



City of Pahokee Emergency Coordination Procedure



**207 Begonia Drive
Pahokee FL. 3347**



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II. ACRONYMS

Acronyms

BOCC	Board of County Commissioners
CEMP	Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
COOP	Continuity of Operations Plan
DEM	Division of Emergency Management
DOH	Department of Health
ECP	Emergency Coordination Procedure
EHS	Extremely Hazardous Substances
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Maps
IC	Incident Commander
IMS	Incident Management System
KI	Potassium Iodine
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
PIO	Public Information Officer
PBC	Palm Beach County
PBSO	Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
SFWMD	South Florida Water Management District
TSEW	Tropical Storm Force Winds
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers

III. RECORD OF CHANGES

	Date	Description of Changes	Page per Section	Posted by	Comments
1	1.6.14	Personnel Contact	30	ERW	Updated w/new staff
2	3.12.14	Add updated badge sheet	12	ERW	Updated new badge layout
3	3.12.14	Updated new PBSO Lt. and the district #	12	ERW	Updated new PBSO Lt. name
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IV. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this plan is to reduce the loss of life and property of City of Pahokee residents due to natural, technological, or man-made disasters, to provide an efficient, comprehensive organizational structure and to manage emergency operations within the city by coordinating the use of resources available from county government, private industry, civic and volunteer organizations and state and federal agencies.

The following policy is established to provide a unified approach to how emergency situations and disasters both natural and manmade should be handled. And to provide guidelines for command and control in these type situations. Individual situations will require flexibility. Deviations from the policy may well be required and will be made at the discretion of the Incident Commander, based on the situation at hand.

Protocol will be established based on the type of incident realized. The language used in this policy is based on the National Fire Service Incident Management System and the command policy has been established to mirror the Incident Management System (IMS) Structure.

Update: The City of Pahokee Emergency Coordination Procedure will be updated as needed and in compliance with county and state statutes.

Intergovernmental Coordination. In accordance with F.S. Chapter 252.38(1), Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management has jurisdiction over and serves the entire county during emergencies, including all 38 municipal jurisdictions contained therein. Extensive emergency preparedness, response, and recovery resources are under the daily direction and control of municipal jurisdictions. These factors dictate an extensive coordination effort between the county and municipalities during an emergency response and recovery operations.

Other policies that may apply, depending on the incident, are the following policies:

- A. State of Florida Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.
- B. Palm Beach County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.
- C. Florida Statewide Regional Evacuation Coordination Plan.

Florida Statute Chapter 252 establishes guidelines for the disaster management structure and describes four levels of structure. Those levels are: local, county, state, and federal. The City of Pahokee is the first level in that structure and will require us to deal directly with our County Division of Emergency Management.

V. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Once a State of an Emergency is declared, the City Commission shall adopt a Resolution declaring a State of General Emergency. The Commission shall then order the City Manager to begin the mobilization of emergency resources.

Emergency Preparations

- A. The Emergency Manager (Public Services) shall be responsible for the coordination, assembly, and maintenance of all Departments Emergency Preparedness Plans.
- B. Each Department or Service of the City of Pahokee, which is to operate under. This plan shall prepare an emergency plan for staffing and equipment.
- C. This plan should be implemented upon Declaration of Emergency by the appropriate authority. (*See Appendix I – Resolution*)

I. General

- A. In an evolving situation which may require the exercise of the City's Disaster Coordination/Emergency Evacuation Plan, the preliminary assessment and recommendation to institute this plan will be made by the first responders Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, PBC Fire Rescue and Public Service units arriving on scene.
- B. Once the Palm Beach County Emergency Operations Center (PBCEOC) determines a Disaster Coordination or Emergency Evacuation is desirable, that EOC will notify the Fire Chief by the most immediate means of communication available.
- C. Palm Beach County Emergency Operations has been designated as the Emergency Director and is responsible for making the final determination to cordon and/or evacuate any area.
- D. Once the final determination to cordon and/or evacuate has been made, the Fire Chief will notify the City Manager by the most immediate means of communication available at that time.
- E. Upon initiation of this policy, the Fire Chief will also notify the following agencies/personnel of the situation and location of both the emergency and the Emergency Operations Center.
 - Public Services
 - Parks & Recreation
 - Finance
 - Community Development
 - Protective Inspections
 - Human Resources
 - Emergency Medical Services
 - Red Cross
 - Lakeside Medical Center

Any and all of these agencies may receive notification as deemed necessary by the Emergency Director or his designee. All such agencies may not be needed by the incident commander. Telephone numbers, mobile phone numbers, fax numbers, and other pertinent information about these agencies should be maintained in the reference section of this manual and updated regularly.

VI. COMMAND AND CONTROL

- A. In order to maintain unity of command and to effectively control and coordinate the efforts of the various agencies and departments involved, a single overall commander will be designated. The Parks & Recreation Complex Cafeteria located 360 East Main Street, Pahokee, FL 33476 has been designated as the Emergency Operation Center location.
- B. Once designated, the Incident Commander (IC) will be located in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) where the IC will control all available resources.
 - As soon as clerical staff can be established at the EOC, appropriate forms needed to record the City's expenditures should be made available for later submittal to the state or federal levels for reimbursement. **PROPER DOCUMENTATION IS IMPORTANT AT ALL LEVELS OF STAFF, EACH DEPARTMENT HEAD SHOULD ASSIGN SOMEONE TO TRACK AND RECORD EXPENDITURES FOR LATER SUBMITTAL.**
- C. All agencies, personnel, and resources will report to the EOC for assignments. Assignments may be given by radio, telephone, or cellular phone. The Incident Commander will assign the appropriate units to the most advantageous locations in order to control the situation effectively; and will keep track and location of the designation of his/her forces on a map at the EOC so as to properly manage available resources.
- D. When evacuation is required, the Incident Commander will designate the routes for evacuation, as well as the location of Evacuation Centers to be opened and the personnel to staff them. (*See Palm Beach County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) Plan for further instructions.*)
<http://www.pbcgov.com/dem/sections/planning/cemp.htm>

VII. EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER

- A. The Parks & Recreation Complex Cafeteria, 360 East Main Street, Pahokee, FL 33476 will be designated as the Emergency Operations Center; however, when these locations are within the evacuation zone or it is desirable to establish an alternative location for the EOC, a mobile EOC may be used. The City may establish a vehicle to function as a mobile EOC to facilitate this.
- B. The Incident Commander is responsible for determining the specific staff required to man the EOC, however, the following officials or their representative(s) will be located in the vicinity of the EOC during all hours of its operation:
- Communication Coordinator (to be designated)
 - Public Information Officer (PIO) (to be designated)
 - Public Services
 - Parks & Recreation
 - Community Development
 - Protective Inspections
 - Human Resources
 - Finance
 - IT
 - Clerical/Secretarial Employee
 - External Security
- C. Supplies and materials necessary to operate the EOC will be provided by the City Manager's Office.
- D. Detailed maps and aerial photographs necessary to operate the EOC will be provided by the Building Official. These will later be used to position and locate resources utilized in the implementation of this policy.
- E. The provision of water, electricity, telephone, toilet facilities when and if necessary to operate the EOC will be provided by the Public Services Director.
- F. Other support services will be provided to the EOC as required by the overall Commander and the appropriate Department Heads.
- G. The City of Pahokee's Recreation Complex has been designated as the staging area for Public Services equipment and employees for post-disaster clean up. The Public Services Director will, (pre- disaster) assemble the necessary equipment and secure same at this site. This site has been chosen due to the location and site security advantages.
- H. Pre-storm the Public Services Director will contact County Sanitation for the purpose of post-storm debris removal.

VIII. FUNCTIONS AND TASKS

City Officials and Departments are responsible for the listed functions and tasks in preparing for and responding to a major emergency. Each Department shall be prepared to perform all identified functions as directed the Incident Manager.

City Commission

- A. Declare activation of a State of Emergency
- B. Authorize major emergency expenditures

City Manager

- A. Overall responsibility for disaster management
- B. Liaison between City Council and disaster operations
- C. Coordinate financial relief with County, State and Federal agencies
- D. Inform city departments of a pending or existing emergency
- E. Inform the public through the Public Information Officer
- F. Activate the emergency operations plan and order the opening of the City of Pahokee Emergency Operations Center

City Clerk

- A. Records Management
- B. Assist City Manager
- C. Prepare the Resolution, Declaration, Proclamation, etc.

Human Resources

- A. Provide security and protection of vital records and equipment
- B. Establish and staff personnel recruiting center after an emergency
- C. Process Payroll
- D. Responsible for I.T.
- E. Contact Insurance Company
- F. Coordinate reconstruction and flood insurance program

Public Services

- A. Secure and protect City facilities as required
- B. Provide for repairs of out of service vehicles and fleet maintenance
- C. Provide drivers and vehicles for transport of supplies and personnel
- D. Maintain adequate fuel supply
- E. Provide assistant with damage assessment
- F. Provide debris clearance, restoration of roadways and provide signs/ barricades for street closures and evacuation.

VIII. FUNCTIONS AND TASKS (Continued)

Finance

- A. Anticipate and provide for general supply and procurement, allocation and distribution of supplies, equipment and services before and after the disaster.
- B. Provide security and protection of records and equipment
- C. Assist City Department with expediting emergency purchasing procedures and maintain records.
- D. Provide for security and protection of financial records and equipment.
- E. Provide disaster finance and accounting services
- F. Assess immediate financial needs
- G. Contact Insurance Company

Park & Recreation

- A. Provide security and protection of city parks
- B. Assist the American Red Cross with shelter facilities
- C. Provide representation in the City's EOC
- D. Provide assistance with debris clearance and recovery
- E. Provide transportation and drivers during residential evacuation
- F. Coordinate and staff supply distribution centers
- G. Support emergency housing and critical needs for resident

Community Development/Protective Inspections

- A. Develop and coordinate damage assessment teams and reports
- B. Survey construction sites for control of debris hazards
- C. Provide representation EOC
- D. Provide for protection of records and equipment
- E. Make available building plans and records
- F. Assist with damage assessment of city properties

IT/Communications

- A. Secure and protect the technical equipment of the city (i.e. servers)
- B. Ensure dedicated phones lines to the EOC
- C. Develop and coordinate all technology needs of the EOC

Cemetery

- A. Responsible for Cemetery
- B. Assist in other areas as needed

VIII. FUNCTIONS AND TASKS (Continued)

Fire (Palm Beach County Fire Rescue)

- A. Responsible for City-wide operations coordination of response efforts except in incident involving civil disturbances, this shall be the responsibilities of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office.
- B. Maintain liaison officer in City EOC
- C. Reports to the City Manager

Police (Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, PBSO)

- A. Responsible for city-wide operations pertaining to civil disturbances and civil disorders.
- B. Maintain a liaison officer in the City EOC
- C. Reports to the City Manager

Public Information Officer

- A. Inform the public through all forms of media about the progression of events as approved by the City Manager.
- B. Assist in developing press releases for the Mayor and City Council

IX. COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

- A. Incident Commander is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate communications between all resource units. The IC may draw on the total communications assets held by the City of Pahokee in order to accomplish all tasks.
- B. The Incident Commander, based on the situation and the immediate circumstances, will designate the priority of communication methods (i.e.: telephone, radios, cellular phones, runners).
- C. Wherever possible and when time permits, telephones should be used for all routine and administrative communications. This eliminates unnecessary radio traffic and is a more secure means of transmitting information.
- D. When and where radios are used as a means of communication, only emergency traffic will be allowed. All radios will maintain "radio listening silence" except to acknowledge receipt of radio messages to report situations which pose a threat to life or safety.
- E. *Appendix 3* to this Chapter contains a list of all Cellular Phone Numbers.
- F. Human Resources are responsible for maintaining and updating the Cellular Phone numbers.
- G. The PBSO is responsible for maintaining and updating the business phone number list this list is confidential and will be released only in the event of an actual need.
- H. In the event someone demands access to the evacuated zone because they believe that a relative has not been evacuated; the following actions will be taken:
 - I. Have them contact the evacuation center to determine if their relative is there.
 - 2. If it is determined that their relative is not at the Evacuation Center and it appears that the situation warrants quick action, one of the barricade persons will escort that person to the location in which the relative is believed to be and will wait while it is determined that the relative has already evacuated or until the relative is located and evacuated.
 - 3. If it does not appear that quick action is warranted, the person seeking entry into the evacuation zone should be sent to the EOC to obtain a pass.
 - 4. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL ANYONE WHO DOES NOT POSSESS AUTHORIZATION FROM THE INCIDENT COMMANDER BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE EVACUATED ZONE UNESCORTED.**

IX. COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (Continued)

- I. Requests by members of the Media for access to the evacuation zone will initially be denied and the media will be sent to the PIO for passes and briefing. If deemed reasonable by the I.C. or issuing officer, media access will be permitted through designated barricades only.
- J. A sample of the City of Pahokee I.D Badge is seen below.



X. MEDIA RELATIONS

- A. On the opening of the EOC, the City Manager will designate a Public Information Officer (PIO), who shall be located in or adjacent to the EOC.
- B. The PIO will be responsible for:
 - 1. Greeting and briefing the Media as they check in.
 - 2. Issuing passes to members of the Media.
 - Passes will be a different color for each day.
 - 3. Prepare and issue periodic press releases.
 - 4. Hold press conferences at the discretion of the Incident Commander.
 - 5. Provide general assistance to the public.
- C. All information will be released through the PIO. All requests for information will be referred to the PIO.
- D. In order to facilitate the Media's access to the PIO, the PIO will have communications. The number will be given out along with the Media passes at check in.
- E. Insofar as practical and in keeping with our need to safeguard potential evidence for investigative purposes, the Media will be allowed access to the evacuation zone. Entry and Exit from the evacuation zone will be only through points designated by the city's Emergency Operations Center.
- F. Due to limited resources, the City will not provide telephone service to the Media. Therefore, each member of the Media needs to make their own arrangements for communication.
- G. All Media problems, conflicts, and special requests will be submitted to the PIO for resolution. In the event that the PIO is unable to resolve the issue, it will be referred to the Incident Commander for final resolution. The decision of the Incident Commander is final.

XI. HAZARD IDENTIFICATION AND RISK ASSESSMENT

Geographic Information

Geographic Overview

Located on the shore of [Lake Okeechobee](#) in [Palm Beach County, Florida](#), United States.

Land area of 5.4 square miles.

Borders: West by the Lake Okeechobee.

Pahokee is known as “Palm Bach County’s “Other Coast” and called by its local residents as “The Muck” which refers to the mineral rich dark soil in which [sugarcane](#), [citrus fruits](#), and [corn](#) are grown by [agribusinesses](#). It was once known as the "Winter Vegetable Capital of the World" in its heyday when the city had thriving commerce. Pahokee is a popular area for its tree farms to grow native palm trees and other subtropical tree species.



Demographic Information

Population

- According to the 2010 Census approximately 6,649 people reside in Pahokee.
- Median Age is 39.
- Average Household size is 3.25
- Population decreased approximately 5.61% from the 2000 Census.
- The 2010 Census estimates 26.5% speak a language other than English at home

Table 1. Population Distribution in Pahokee by Age

Age Groups	Population	Percentage
Under 5	532	8%
06-18 years	1,396	21%
19-64 years	3,923	59%
65 years +	798	12%
Total	6,649	100%

XII. HAZARD VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS

Migrant Population

- Pahokee has a significant number of migrant farm workers that come during the harvest season.
- The migrant workers contain minority groups that include Spanish and Creole speaking populations.

Tourist Population

- “Lake Okeechobee” is the primary tourist attraction in Pahokee with its recently renovated Pahokee Marina & Campground.
- Seasonal population and winter residents are mobile and not dependent upon public transportation.

Mobile Home Residents

- A significant portion of mobile home residents are either seasonal, elderly or low income.
- There are approximately 408 Mobile Homes in approximately 11 Mobile Home & RV Parks

XII. HAZARD VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS (Continued)

Hazard identification, analysis and risk assessments involve the identification of natural, technological, and environmental hazards and assessments of risks to people, public and private property, structures, and the environment. The following is a list of the hazard categories for Pahokee.

Table 2: Pahokee Hazards Types, Hazard Categories and Specific Hazards

Hazard Specific Plans (HSPs)		
Natural Hazards	Technological Hazards	Environmental Hazards
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 5px;">Floods</div> Inland Flooding	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 5px;">Domestic Security</div> Civil Disturbance Cyber Terrorism Terrorism (Including Biochemical threats/attacks) Workplace Violence	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 5px;">Communicable Diseases</div> Influenza & Other Infectious Diseases
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 5px;">Wind Events</div> Tropical Storm/ Hurricane Tornado	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 5px;">Technological Hazards</div> Communications Interruptions Computer network Disruptions Infrastructure Failure Power Disruptions	
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 5px;">Severe Weather</div> Drought/ Extreme Temperature Hailstorms Lightning Thunderstorms	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 5px;">Hazmat</div> Brownsfield Hazmat Incidents Wellfield Contamination	
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 5px;">Erosion / Subsidence</div> Sink Holes Soil Erosion	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 5px;">Radiological Threats</div> Nuclear Power Incident Radiological Incident	
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 5px;">Fire</div> Muck Fire Urban Fires Wild Fires	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 5px;">Transportation Incident</div> Air Ground Rail	
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 5px;">Agricultural Pests & Diseases</div> Invasive Pests & Diseases	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 5px;">Mass Migration</div> Mass Migration	
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 5px;">Herbert Hoover Dike</div> Dike Failure		

XII. HAZARD VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS (Continued)

Natural Hazards

Floods

Tropical Systems represent the most significant flood threat to residents. Localized flooding in low lying areas may occur as a result of tropical storms, hurricanes, and/or severe rainfall events. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) has mapped all flood hazard areas in Pahokee. Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) is available at the Pahokee Planning, Zoning and Building Department. At this writing updated maps, including improved elevation data, are being developed by FEMA.

Flood control in Pahokee is a complex, integrated system of canals, waterways, and flood control devices operated by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). Street flooding and the isolation of residents and neighborhoods may occur as a result of overwhelming natural and mechanical drainage systems.

Wind Events

All Pahokee residents and visitors are at risk from a wind event. South Florida is among the most hurricane vulnerable areas in the continental United States. Pahokee suffered the impact of six (6) major hurricanes in the first half of the twentieth century. The chances of Pahokee being hit by a major hurricane continue to be high, especially considering that the National Hurricane Center is predicting more active hurricane seasons in the years to come.

Hurricanes are usually associated with four (4) main hazards: high winds, heavy rains, flooding and tornadoes. However, there are other associated hazards that can affect Pahokee and the response to, and recovery from, a wind event. These associated hazards include, but are not limited to: erosion, utilities failures, transportation disruptions, damage to residential structures, damage to commercial structures and the economic damage associated with it, and damage to governmental structures and the associated disruption of services, as well as agricultural damage.

Pre-landfall hazards associated with a hurricane also pose a significant threat to a successful evacuation. The natural tendency to delay evacuation until the last minute may trap residents on roadways due to traffic jams or flooded evacuation routes. The torrential rains and tropical storm force winds associated with the outer bands of a hurricane frequently render evacuation routes impassable long before the predicted landfall of the storm. In accordance with a wind effects report distributed by the Florida Institute of Technology, Tropical Storm Force Winds (TSFW) can down trees and power lines, blow out windows, blow down signs, cause flying debris, structural collapse and cause vehicles to overturn and deviate from their course. It is the policy of City of Pahokee to plan for the effects of TSFWs on preparedness activities and evacuation procedures.

When TSFWs (i.e., one minute sustained 34 knots or 39 mph winds) arrive, overall countrywide evacuation and pre-storm preparatory activities will cease. At this time, all response agencies, including the Palm Beach County EOC, should “lock down” and all on-duty personnel should report to a secure duty station, and vehicular traffic should cease. However, weather conditions may not deteriorate uniformly across the county. Therefore, county departments and response agencies may make exceptions to extend preparedness activities beyond the “lock down” time but such exceptions must be specified in their disaster response plans, or SOGs. These plans/SOGs must specify the conditions that may authorize, and the criteria used to determine, the need for an extension. The Division of Emergency Management strongly recommends that the safety of first responders and employees be the chief concern when drafting extension procedures.

XII. HAZARD VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS (Continued)

Severe Weather

In Pahokee, over the past 40 years there has been an average of two (2) droughts per decade. The worst drought on record occurred between November 2000 through February 2001 with the four driest months ever recorded. This dry period occurred after Hurricane Irene in 1999, when Lake Okeechobee was recorded to be at 18 feet. The lake's average depth is about 13 feet, but by May of 2001, the lake's level had dropped to nine feet.

A second severe drought affected the region from late 2006 through 2007. This drought followed back-to-back years of unprecedented hurricane activity and higher-than-normal rainfall.

On July 2, 2007 water levels in Lake Okeechobee reached an all time record low of 8.82 feet, surpassing the mark of 8.97 feet set during the 2001 drought. Rainfall directly over the lake was low enough to qualify the 2007 drought as a 1-in-100-year event.

The average rainfall in Pahokee is approximately 37 inches per year. The five-month rainy season (June through October) accounts for approximately 70% of the rainfall, while 30% falls during the seven months of November through May. Ground water sources include Lake Okeechobee, watershed areas, and the county's well fields. Normally, excess water from interconnected series of lakes, rivers, canals and marshes flows into Lake Okeechobee via the Kissimmee basin.

Pahokee's most direct exposure from drought is the economic loss endured by its agricultural community. The average annual market value of agricultural products at risk from drought is within the millions. In addition to direct impacts, Pahokee is also vulnerable in terms of potable water resources. Citywide potable water resources are limited and drought increases salt-water contamination of critical well fields.

Pahokee's vulnerability to drought-related damage and economic loss can take several forms. Direct impacts can include reduced crop yield, increased fire hazard, reduced water levels, increased livestock and wildlife mortality rates, and damage to wildlife and fishery habitat. Social impacts include public safety, health, conflicts between water users, and general reduction in the quality of life.

Temperature extremes, both periods of excessive heat and freezes, affect communities with a larger senior population to a greater extent than those with younger populations. Inland communities removed from the moderating influence of the ocean or the estuary temperature moderations are more vulnerable to temperature extremes, as are with significant agricultural assets.

Prolonged periods of extremely high temperatures are relatively rare in Pahokee. However, due to the consistently high humidity the local heat index is often significantly above the actual temperature during the summer months. While the frequency of "heat waves" is low, the frequency of heat indexes within the range of causing health problems is moderate to high during the summer months.

Freezing or very cold temperatures are more problematic in Pahokee. Between 1970 and 1999, seven significant freezes have affected Pahokee. Pahokee as a whole has a high economic vulnerability to freezing temperatures. The most significant area of impact is the commercial agricultural segment of the community, but city wide, cold sensitive ornamental landscaping also leaves many entities, public and private, open for significant economic loss.

While the loss of life from extremes of either high or low temperatures in Pahokee is not great compared to national statistics, the city does have a significant economic exposure to low temperatures in both the public and private sectors.

XII. HAZARD VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS (Continued)

Pahokee is located on the western side of Palm Beach County, which is located on the eastern edge of what is considered to be the “lightning belt” of Florida, and is also at high risk for thunderstorms. On average, 90 days a year have the potential for thunderstorms. Florida thunderstorms tend to be small in diameter, but can discharge large amounts of rain in a short period of time. Approximately 10% of thunderstorms cause significant damage and possible bodily harm.

Pahokee’s thunderstorms bring risks of heavy rains, lightning, hail, strong winds, straight line winds, and tornados. Thunderstorms and their associated hazards can bring about power outages, downed power lines, fires, transportation disruptions and flooding. They can be especially troubling to the elderly, residents of mobile homes and substandard housing.

Erosion/ Subsidence

The Lake Okeechobee is protected by the Hebert Hoover Dike. Due to agricultural focus around the Pahokee area, soil erosion is also a concern. The occurrence of erosion in Pahokee has greatly increased, and soil regeneration cannot be sustained as needed. This is mostly due to intensification of agriculture to make up for possible economic losses.

Sinkholes are not considered to be a significant hazard in Palm Beach County. Soil failure or collapse is rare in Pahokee and is generally related to some other natural hazard, such as dam or levee failure during a period of flooding.

The City of Pahokee’s high vulnerability to this type of hazard could be affected due to a levee failure in the Dike around the Lake Okeechobee under specific circumstances. There is a significant exposure of life and property in the Pahokee area should storm surge breach the Okeechobee dike.

Fire

Like the rest of the country, Pahokee is at high risk for fires, both urban and wildfires. On average, Florida experiences the second highest number of wildfires in the country, because Pahokee is located in the “lightning belt,” residents and visitors must be cautious about wildfires as well as urban fires caused by lightning strikes.

The Pahokee’s elderly and economically disadvantaged residents are at higher risks for bodily harm due to fires due to substandard housing, lack of smoke detectors, and physical impairments.

Palm Beach County Fire Rescue teaches fire safety throughout the County and provides fire safety information in various languages to attempt to educate as much as the population as possible.

Agricultural Pests and Diseases

The Pahokee area could be affected by invasive non-native pests and disease. This can be particularly damaging when major landscape plants, such as citrus trees are infected. Some areas of focus and concern are nurseries and agricultural areas.

Invasive pests and diseases have the potential to harm or cause problems for all of the residents and visitors of Pahokee. They could increase the costs of agricultural goods, cause damage to their landscaping, and negatively affect people’s health and safety. Invasive pests and diseases could also cause long-term damage to the local ecosystem.

XII. HAZARD VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS (Continued)

Herbert Hoover Dike

The Herbert Hoover Dike is a 140 mile long earthen structure that surrounds and contains Lake Okeechobee. The lake covers approximately 730 square miles and borders Palm Beach, Martin, Okeechobee, Glades and Hendy counties/ Lake Okeechobee is the second largest freshwater lake in the U. S. Today, the lake provides drinking water for communities around the lake and to the more than 6 million people living in Southeast Florida. It also serves as a source of irrigation for a \$1.5 billion-a-year agricultural industry that process sugar cane, winter vegetables, citrus, and rice.

The Dike was completed in 1937 to protect citizens from another flooding event similar to the occurrence in 1928. The flooding derived from the 1928 hurricane, which resulted in over 2,500 deaths and thousands more injured in the western portion of Palm Beach County. The Dike protects from major flooding events occurring in Belle Glade, Pahokee, and South Bay municipalities, as well as potential flooding in Wellington, Royal Palm Beach, West Palm Beach, Palm Beach Gardens, and incorporated Palm Beach County. The Herbert Hoover Dike is continuously monitored by the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Until work has been stabilized to the Dike by the USACE, there is the potential for stability problems to occur from heavy rainfall raising the level of the lake above 18 feet.

A number of independent assessments by prominent engineering and science organizations call into question the adequacy of the dike to withstand extreme wind and rainfall conditions. There is consensus that a catastrophic failure of the Herbert Hoover Dike would pose a significant danger to the residents, local economies and environment of Palm Beach County and South Florida. At this time the USACE continues its rehabilitation efforts and in conjunction with the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), continually monitors and manages water levels in order to prevent further degradation of the Dike and its canal system.

XII. HAZARD VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS (Continued)

Technological Hazards

Domestic Security

Civil Disturbances are described as acts of violence and disorder by groups or individuals as a form of protest or celebration requiring intervention in order to maintain public safety. Common triggers include: racial tension, labor strikes/unrest, unemployment, religious conflict, civil disobedience; prison riots; unpopular political actions, or the unavailability of critical services or goods.

As any other area, Pahokee is subject to civil disturbances in the form of riots, mob violence, and a breakdown of law and order in a localized area. Although they can occur at any time, civil disturbances are often preceded by periods of increased tension caused by questionable social and/or political events such as controversial jury trials, elections results, or law enforcement actions. Police services are responsible for the restoration of law and order in any specific area of the county. The overall potential for civil disturbance in Pahokee may be considered moderate.

Technological Hazards

Pahokee is at potential risk for technological failures and the hazards associated with them. Technological failures include electrical outages, and interruptions to water, gas, sewer, communications, and information technology. Technological failure planning does not focus on temporary, small outages such as brownouts. Instead, planning focuses on long term, wide spread outages that can negatively affect vulnerable populations such as the elderly and physically ill.

Local businesses are at high risk for permanent damage caused by technological hazards due to loss of inventory, loss of customers, and loss of capabilities. Planning through Pahokee's Business and Industry Unit and the Public –Private Partnership helps to mitigate this damage.

Hazmat

Pahokee is at risk of land and surface water contamination. The city currently has a number of known brown fields, which can increase the chances of land contamination. Brownsfield are sites that have been abandoned or underused due to actual or possible contamination. Some of the associated hazards include exposure by the workers assigned to clean up brownsfield to hazardous materials and other exposure risks to animals and residents on and around the area.

Residents of Pahokee are vulnerable to the harmful effects of the accidental release or spills of hazardous materials. Hazardous Materials are transported throughout the city by air, and land transportation modalities. Major transportation routes through the city include SR441, SR715, two rail lines that transverse the City and Palm Beach County Glades Airport.

Hazardous Materials are also stored and used on site at many facilities in the city. Title III of the Superfund Reauthorization Act of 1986, and the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act require that all facilities using, storing, or having on site any of the 402 Extremely Hazardous Substances (EHS), register the facility with the State Emergency Planning Council, Local emergency Planning Committee, and the local fire department. An extremely Hazardous Chemical, as defined by the Environmental Protection Agency is a chemical that could cause serious health effects following short-term exposure from accidental release.

XII. HAZARD VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS (Continued)

No specific emergency sequence can be isolated as the model for which to plan because each emergency could have different consequences, both in nature and degree. As an alternative to defining a specific emergency, Palm Beach County Hazardous Material Plan identifies various parameters for planning which are based upon knowledge of the possible consequences, timing and release characteristics of a spectrum of emergencies. This plan establishes the appropriate response for each level of threat.

Surface water contamination can occur for various reasons, including storm water runoff, a hazardous materials spill, or intentional dumping into a body water. Pahokee has an extensive dependence on surface water for drinking, landscaping, and agricultural needs. One of the larger bodies of water at risk for contamination is Lake Okeechobee.

Radiological Threats

Radiological threats can come from many different sources, including medical centers, doctors and dental offices, transportation accidents, power plant incidents, and intentional acts of terrorism. Palm Beach County DEM has a staff position dedicated to radiological emergency planning. DEM works closely with Palm Beach County Fire Rescue, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, Florida Power & Light, and other relevant departments to mitigate the risks of radiological threats. Associated hazards to a radiological threat include health effects, negative psychological effects, damage or destruction of the ecosystem, damage or destruction to the infrastructure, and economic damage.

Transportation Incident

Pahokee has two (2) main highways, SR441 and SR715. It also has a small Airport and rail system that runs north to south. These all increase the risk of a transportation accident that can damage infrastructure and the ecosystem. Transportation accident planning focuses on large scale events that cause severe damage and impairments for residents, visitors, and infrastructure, not on small and easily cleared traffic accidents.

Transportation accident associated hazards can include fires, hazardous materials spills, bodily harm, psychological impacts, and severe future transportation impairments. DEM works closely with Palm Beach County Fire Rescue, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO), and other partner agencies to plan for transportation accidents through exercises, coordinating procedures and other activities.

XII. HAZARD VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS (Continued)

Mass Migration

A description of Mass Migration includes the illegal immigration or outmigration (emigration) of large number of refugees, asylum-seekers, economic migrants or other groups of people across national borders, in a way that violates U.S. immigration laws. Common purposes include escaping oppressive conditions or poverty and family reunification. Due to the demographic and large agricultural industry, Pahokee has a high vulnerability to immigration crises arising from anywhere in the Caribbean, Latin America, or South America.

Communicable Diseases

2009 and 2010 saw the spread of the H1N1 virus throughout Palm Beach County. Vulnerable populations, such as the elderly, young children, migrants and those with physical illnesses and impairments, live throughout the County. DEM works closely with the Palm Beach County Department of Health (DOH) to mitigate against quickly spreading diseases and illnesses. Different options, such as mass vaccinations, sheltering-in-place, and quarantine are options to combat a contagious disease. DOH has planned for a contagious disease outbreak and is able to set up points of disbursement to provide vaccines and other medications such as Potassium Iodine (KI), antibiotics, and anti-viral medications.

Special Events

A description of a special event is a planned organized activity or contest, that will place a large group either known or estimated participants or attendees, or both, in a defined geographical area where access by emergency vehicles might be delayed due to crowds or traffic congestion at or near the event. Identification and coordination of necessary actions by the event sponsor and the responsible officials to provide for timely notification, warning, and evacuation in the event of an emergency, including catastrophic emergencies beyond the normal expected hazards, (i.e., weather phenomenon is extremely important for the public safety).

Pahokee specifically play host to several recognized activities including, but not limited to sporting events (e.g., Back to School Bash, Pahokee Heritage, Tri-Cities annual barbeque, 4th of July, Q-Fest, Relay for Life, Christmas Parade and other special events(e.g., “Orange Bowl”). These special events may potentially volatilize if not well managed by participating public and private organizations and agencies. Dealing with such complex events places a premium on pre-event planning and coordination to minimize negative effects on the social, economic and political impacts on the community.

XIII. EVACUATION PROCEDURES

Evacuation Authority

The Director of the Division of Emergency Management has the responsibility to recommend to the Director of Public Safety the need to issue an evacuation order for high risk areas in Palm Beach County prior to the threat of a hurricane, tropical storm, wild land fire, flooding incident or any other applicable threat. All policies effecting the direction and control of the evacuation remain the responsibility of the Board of County Commissioners and are administered in the EOC through the Executive Policy Group.

Municipal Coordination

Implementation of the evacuation order and ultimately re-entry into the impacted area is the responsibility of local government. Direction and control of all evacuation and re-entry activity within or through a municipality is retained by the local entity affected. High-risk areas within the county that must evacuate prior to the arrival of a serious hurricane, severe tropical storm or flooding are indiscriminate of municipal boundaries. The safety of the City of Pahokee citizens is of mutual concern to both municipal and county officials.

- A. Emergency Operations PBSO Liaison will determine where to position roadblocks in order to establish a cordon around the evacuation zone, and will assign the appropriate units to those barricade locations.
- B. Whenever possible the PBSO Liaison will assign each barricade or roadblock location. This will allow the barricade to be manned in the event that someone needs to be escorted into or out of the evacuation zone.
- C. Once the barricades have been placed and the cordon established, no unauthorized personnel will be allowed into the evacuation zone.
- D. On order from the PBCEOC, Police and Fire personnel will begin to evacuate residents and citizens from homes and businesses in the evacuation zone using P.A. systems and personal appearances. The evacuation statement should be words to the effects:

"There is an emergency situation which requires the evacuation of this area immediately. Please" lock up your home/business and leave this area immediately. An evacuation center (s) has (have) been established and Emergency service personnel will direct you to that location.
- E. Police personnel will continue to police the evacuation zone making this statement until the entire area has been cleared, and then will periodically patrol the zone to prevent vandalism and looting.
- F. Evacuation routes will be designated by the PBCEOC as dictated by the location and nature of the incident. (*See map in Appendix 5 of this chapter*)

XIII. EVACUATION PROCEDURES (Continued)

COOP Activation

City of Pahokee COOP Plan may be activated by the following:

1. The Governor of the State of Florida may declare a State of Emergency for the State of Florida, or Southern Region and activate the Emergency Coordination Procedure (ECP) through consultation with City Council and County Officials.
2. The Chair of the BCC may declare a Local State of Emergency for Palm Beach County and activate the COOP. Upon declaration of the Local State of Emergency by the BCC, the County Administrator may direct the evacuation of risk areas on behalf of the BCC. At this time, schools, government offices and businesses will be asked to cease operations until the emergency has passed.
3. In the event of a sudden emergency which seriously threatens the safety of Palm Beach County's citizens.
4. In the event of a sudden emergency which seriously threatens the safety of City of Pahokee citizens.
 - Activate the ECP.
 - Notify the City Manager, who will notify City Council in order to declare a Local State of Emergency and implement the COOP.
 - When exigencies of the situation preclude the timely authorization by the City Manager, the established line of succession will be implemented.

XIV. EVACUATION CENTER(S)

- A. When an evacuation is ordered the PBCEOC will designate the number and location of Evacuation Centers to be opened based on the situation and availability of designated facilities.
- B. If it appears that the evacuation period will be of long duration, a request for assistance from the Red Cross will be issued by the City Manager/Incident Commander.
 - The Red Cross is capable of providing food, small numbers of cots and blankets; and of operating Emergency Shelters at evacuation centers on request.
- C. A list of Evacuation Centers is contained in *Appendix 4* of this Chapter.
 - *Disabled Transportation Assistance Program.* Palm Beach County has established a Disabled Transportation Assistance Program to provide transportation to Red Cross Hurricane shelters for disabled persons who live in an evacuation zone or mobile home. In order to be eligible for the Disabled Transportation Assistance Program, **citizens MUST pre-register.**
- D. On arriving at the location designated as an Evacuation Center or Shelter, either the City or Red Cross personnel assigned to operate that Center will establish and maintain a roster of all individuals who come into the Center adding the names of those who arrive and deleting the names of those who leave. If City personnel are used to establish an evacuation center and later Red Cross Personnel are called in, the Red Cross will take over operation of the Center and City Personnel will assist as needed.
- E. Evacuation Center personnel will immediately establish a communications link with the PBCEOC by whatever means available. Preferably via telephone.
- F. In the event the Red Cross assigns personnel to operate a shelter at the Evacuation Center or Shelter, City Personnel will coordinate their efforts with those of the Red Cross. Any conflicts will be resolved by the Incident Commander or his designee or designee.
- G. Refuges of last resort, based on the authority granted in the Governor's declaration, will authorize that identified facilities be commandeered for use as refuges of last resort. Refuges are not pre-designated by the American Red Cross and provide no special accommodations such as food, water, security, first aid or parking. Refuges are viewed as a last resort until the hurricane or other disaster passes.

XV. COLD WEATHER

Although cold weather occurs frequently in South Florida, Pahokee is nonetheless susceptible to brief periods of frigid temperatures during the late fall and winter months. Wind chill readings can easily plummet to the twenties and even teens during these cold periods that can endanger the lives of people who lack comfort of a warm home or other heated building. Each winter, Palm Beach County experiences at least a few nights where temperatures drop below 40 degrees Fahrenheit (40° F). On rare occasions, the winter of 2000-2001 for example, there have been over 20 nights between November and March where temperatures, or wind chill readings, have fallen below 40° F. Such occurrences are particularly harsh on the homeless, although these cold temperatures could adversely impact any person or family in unheated homes.

If the Director of the Division of Emergency Management determines that the primary cold weather shelter capacity is inadequate to care for the number of people at risk, the Director will order the opening of additional facilities.

In the event of a cold weather emergency and by approval of the City of Pahokee Commission, the city staff will assist in providing transportation for area residents to the county shelter.

GLADES AREA COLD WEATHER EMERGENCY SHELTER

West County Senior Citizens Center

2916 State Road 15
Belle Glade, FL. 33430

XVI. DIKE BREACH RESPONSE

Palm Beach County has the potential to be threatened in the event of a dike breach by the Herbert Hoover Dike. The geographical areas likely to be affected are Belle Glade, Pahokee, South Bay and Canal Point. However the specific flood area will vary based upon Lake level and dike breach location.

Until work has been completed to stabilize the Dike by the Army Corps of Engineers, there is the potential for stability problems and/or seepage to occur from heavy rainfall raising the level of the lake above 18 feet. Dike failure is likely at 21 feet lake level.

The lead federal agency is the US Army Corp of Engineers; local lead agency is the Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management, with the City of Pahokee coordinating with PBCDEM.

Appendix 1:
RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE, FLORIDA, DECLARING A LOCAL STATE OF GENERAL EMERGENCY IN THE CITY OF PAHOKEE.

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Pahokee has been informed by Palm Beach County Emergency Management of the imminent threat posed by _____; and

WHEREAS, _____ has the capacity to pose significant, imminent, and dangerous threat to the health safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the City of Pahokee, Florida, as well as real and personal property; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission has duly met and considered whether or not to declare a state of general emergency

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE, THAT:

Section 1: A state of general emergency hereby exists in the City of Pahokee, Florida.

Section 2: The City Manager shall assume the powers as provided by § 252.38(3) and may take any and all action of a temporary nature deemed necessary during this state of emergency.

Section 3. This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, by the City Commission of the city of Pahokee, Florida during the Special Meeting called on _____.

Colin O. Walkes, MAYOR

ATTESTED: _____

Anika Sinclair, CITY CLERK

MAYOR WALKES _____
VICE MAYOR HILL _____
COMMISSIONER BABB _____
COMMISSIONER BIGGS _____
COMMISSIONER WALKER _____

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

Gary M. Brandenburg, CITY ATTORNEY

Appendix 2:
COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

City of Pahokee Phone Numbers

City Hall	(561) 924-5534
Public Works	(561) 924-7685
Recreation	(561) 924-2976
Cemetery	(561) 924-2362

Cellular Phone Numbers

Derrek A. Moore, City Manager	(561) 261- 1282
Alvin Johnson, Public Works Director	(561) 261 - 7693
Ivory Paschal, Parks & Recreation Dir.	(561) 449 - 5998
Erica Washington, Community Development	(561) 983 - 2827
Ebony Bruton, Information Technology	(561) 449 - 9663
Ebony Bruton, Finance	(561) 449 - 9663
Ebony Bruton, Human Resources	(561) 449 - 9663

Supporting Partners Contact Information

Fire Rescue	
Battalion Chief, Joey Cooper	911 or 924-9267 (non emergency)
Police	
Lt Laurence Poston, District 5	911 or 996-1670 (non emergency)
Lakeside Medical Center	(561) 996-6571
Pahokee Housing Authority	(561) 924-5565
Glades Health Care	(561) 924-5465
Alzheimer's Community Care Center	(561) 924-7283
United States Post Office (Pahokee)	(561) 924-2321
Palm Beach County Emergency Operations	(561) 712-6400
Glades Utility Authority	1-877-477-1305
American Red Cross	1-866-438-4636
Florida Emergency Information Line	1-800-342-3557 (only activated during disasters)
Federal Division of Emergency Management	1-850-413-9900 (Non-emergencies)
FEMA (Emergencies Only)	1-800-320-0519
Florida Power & Light	1-800-858-8845

Appendix 3:
EVACUATION CENTERS

City of Pahokee Evacuation Center

Parks & Recreation Complex

360 East Main Street
Pahokee, Florida 33476

Palm Beach County Shelter & Evacuation Locations:

WEST COUNTY AREA: BELLE GLADE, SOUTH BAY, PAHOKEE, CANAL POINT

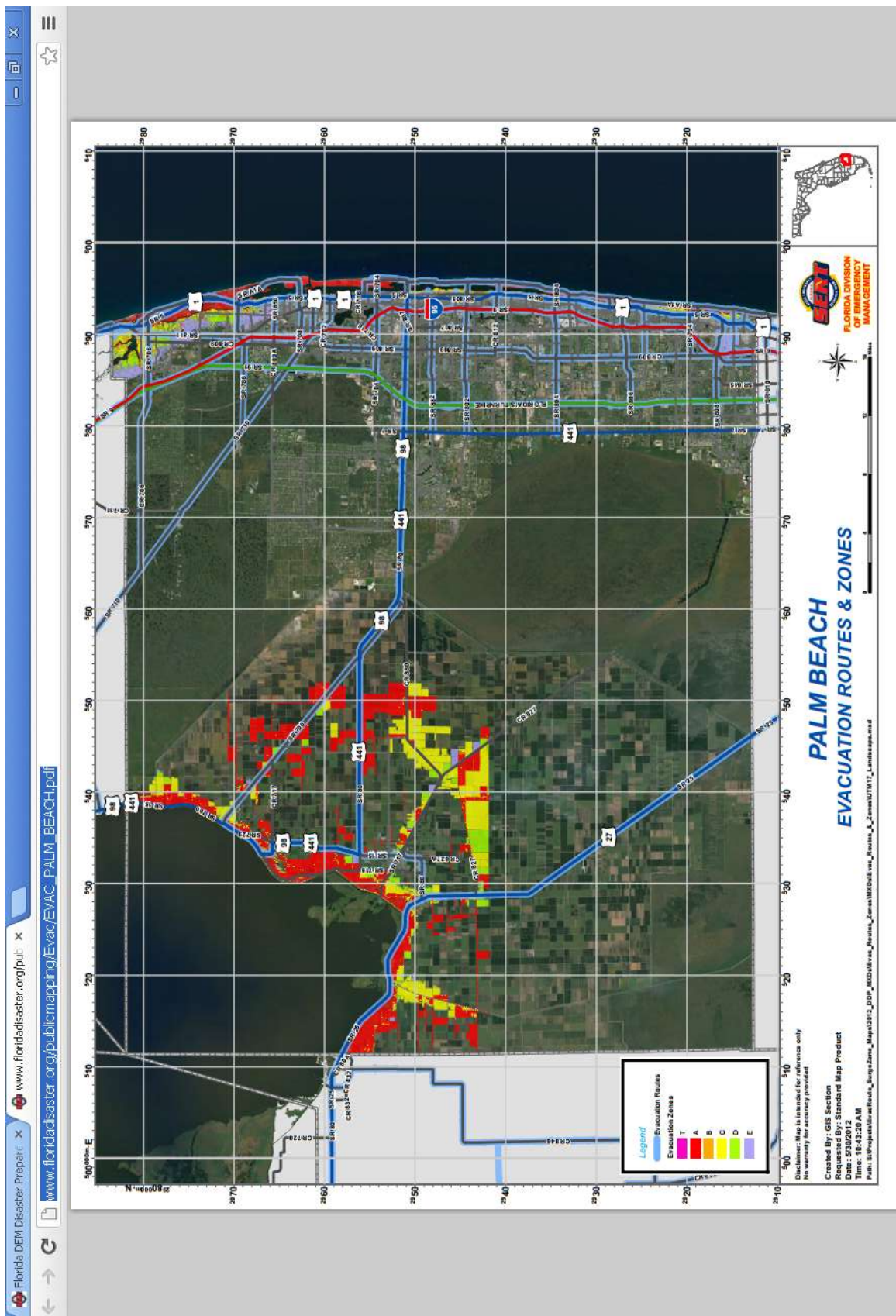
Pahokee Middle School

900 Larrimore Road
Pahokee, FL 33476

Lake Shore Middle School

425 West Canal Street
Belle Glade, Florida 33430

Appendix 4: EVACUATION ROUTES & ZONES



Appendix 5:
PBC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT EVACUATION (Special Needs Information)

Please refer to:

<http://www.pbcgov.com/dem/sections/planning/cemp.htm>, pages 11 & 52-53 for additional information.

Appendix 6:
HERBERT HOOVER DIKE (Flood Vulnerable Area)

Please refer to:

<http://www.pbcgov.com/dem/sections/planning/cemp.htm>, page 21 for additional information.

Appendix 7:
KEY CONTACT INFORMATION

Appendix 8: Key Contact Information

City of Pahokee	924-5534
Chamber of Commerce	924-5579
PBC Fire Rescue (Pahokee)	924-9267 or 911 for Emergency
PBC Sheriff's Office	996-1670 or 911 for Emergency
PBC Health Department	924-1600
PBC Animal Control	924-5656
Loula V. York Library	924-5928
Pahokee Housing Authority	924-5565
U. S. Post Office	924-2321
FP&L (Customer Service)	1-800-375-2434
FP& L (To report power outages)	1-800-468-8243
Palm Beach County Water Utility Customer Service	993-2602
Palm Beach County Water Utility Emergency Line	1-877-477-1305