



Partners in Prevention

Volume 22, Issue 3 October 2020

***#HurricaneStrong* Community Designations Expand**

This year continues to challenge us, but it hasn't stopped the City of Cape Coral, FL and the Town of Hilton Head Island, SC from receiving [*#HurricaneStrong*](#) Community Designations.

The FLASH Partnership chose these communities for their excellence in resilience leadership, the ISO Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) score, a class five rating from the Community Rating System (CRS) for floodplain management, year-round hurricane preparedness, community outreach, and education, and establishment as NOAA [*StormReady® Community*](#).

"The City of Cape Coral is committed to continually improving our preparedness and resiliency to hurricanes," said Fire Chief Ryan W. Lamb. "It is a great honor to be recognized for this commitment with the *#HurricaneStrong* designation."

"The Town strives to have an all-hazards emergency management program and partner with organizations that promote disaster preparedness and safety like FLASH," said Emergency Management Coordinator Tom Dunn. "The *#HurricaneStrong* designation demonstrates our commitment to hurricane planning, preparedness, education, and response."

The *#HurricaneStrong* Community Designation Program is focused on communities that demonstrate the following:

- Strong, engaged leadership
- Current, model building codes adopted/enforced
- Excellent floodplain management/CRS Rating
- Widespread community awareness/outreach
- Resilient businesses/organizations
- NOAA/National Weather Service *StormReady* Designation
- Resilient school systems

Leon County, FL, earned the first *#HurricaneStrong* Community designation in March of 2018, followed by Miami-Dade County, FL, and Chatham County, GA.

The program is an extension of the [*National Hurricane Resilience Initiative - #HurricaneStrong*](#) created in 2016 to improve hurricane preparedness, mitigation, and overall readiness through increased public awareness and engagement. FEMA, FLASH, and NOAA serve as *#HurricaneStrong* Presenting Partners. National Partners include ISO/Verisk, Lowe's, Simpson Strong-Tie, State Farm Insurance, and USAA. *The Weather Channel* supports the effort as the National Media Partner.

For information about how to become a *#HurricaneStrong* Community, contact info@flash.org or call 877-221-SAFE.