



# FEMA

## HAZUS-MH

### The SW Florida Pilot Project

**The State of Florida** – The state of Florida is a leader in the use of HAZUS-MH. Interest in HAZUS-MH took off after the 2004 hurricane season, with the model was used by FEMA and the Florida Division of Emergency Management (DEM) for hurricanes Charley, Jeanne, Frances and Ivan.

In the months leading up to the 2004 hurricane season, FEMA Region IV worked closely with Florida DEM to develop Standard Operating Procedures for the use of HAZUS-MH for hurricane impact assessment and disaster response operations.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Charley, the City of Punta Gorda – under the leadership of Rick Burgess, GIS Coordinator – embarked on a major effort to collect building damage data. This project was coordinated with the Charlotte County Long-Term Recovery Planning initiative, and HAZUS-MH.

It was during this collaborative effort that FEMA and Florida DEM – in coordination with the City of Punta Gorda – launched the SW Florida HAZUS Pilot Project in January, 2005, which was guided by four objectives.

In addition, the SW Florida HAZUS Pilot Project put the spotlight on HAZUS-MH in Florida, laying the groundwork for the formation of the Florida HAZUS Users Group (FLHUG).

One of the more innovative initiatives under the SW Florida project was a partnership effort with FEMA and Florida DEM to develop the HAZUS-MH Map Series. The idea was simple. Develop a HAZUS-MH template that could be used to depict a range of model outputs and potential applications of those outputs.

The SW Florida HAZUS-MH Pilot Project ultimately brought together representatives from eight SW Florida counties, FEMA, Coastal Services Center (NOAA), Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council, Institute for Business and Home Safety, and several local consulting firms.



State-wide,  
Florida



#### Quick Facts

- Sector:  
**Public/Private Partnership**
- Cost:  
**Amount Not Available**
- Primary Activity/Project:  
**HAZUS-MH**
- Primary Funding:  
**State sources**