

September 2020 InteRaCt Webinar Featured Presentation: Community Resilience and The Role of Federal Support

#	Questions	Responses
1	<p>What is the role of FDOT? How do local government work together including FDOT? Aside from Feds, is there other funding available?</p>	<p>Communities with state or federal transportation systems should coordinate with the appropriate DOT or agency. Coordination with public (and private) entities that own infrastructure in a community improves mutual understanding, information exchanges, and collaborative planning for improving resilience. It may be useful to collaborate at a regional level for state/federal transportation systems.</p> <p>Communities may obtain funding resources through bonds, loans, or taxes. There are also private sources of funding, some are local, and some are national. Each of these organizations focus on a particular aspect of community resilience.</p>
2	<p>Do you have minimum standards for hurricane construction?</p>	<p>National model codes, such as the International Building Code, and structural standards such as ASCE 7, Minimum Design Loads and Associated Criteria for Buildings and Other Structures, and material construction standards provide minimum design standards for hurricane design and construction. There are also best practice guidance documents by several agencies and organizations, such as FEMA (Coastal Construction Manual, FEMA P-55) and IBHS (Fortified).</p>
3	<p>What roles do you see technical standards playing in disaster preparedness?</p>	<p>At present, technical standards primarily set minimum criteria for public safety, where the probability of failure is based on consensus target levels. This approach sets a baseline for performance and allows designers the ability to go beyond minimum criteria. While minimum standards are necessary for achieving resilience, it is recognized that achieving resilience after a design-level hazard event requires consideration of repairs and recovery of function. This is a paradigm shift--similar to perspective changes for green buildings and sustainability. Best practices typically emerge first and form the basis for experience and knowledge that leads to advances in codes and standards.</p>
4	<p>Can you discuss models that address community resilience with focus on the elderly population?</p>	<p>Age is a variable that is typically included in social vulnerability assessments, but it is a variable that is fairly randomly distributed within and across communities.</p> <p>On a related note, at the community level, models often address critical facilities like hospitals and nursing homes. Emergency Operations Centers maintain lists of elderly who have special medical needs, like dialysis or oxygen. They are prioritized for evacuation assistance and sometimes for power restoration.</p>
5	<p>How does the content of this presentation relate to current and upcoming FEMA research, programs, standards, and protocols?</p>	<p>There are a number of FEMA programs that support community resilience. This presentation provided context for how federal programs can assist communities but did not provide specific listings of programs. FEMA Resilience Programs are described at https://www.fema.gov/about/offices/resilience.</p>

#	Questions During the Webinar	
6	<p>Thanks for your informative presentation. Is there some research into the wildfires and improving resilience in these communities where the fires happen?</p>	<p>There are a number of research programs for wildland urban interface (WUI) fires and community impacts. Examples include: NIST (https://www.nist.gov/el/fire-research-division-73300/wildland-urban-interface-fire-73305). CA Fire Science Consortium (http://www.cafiresci.org/northern-california). USFA/FEMA (https://www.usfa.fema.gov/wui_toolkit/wui_research.html). FS/USDA (https://www.fs.usda.gov/rmrs/science-spotlights/archetypes-wildland-urban-interface-communities-making-communities-fire-resilient). and NFPA (https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/News-and-Research/Resources/Research-Foundation/Current-projects/ProjectSummaryWUIResilienceWorkshop.ashx).</p>
7	<p>In the U.S., many professors and independent researchers are working on various issues and aspects regarding physical and social infrastructure. Should these efforts be consolidated? If yes, by whom? Thank you.</p>	<p>As resilience is a relatively new concept, it is still evolving in terms of tools and experience with implementing resilience measures. There are a number of efforts to bring together the wide range of communities, researchers, government agencies, and professionals working on various aspects of resilience. Two examples include the Natural Hazards Workshop at the Univ. of Colorado Boulder (https://hazards.colorado.edu/workshop/2020) and the ASCE Infrastructure Resilience Division (https://www.asce.org/infrastructure-resilience/infrastructure-resilience-division/).</p>
8	<p>Is BRIC program funding available for highway/bridge projects?</p>	<p>The FEMA BRIC priorities are to: incentivize public infrastructure projects; incentivize projects that mitigate risk to one or more lifelines; incentivize projects that incorporate nature-based solutions; and, incentivize adoption and enforcement of modern building codes. There are requirements for applications for BRIC funding which can be found at: https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/building-resilient-infrastructure-communities.</p>
9	<p>Are the programs and software you showed in the PowerPoint being used in the developing world? If so, what branch of government is doing that and where?</p>	<p>The federal programs for community resilience target the US. The software tools were primarily developed for application in the US, but there are some that could be used at any location. Two international tools identified are <i>Open Data for Resilience Index</i> and <i>ThinkHazard!</i> by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR). However, I do not have specific information on tools that are being used in the developing world.</p>