

News Release



News Release

Santa Rosa County Public Information ▪

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County Flood Mitigation Project is Success

The Santa Rosa County Board of Commissioners recently completed its role as project manager for a mitigation project of a repetitively flooded home in Gulf Breeze. The home located on Coral Strip Parkway in a special flood hazard area, was successfully elevated four feet. The property, which previously had flood losses exceeding \$500,000, now exceeds the current requirements for elevation. Effective mitigation efforts, like this grant-funded project, can break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage. It has been estimated that for every \$1 invested in mitigation, approximately \$4 is saved in terms of future damage repairs. This project was a partnership between the Federal Emergency Management Agency, state of Florida, county and homeowner.

The elevation of the Coral Strip Parkway home took approximately four months to complete. After digging trenches to expose the foundation walls immediately below the slab, holes were cut in the foundation walls at intervals around the house and tunnels were dug under the slab. Beams were positioned to support the slab and the building contractor used hydraulic jacks to lift the entire structure. Cribbing, or temporary piles of crisscrossed timbers, was then placed under the existing foundation to support the structure and jacks, while the new foundation was constructed. The process was repeated until the house was raised four feet. Once the new foundation was in place, the house was lowered and secured. The project was funded through the Severe Repetitive Loss Program with FEMA funding 90 percent of the project and the homeowner meeting the 10 percent local match.

Elevation of a structure is just one of several mitigation measures that can be undertaken to mitigate a home from future damages. Each flooding situation and property characteristics are carefully reviewed to identify the most appropriate mitigation measure. Residents who have experienced repetitive flooding of their home can learn more about flood mitigation programs by attending the third annual Flood Mitigation Homeowner Workshop on September 13 at 6 p.m. in the Board of County Commissioners meeting room located at 6495 Caroline Street. More information about flood mitigation can also be found at www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/floodplain.

The elevation project and flood mitigation workshop are two of the measures contained within the county's flood mitigation plan, recently written in conjunction with the Local Mitigation Strategy Task Force's efforts to increase mitigation in Santa Rosa County. For more information regarding the LMSTF, flood mitigation workshop or eligibility requirements for grant funding, contact Shelia Harris at (850) 983-1848.

Photos of the flood mitigation project before, during and after the elevation are available at www.santarosa.fl.gov/news/photodownload.html

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