek, which runs through the City of North Port.

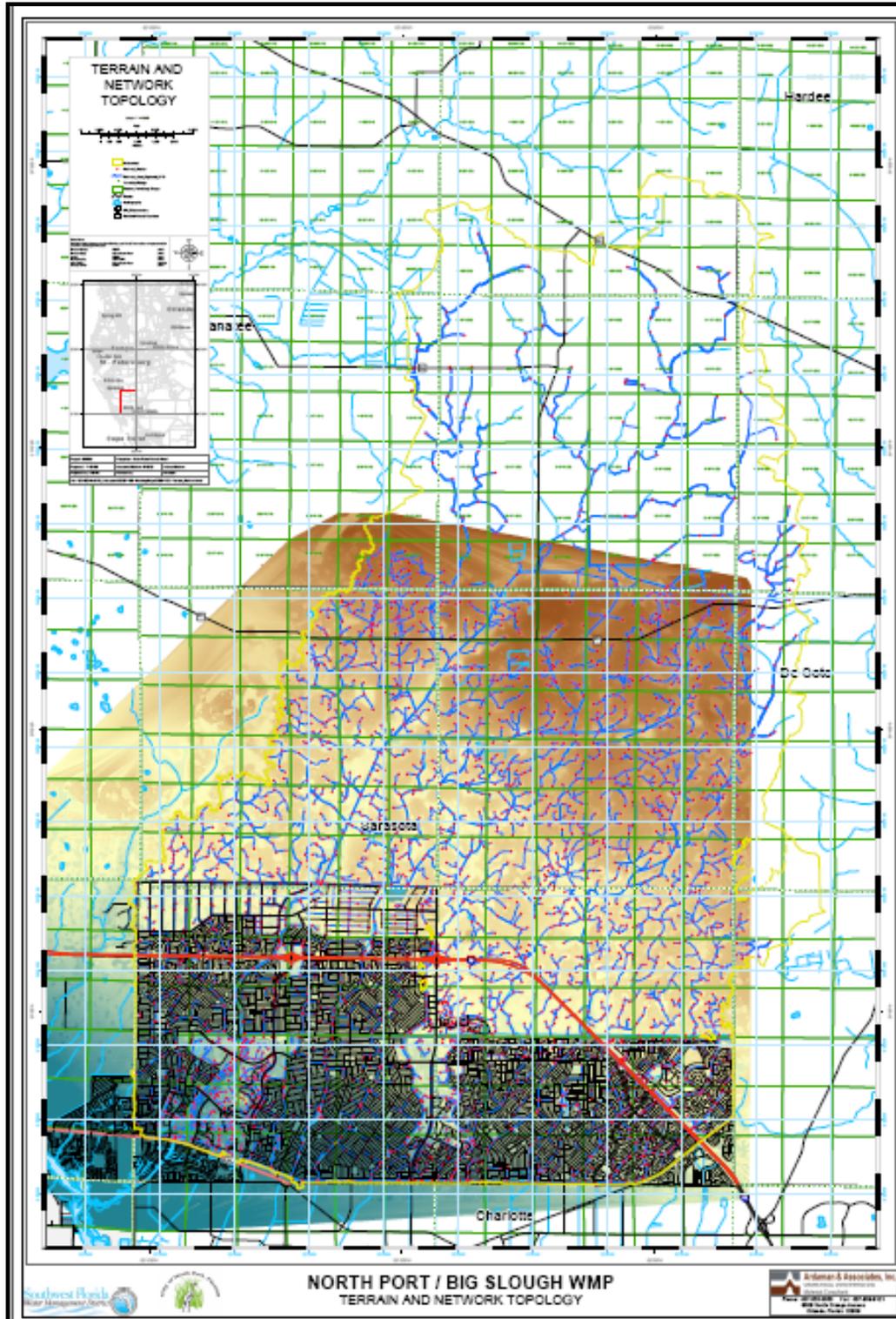
As the City of North Port is located at the low end of the Big Slough Watershed/Myakkahatchee Creek “pipeline,” the City’s current flooding and water quality conditions are attributed not only to the City’s growth, but also to upstream runoff in the Sarasota, Manatee and Desoto County portions of the Big Slough Watershed.

During the mid-2000s, the Big Slough Watershed Study was conducted under a cooperative funding agreement with the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and the City of North Port. Included is a detailed watershed computer model created to simulate the hydraulic conditions of the Big Slough Watershed. Once the model is calibrated to simulate historic storm conditions, it can be used as a tool to predict the level of flooding in the City under various storm events. The model will be used to revise the 100-year FEMA flood maps, and to evaluate options for drainage improvement projects to reduce the flooding currently experienced within the City. Viable drainage improvement projects are expected to be costly, and are likely to take five to 10 years to complete. Implementation of these projects will require cooperation with Sarasota County and Manatee County, acquisition of large tracts of land and rigorous review and permitting by Federal, State and local agencies.

The City has begun a program to clear the City canals of sediment deposits that have accumulated over time. The City will also clear fallen trees and debris in the Myakkahatchee Creek. This will help restore the flow capacity of the canals and creek.

4. Due to Statewide Building Code requirements, all new construction is above the flood plain, and therefore the structure is typically not subject to flooding. However, streets may flood resulting in “islands” of structures, and strand residents. Delivery of emergency commodities or rescue using high-clearance vehicles or boats may be necessary.

Figure 1: City of North Port / Big Slough Water Shed Map



## II. HAZARDS ANALYSIS AND DEMOGRAPHICS

### A. Hazards Analysis

#### 1. Non-Tropical/Severe Thunderstorm Flooding

Flooding from non-tropical and severe thunderstorms provide the greatest flood threats to the City of North Port. The City is especially vulnerable to flooding from canal overflow and ponding.

- a. Flooding from Myakkahatchee Creek and canal overflow is almost always caused by heavy rains within a drainage area and the subsequent inability of the Myakkahatchee Creek and canal to accommodate the additional runoff. Myakkahatchee Creek and canal overflow would occur following an extended period of rainfall causing most bodies of water within the City to overflow their banks. The problem would be compounded if abnormally heavy rains were to fall in South and Central Florida.
- b. Ponding occurs in low-lying areas that are characterized by poorly drained or super-saturated soils (high water table). This type of flooding in the City occurs in all areas of the City where it is flat and drainage conveyance capacity is limited and the water table is high.
- c. History

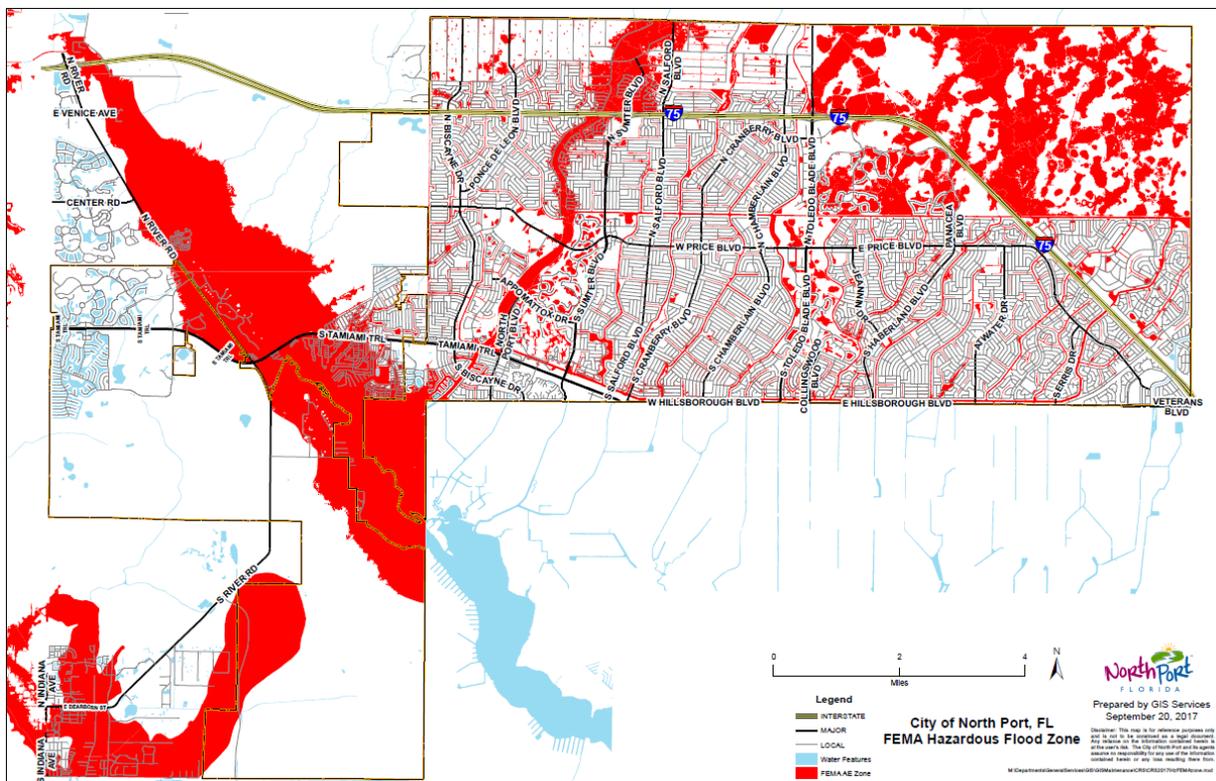
March 23-31, 1987	5.4 to 9.1 inches
September 5-9, 1988	8.2 to 8.9 inches
June 23 - July 2, 1992	16.2 to 20.7 inches
September 14-23, 2000	4.7 inches
July 20-26, 2001	4.6 to 6.9 inches
September 6-14, 2001	10.0 to 11.0 inches
June 17-22, 2003	13.6 to 14.3 inches
August 12-19, 2004	3.0 to 4.5 inches
September 10-15, 2018	9.8 inches

Seasonal flooding is experienced each year. Rainfall amounts of several inches per day spread over two to three days will have a significant impact on riverine flooding (particularly from the Myakkahatchee Creek) and street flooding due to the City's location downstream of a 200 square mile watershed and limited stormwater designed conveyance capacity.

d. Population at Risk

Areas particularly at risk are those in North Port Estates, where overflow from the canal or Myakkahatchee Creek affects the streets between Tropicaire Boulevard and Estates Drive. In addition, the residential area southwest of the I-75 interchange with Sumter Boulevard is also subject to flooding from the Myakkahatchee Creek.

Figure 2: City of North Port FEMA Flood Zones



2. Tropical Cyclone Flooding and Storm Surge

- a. A Category 2 land falling or paralleling storm with a storm surge up to 10 feet would force the evacuation of most of the coastal area to the south and west of US 41. A Category 3 storm with a storm surge up to 13 feet could result in the evacuation of 20% of the City’s population, which includes all the mobile home parks within and adjacent to the City.

b. History

The City of North Port (Port Charlotte statistical area) has been exposed to 44 hurricanes/tropical storms since 1870<sup>1</sup>. Most recently:

1960 Hurricane Donna September 10<sup>th</sup>, barometric pressure 28.08 inches, caused heavy storm surge flooding and damage, with gusts over 130 mph, water was first pulled out into Gulf then brought back in as eye passed north causing heavy damage.

2004 Friday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, Hurricane Charley hits with 145 mph winds. Very heavy destruction in Charlotte and Desoto counties from wind. A rather small but powerful hurricane with a six- to 10-mile wide eye. Thirty-three people were killed, with five deaths in Charlotte county. More than 14 billion dollars in damage. Surge was less than 7 feet on the Gulf, and only 1.5 feet in coastal waters.

2017 Hurricane Irma, September 10<sup>th</sup> passes just 18 miles to the east while moving north with 100mph winds. Rainfall from September 10<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup> totaled 9.8 inches and flooded many streets in the Estates area and north/south of I75 along the Creek.

c. Population at Risk

Per the 2017 updated count, there are 64,472 persons living in North Port

The below table describes the potential effects to the population, and economic loss if a hurricane with sufficient storm surge, or flooding in a FEMA Special Hazard Flood Area were to affect the City of North Port.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.hurricanecity.com/city/portcharlotte.htm>.

Residential Non-Residential / Population / Valuation Information in Storm Evacuation Zones and FEMA Hazardous Zones

Evacuation Zones	Non-Residential	Residential		Total Units	Total Potential Property Value Loss		Residential Population (Units *2.65)
	Units	Potential Property Value Loss	Units		Potential Property Value Loss		
A	4	\$2,800,300	289	293	\$47,415,800	\$50,216,100	766
B	209	\$245,514,000	4,394	4,603	\$364,506,800	\$610,020,800	11,644
C	11	\$12,962,000	8,777	8,788	\$1,277,681,000	\$1,290,643,000	23,259
D	95	\$269,482,000	12,693	12,788	\$1,948,933,600	\$2,218,415,600	33,636
E	137	\$74,981,300	2,629	2,766	\$482,517,900	\$557,499,200	6,967
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>\$605,739,600</b>	<b>28,782</b>	<b>29,238</b>	<b>\$4,121,055,100</b>	<b>\$4,726,794,700</b>	<b>76,272</b>

FEMA Zone	Non-Residential	Residential		Total Units	Total Potential Property Value Loss		Residential Population (Units *2.65)
	Units	Potential Property Value Loss	Units		Potential Property Value Loss		
FEMA AE Zone	92	\$384,014,800	6,122	6,214	\$968,199,400	\$1,352,214,200	16,223

Notes:

Known units not currently on 2017 taxroll is estimated values and included in unit counts.

Residential Units include individual Condo Units.

Residential Units only count one per apartment complex.

Total Value Loss includes total value of apartment complex.

Non-Residential includes individual Business Condo Units.

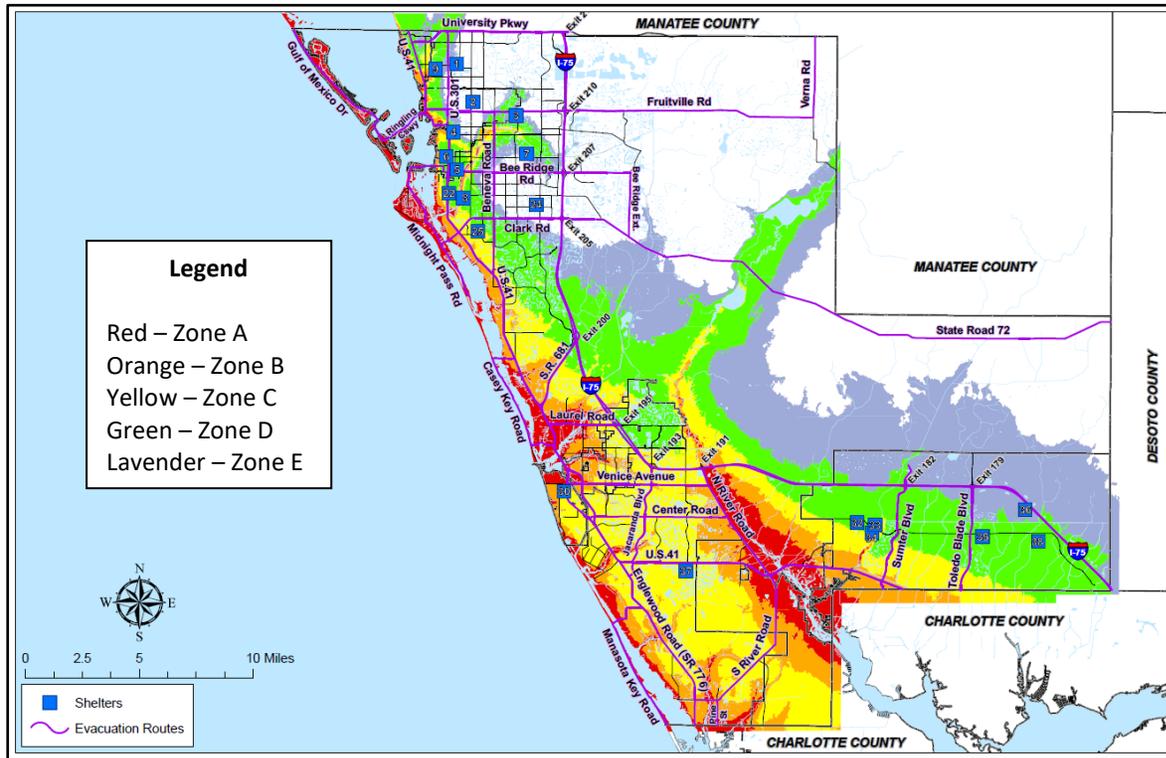
Centers under one ownership is counted as one unit and includes total value complex.

All data is based on GIS Data (August 2017): Surge Zones, FEMA A / AE Zone, Sarasota County Property Apprasier Parcels and Attribute tables.

The 2.65 multiplier is the average household size.

The valuation is from the JUST value from the Preoperty Appraisers Office data (2017 Tax Role).

**Figure 3: Sarasota County Hurricane Evacuation Zones  
(Potential Areas of Storm Surge)**



B. City Geographic Information (See Base Plan, section II(B))

C. City Demographics (See Base Plan, section II(C))

**III. PREPAREDNESS**

A. Exercises

1. General

- a. Exercises must be conducted at least annually to verify the Flood Warning and Response Program and the skills of emergency response personnel. Results of these exercises provide a basis for changes to the Program, implementing procedures, and for further scheduling of training for response personnel. A real-world flooding type event can fulfill the exercise requirement providing a written After-Action Report was accomplished and timelines for corrective actions were established.

- b. Generally, during the Statewide Hurricane Exercise, elements of the Flood Warning and Response Program may be tested and the After-Action Report will highlight those relevant portions of the plan. If the State opts not to conduct a Statewide Hurricane Exercise during a year, then the City Emergency Manager may develop and conduct it.

2. Concept of Operations

- a. An exercise is an event that tests the integrated response capability and major elements within the flood warning program. The emergency preparedness exercise will simulate a flood emergency that may result in massive evacuation and sheltering.

- b. There are three types of exercises

- i. Table-Top Exercise is a simulation in which response activities are discussed. There is no mobilization of emergency personnel and resources.
- ii. Functional Exercise is designed to demonstrate one or more functions or capabilities specified in the flood warning program. Mobilization of local personnel and resources will be limited.
- iii. Full Scale Exercise is designed to fully demonstrate the emergency capabilities of appropriate agencies and organizations. Mobilization of local personnel and resources will be demonstrated.

- c. Scheduling and Scenario Development

- i. Exercises will be scheduled jointly by the response agencies and the Emergency Manager. Scenarios will be developed with inputs from all participating agencies. Scenarios will be varied from year to year such that all major elements of the Flood Warning and Response Program are tested during a four-year period. The scenarios will include, but not be limited to the following:
  - Objectives of the exercise and appropriate evaluation criteria
  - Date, time, place and participating organizations

- The simulated event
- A time schedule of real and simulated events
- A narrative summary describing the conduct of the exercises
- A description of arrangements for advance materials to be provided to observers

d. Critiques and Reports

A critique will be conducted after each exercise to evaluate the capability of each participating agency to implement plans and procedures.

An After-Action Report will be developed to document the event scenario, evaluation and recommendations for improvements.

B. Public Education

1. The Emergency Manager is responsible for coordinating public information programs and related activities about flood emergencies or disasters. This responsibility includes public awareness programs in schools, civic organizations, community subdivisions and other organized groups including radio and television when requested. Preparedness information will be posted on the City's website and social media sites. The Emergency Management Division conducts a number hurricane seminars per year. In each seminar, storm surge vulnerability is stressed, along with flood insurance requirements and methods to mitigate against any damage from flooding. In these talks to the community, information regarding evacuation routes and shelters is also made available.
2. The Sarasota County "Disaster Planning Guide" is updated on an annual basis, and distributed throughout the community, and provided during presentations. Additionally, the City Emergency Management internet site <http://cityofnorthport.com/government/city-services/fire-rescue/emergency-management>, Public Works website <http://www.cityofnorthport.com/government/city-services/public-works/flood-information> and various social media sites (City of North Port, Sarasota County Emergency Services, National Weather Service, National Hurricane Center, etc.) have preparedness information on a variety of disaster- and weather-related topics.

3. Since the main flood threat to the City of North Port's residents is from non-tropical storms, every effort will be made to educate the public concerning this threat. Additional tips will be provided via helpful hints to the daily and/or weekly papers. In all the presentations, the following items must be stressed:
  - a. Areas that are particularly vulnerable to flooding from small stream or canal flooding.
  - b. The use of pre-disaster checklists
  - c. Flood and homeowner's insurance
  - d. Preparedness tips to minimize disaster related losses
  - e. Shelter locations and evacuation routes
  - f. Recovery information
  - g. Point of contact for additional information

#### **IV. METHOD OF OPERATIONS**

##### **A. General**

1. This program is based on the principle that the City bears the initial responsibility for disaster response and recovery. As a corollary to this principal, each department within local government will accomplish the functions for which it is responsible, requesting relief from the next higher level of government only after resources at that level are inadequate to respond to the flood emergency or disaster. Requests for assistance will be made to the Florida Division of Emergency Management, through Sarasota County Emergency Management only after the City Commission has adopted a State of Local Emergency.
2. The Emergency Manager may activate portions of the plan, if a flood disaster/emergency threatens, prior to the City Commissioners' decision to issue a Declaration of State of Local Emergency. In this situation, the Emergency Management Division will coordinate increased readiness procedures and such emergency response actions as might be necessary for the immediate protection of life and property.

B. Supplemental Assistance

1. Requests for State assistance must be forwarded to the Sarasota County Emergency Operations Center for assessment and approval before deployment of State resources. Prior to requesting State assistance, the current situation must be identified, the current and projected resource needs must be assessed, and a time frame indicating how long state resources would be needed must be identified.
2. When City, County and State resources are determined to be inadequate to the flood emergency, the Governor will request assistance through FEMA. The request will be based on local and state damage assessments and expenditure reports that are to be maintained and supplied by the City, County and/or State for each flood disaster related activity.

C. Sources of Weather-Related Data and Warnings

When conditions are favorable for either storm surge or fresh water flooding, the following actions will be taken by the agencies listed below:

1. Meteorological information will be obtained from the National Weather Service's Weather Prediction Center (WPC) for all flood threats. Tampa Bay Weather will issue flood advisories that may affect Sarasota County. Additionally, Sarasota County obtains meteorological information and images via a private meteorological service, StormGeo. Information may also be gathered from meteorological weather sites on the internet.
  - a. The National Weather Service's (NWS) "Interactive NWS" or iNWS, is a source of information of impending severe weather for emergency managers through text messages sent to a registered smartphone. The message displays a map of the warning area and the nature of the severe weather. Based on the severity of the weather, this text message is forwarded to City public safety and public works managers or followed-up with a telephone call to alert them of the impending weather.
  - b. All City-owned facilities are equipped with NOAA weather alert radios which activate when the NWS in Tampa Bay transmits a message indicating impending severe weather conditions.
2. Hurricanes and their related storm surge and inland precipitation amounts present a flood threat to citizens of the City; therefore, all tropical advisories will be monitored.

3. The WPC issues advisories at least at six-hour intervals during the progress of all tropical depressions, storms, and hurricanes. The National Hurricane Center (NHC) issues tropical and Hurricane “Watch” (48 hour) or “Warnings” (36 hour) for specified coastal areas. The Storm Surge Unit within the NHC will issue similar watches and warnings for storm surge potentials.
  - a. When a watch or warning has been issued for Southwest Florida, the Emergency Manager will assess the situation and if appropriate, call a briefing session with the directors of all City departments.
  - b. The Public Information Officer (PIO) in coordination with Emergency Management will begin issuing news advisories.
  - c. Depending on the situation, all advisories received from Tampa Bay Weather, the WPC, or Sarasota County will be condensed and retransmitted via email to all City department directors.
  - d. Announcement of pertinent information in the Sarasota County “Disaster Planning Guide” and the other sources will be brought to the public's attention.
4. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) and National Weather Service has established a monitoring system of gauges to display data on streamflow, precipitation and height. Personnel may subscribe to the USGS “WaterAlert” System to receive daily emails whenever a pre-determined gauge height has been exceeded. This data is then used by City Emergency Management and Public Works to determine the potential for stormwater flooding.
  - a. A gauge at the Myakkahatchee Creek at Tropicaire Boulevard is a key sentinel point for determination of flood probability and response by emergency personnel and public works. Historically, one inch of rainfall at the Creek is equivalent to 0.6 to 0.7 feet of rise in the Creek’s level. Adverse conditions (i.e., backup of the drainage system resulting in water-covered streets) are typically encountered at a gauge height of 23.00 feet. The City of North Port financially-supports the cost of this gauge with the USGS.
    - [http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?site\\_no=02299450](http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?site_no=02299450).

- b. The headwaters of the Creek at SR 72 in Myakka City are a secondary source of data from which the City makes assumptions of stormwater flow. Historically, rainfall in Myakka City flowing down the Myakkahatchee Creek will typically take about 12 to 24 hours to reach the City. The historic correlation of Tropicaire gauge height to extent of street flooding is used to establish potential impacts on the streets in the Estates and downstream adjacent to the Creek.
- [http://waterdata.usgs.gov/usa/nwis/uv?site\\_no=02299410](http://waterdata.usgs.gov/usa/nwis/uv?site_no=02299410).
- c. The Myakka River gauge at US 41 allows personnel to view stormwater effects from upstream against tidal flows from the River and Charlotte Harbor. From this information, we can make assumptions on drainage from the Myakkahatchee Creek and east/west waterways into the Myakka River. If the flow from the River is high and there is an incoming high tide and storm surge, flow from the Creek and waterways will be prevented from draining and may backup.
- [https://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv/?site\\_no=02299230](https://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv/?site_no=02299230).
- d. Another gauge on the Myakka River at the Myakka River State Park, operated by the National Weather Service, Southeast River Forecasting Center, presents data on flow upstream of US 41 and therefore gives us, as with the headwaters of the Myakkahatchee Creek, an idea of what flow is headed to North Port.
- <https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=tbw&gage=mkcf1>.
- e. A USGS gauge on the Myakkahatchee Creek at the Water Treatment Plant (Water Control Structure 101) allows operators and stormwater managers to see the level at the plant's intake pipe. As stormwater managers open water control structures to divert flow, they must coordinate their actions with plant operators to ensure sufficient depth for water to gravity flow into the intake pipe.
- <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?02299484>.

f. The gauge at the Myakkahatchee Creek at W. Price Boulevard serves as a backup to our primary point at Tropicaire Boulevard.

- [https://nwis.waterdata.usgs.gov/fl/nwis/uv?site\\_no=02299472](https://nwis.waterdata.usgs.gov/fl/nwis/uv?site_no=02299472).

5. All North Port Fire Rescue stations are equipped with weather stations which transmit real-time data to Fire Rescue's internet site: <http://cityofnorthport.com/government/city-services/fire-rescue/weather>. The information provided by the weather stations gives our emergency managers and the public a Citywide view to monitor changing weather conditions, make informed decisions, communicate with those involved, and take appropriate precautionary measures.

## V. RESPONSE

### A. Public Notification

Increasing the public's awareness of flood hazards and the methods they can use for protecting themselves from the effects of these hazards is a necessary part of reducing disaster potential, preparing for disasters as well as a continuing responsibility of public officials. In addition, providing accurate information immediately before, during and after a flood emergency or disaster is very important for saving lives, minimizing damage, and informing people of various assistance programs. This Annex describes the organization and procedures for providing accurate information to the public.

1. The City's Management Team, comprised of directors of each of the City's departments, will meet periodically before, during and after a flood emergency to minimize conflicting information being disseminated to the public.
2. Emergency Management operates the North Port Community Notification System (CodeRED®) which is an emergency notification system for recorded messages, text and email.
3. The City of North Port provides routine and emergency information via Twitter, Facebook and news releases on the City's website.
4. An Internet website containing City of North Port emergency management information that would be of interest to the public and official agencies is available. This information is regularly updated, especially when the EOC is activated.

5. The Crisis Communication and Public Information appendix to the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan describes how the City will alert and continually update the public on impending or actual emergencies. Pre-scripted emails and text messages have been developed for use by the Public Information Officer in quickly disseminating relevant information.
  - a. During an emergency/disaster that might result in flooding over parts of the community, a team of telephone operators will be assembled near the EOC to provide information to the public. At least one of the operators may be bilingual (to include Spanish and Ukrainian).
6. The City may contact the National Weather Service to activate weather alert radio for North Port-specific flooding or for other emergencies, such as hazardous materials releases, wildfires and civil disturbances.
7. A low-wattage radio station serving the North Port-area, WKDW at 97.5 FM and live internet stream via <http://kdwradio.com/> may provide City-specific information during emergencies.
8. If necessary due to a nighttime threat or a quickly escalating threat to residents, sirens and loudspeakers from police and fire vehicles may be utilized to warn the public of impending flood conditions, tornado potential, or hazard materials spill. Vehicles with sirens will pass through the threatened neighborhood to awaken the public with instructions to tune into local media stations for further information on the impending dangers. A map will be produced for the specific area to be notified and provided to field personnel.
9. During periods of County Emergency Operation Center activations, WMTX 100.7 FM (the Local Primary (LP) 1 and LP2A stations), WWRM 94.9 FM (the LP2B station), WHPT 102.5 FM (the LP2C station) and local government access (Comcast cable channel 19, Verizon FIOS channel 32) may broadcast directly from Sarasota County. Other Emergency Alert System (EAS) Operational Stations in Sarasota County include:

WKXY AM 930	WJIS FM 88.1
WFLA AM 970	WLTQ FM 92.1
WTMY AM 1280	WKZM FM 104.3
WDDV AM 1320	WCTQ FM 106.5
WSDV AM 1450	WSRZ FM 107.9

10. The City of North Port does not use outside warning sirens for alerting the public of a weather-related emergency. A siren system cannot be as specific as the alert radio. Emergency Management for the City of North Port recommends the purchase of a NOAA weather radio, as opposed to using outside warning sirens, for the notification of weather-related emergencies.
  11. Television customers will see the warning as a “crawl” at the bottom of the TV screen. The Weather Channel (Comcast cable channel 31 and 522, Verizon FIOS channel 119) routinely transmits all warnings for this area on receipt.
  12. Sarasota County is mandated under Florida Statutes §252.355 to register all persons who have special transportation or medical needs during an evacuation situation. The process for notification is as follows:
    - a. Once a storm threatens, and evacuation orders are imminent, the persons on the list which are residing in the potentially threatened area are called by a phone bank, which has been staffed and trained by Sarasota County Emergency Management and managed from the County EOC. The people are notified that they are about to be picked up, and that they need to get their personal effects together.
    - b. The list is given to the Medically Dependent Person (MDP) Operations at the County EOC which develops routes to pick up these people via school bus with hydraulic lift, the Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT) via buses with hydraulic lift, and North Port Fire Rescue for transport of non-ambulatory clients.
    - c. These individuals and their caregivers will then be picked up and brought to a designated facility in county, if the situation allows for it, or out of county, for larger incidents.
- B. North Port Emergency Management maintains a Critical Facilities Inventory (CFI) for the City. Given the sensitive nature of the facilities, they are protected under Florida Statute Chapter 119, the locations of which are not included in this Plan. Contact information for each facility is maintained in Fire Rescue’s records management system.
- C. Activation Levels and Department Responsibilities

In addition to the common roles and responsibilities of City departments in the CEMP's Base Plan (Section III(C)), the following missions are flood-specific during a level of EOC activation:

1. Flood Threat Recognition Phase (Level III, Monitoring Phase)

This phase may have several pre-disposing conditions whereby any, or all those conditions being absent may not warrant a flood threat concern. The following conditions, compounded, increase the flood threat concern and result in the associated Emergency Operations Center activation level.

- Saturated grounds due to prolonged rainy periods whereby absorption into the soil is hindered, and/or a period of three to five inches has fallen in the City or over the Big Slough Watershed within a 24-hour period.
  - A series of rain clouds producing a "training effect" (i.e., repeated areas of rain, typically associated with thunderstorms, that move over the same region in a relatively brief period and are capable of producing excessive rainfall totals over an area).
  - Condition of Myakkahatchee Creek's USGS gauge reading is at 21.00 feet and rising (Action Level)
  - Condition of headwaters of Myakkahatchee Creek at State Road 72 in Myakka City is at gauge reading 27.00 feet and rising
- a. Emergency Management will:
- i. Monitor the flooding potential and disseminate the information to those most affected via means identified in the Base Plan (e.g., City email, North Port's Community Notification system).
  - ii. Collaborate with both the National Weather Service in Tampa Bay and Sarasota County Emergency Management on the flooding event potential.
  - iii. Using Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping products depicting areas susceptible to past flooding events, alert response agencies based on the weather forecasts.
  - iv. Brief the City Management Team, as needed.

- b. Public Works Department will maintain 24-hours x 7-day capability to respond to public regarding roadway, waterway, and drainage system concerns. They can also deploy low-draft water craft.
- c. The Police Department will be prepared to provide traffic control and rerouting in flooded areas.
- d. Fire Rescue will deploy high-clearance vehicles for potential rescue or delivery of emergency supplies.

2. Emergency Warning Dissemination (Level II, Partial Activation)

During this phase the National Weather Service - Tampa Bay has issued a "Flood Watch" and the conditions cited above are the most unfavorable for the grounds absorbing a heavy rainfall amount and therefore roadway flooding, etc., will present hazardous/adverse conditions to the public. Additional considerations for activating to this level:

- Public Works has redirected flow away from the Creek and additional capacity is limited
  - Condition of Creek is at 23.00 feet and rising (Flood Level)
  - Stormwater drainage system showing signs of being inundated
  - Water beginning to approach road surfaces in historically impacted areas
  - Water is covering road surfaces in areas typically unaffected by severe storms
  - Water is covering road surfaces of collector or arterial streets
  - Water is threatening critical infrastructure
- a. Emergency Management will:
    - i. Continue with all activities in the Threat Recognition Stage.
    - ii. Coordinate with the PIO regular updates via email/Web Page to City staff, and the public.

- iii. Assemble partial City EOC staff, and brief at the initial stages of Level II Activation, depending on the anticipated severity of the event.
  - iv. Monitor the flooding event and disseminate details of the impacts via all means identified in the CEMP's Base Plan.
  - v. Continue to collaborate with Sarasota County Emergency Management on situation status, and need for additional resources.
  - vi. Pre-identify and coordinate shelter openings with the County and partner agencies, as required.
  - vii. Initiate actions for a Local State of Emergency, if warranted.
- b. Fire Rescue will:
- i. Coordinate resource requests and mission assignments for high-clearance vehicles for rescue and delivery of emergency commodities.
  - ii. Provide a liaison to the City EOC.
- c. Police will:
- i. Coordinate road blockage and traffic rerouting.
  - ii. Provide a liaison to the City EOC.
- d. Public Works Department will:
- i. Provide a liaison to the City EOC to maintain an accurate, current listing of affected roadways.
  - ii. Take reports from the public regarding flooding and maintain flooding records.
  - iii. Blockade flooded roadways as necessary.
  - iv. Monitor water flow in the waterway system, and adjust water control facilities.

- v. Provide analysis of flood waters, and coordinate with Public Works to adjust water control facilities.
      - vi. Provide low-draft watercraft
    - e. Other Participating Departments will:
      - i. Initiate tasks common to department irrespective of disaster (e.g., Damage Assessment - Buildings, Cost Accounting - Finance, Purchasing - Finance, etc.).
      - ii. Provide a liaison to the City EOC, as requested.
  - 3. Emergency Response Elements (Level I, Full Activation)
    - a. Emergency Management will:
      - i. Activate the City EOC to Level I, and request full staffing from participating City departments.
      - ii. Coordinate the inter-departmental response and recovery to the event from the City EOC.
      - iii. Submit resource requests and situation status to the County EOC.
- D. Re-entry to evacuated areas is a controlled activity for residents, people who work in the area and for contractors, and others seeking work in the evacuated area. Re-entry will be permitted only during daylight hours.
  - 1. The Police Department will manage appropriate Traffic Control Points (TCP), as identified by number and intersection on the TCP maps maintained in the EOC.
  - 2. Proof of residency in the area or area employment must be presented at the TCP to gain re-entry.
    - a. For residents, a driver license listing an address in the evacuated area is acceptable for re-entry. Lacking that specific documentation of residency in the evacuated area can be established by photo ID along with a utility bill addressed to the bearer at the area address, or a lease or proof of building ownership.

- b. Employees of businesses in the evacuated area must present a photo ID issued by that business for the address in the evacuated area, or a photo ID along with other proof of employment at the business address in the evacuated area such as a paycheck stub.
3. Re-entry to evacuated areas will begin and will be only during daylight hours, and as damage assessment, debris removal and the status of utilities restoration permits. When the evacuated area is large or involves multiple sectors, re-entry is likely to take place in phases. Local radio broadcasts will be used to announce which areas are open for re-entry, and when re-entry will commence.
4. Persons evacuated under the Medically Dependent Person (MDP) program will be returned to their homes after their homes are determined to be habitable.

## **VI. ADMINISTRATION**

### **A. Records Preservation and Restoration**

1. The City Clerk is responsible for the maintenance and preservation of all records. All City departments, to specifically include the Information and Technology Division, must ensure the protection of vital records so that normal activities may continue after the disaster. These records may also be necessary for the rapid recovery from the effects of a flood disaster.
2. Damage to records is most often the result of fire and water damage. These records can often be saved by prompt salvage action. Technical guidance for records preservation can be obtained from the City Clerk's office.

### **B. Funding and Accounting**

1. The City of North Port may allocate and expend funds as appropriate for local emergency operations. Depending on the onset of hazardous weather conditions, any of the following mechanisms may be implemented:

#### **a. Local Accounting**

Complete accurate accounts of emergency expenditures and obligations, including personnel and equipment costs, must be maintained. Accurate accounting is required to identify and document:

i. The determination of eligibility under the FEMA Public Assistance grant program. Funds for which Federal reimbursement will be requested should a Presidential Declaration be made for a Major Disaster.

ii. Processing of insurance claims.

b. Cost Centers

Given the time and the urgency of the threat, the Emergency Manager may ask the Finance Department, via the City Manager, to establish and fund any, or all the following types of cost centers:

i. Departmental – This cost center will be used to fund all extraordinary departmental activities in response to, or associated with, the hazardous weather event.

ii. Debris Removal - This cost center draw will be limited only to those activities associated with debris removal (e.g., contractor services or force labor).

2. When the EOC is activated, all agencies should regularly, or upon request, report their expenditures so that the total budgetary impact to the City can be related to the County Emergency Operations Center.

C. Emergency Purchasing

Under Section 2-408, Emergency Procurement, of the Code of the City of North Port, the normal competitive process is waived, and the purchase of certain equipment and contracts is authorized with the approval of the department director, City manager or City Commission, depending on the cost.

D. Maintenance and Auxiliary Activation of the City of North Port Flood Warning and Response Program

The Emergency Manager will maintain and update this program as required. Portions of this program will be activated periodically to conduct exercises as part of the review process.

## VII. AUTHORITIES AND REFERENCES

A. Public Law 91-606, Disaster Relief Act of 1970

- B. Public Law 93-288, Disaster Relief Act of 1984
- C. Public Law 100-707, Stafford Act
- D. Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, as amended
- E. City of North Port Charter, and Code of the City of North Port
- F. City of North Port Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
- G. Sarasota County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
- H. Mutual Aid Agreements (e.g., Statewide Mutual Aid Assistance, Statewide, Florida Fire Chiefs, etc.)

### VIII. ACRONYMS

CEMP	Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
DCA	[Florida] Department of Community Affairs
EAS	Emergency Alert System
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
FDEM	Florida Division of Emergency Management
FFCA	Florida Fire Chiefs' Association
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FLNG	Florida National Guard
FS	Florida Statutes
GIS	Geographic Information System
ICS	Incident Command System
LP1	Local Primary 1 [EAS operational radio station]
LP2	Local Primary 2 [EAS operational radio station]
MDP	Medically Dependent Person (People)
NHC	National Hurricane Center
NOAA	National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration
NWS	National Weather Service
PIO	Public Information Officer
SEOC	[Florida] State Emergency Operations Center
SMAA	Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement
SWFWMD	Southwest Florida Water Management District
SWP	[Florida] State Warning Point
TPC	Tropical Prediction Center

### IX. LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: City of North Port / Big Slough Water Shed Map

Figure 2: City of North Port FEMA Flood Zones

Figure 3: Sarasota County Hurricane Evacuation Zones