



## Partners in Prevention

Volume 19, Issue 4, April 2017

### **Disaster Safety Leaders Unite to Protect Florida Building Code System**

Disaster safety stakeholders from across the United States are coming together to oppose pending legislation that would set the stage for erosion of the current building code system in Florida. The bills stymie future updates by locking into existing code editions as the foundation, making updates more difficult to adopt, and removing the mandatory three-year update cycle.

FLASH and the International Code Council oppose the legislation as do organizations representing architects, emergency managers, engineers, firefighters, fire marshals, first responders, insurers, safety advocates, volunteer organizations, and more. All have joined the [Floridians for Safe Communities](#), a new, broad-based coalition formed to ensure Florida communities stay safe and strong by upholding Florida's current building codes. Craig Fugate, Former FEMA Administrator, serves as the Chairman of Floridians for Safe Communities.

In a recent article in the [Tampa Bay Times](#) Fugate stated, "Florida must continue to apply strong and current building codes for the environment we live in, which is the most likely state in the nation to be hit by a hurricane. Taking Florida back to pre-Hurricane Andrew status, when there was piecemeal regulation that didn't adequately protect homes, businesses or life, should not be an option."

In its current three-year cycle, the Florida Building Code is one of the strongest codes in the nation, and for good reason, as Florida is also the most likely state in the U.S. to be hit by a hurricane. The FLASH paper, [The Case for Preserving Florida's Building Code System](#), addresses the history of the Florida Building Code after Hurricane Andrew and the potential negative ramifications of Senate Bill 7000, Senate Bill 860, and House Bill 901.