

Florida Floodplain Managers Association
2019 Annual Conferences
Abstracts

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- Title:** Mitigation Research in Action: Perspectives from the Insurance for Business & Home Safety
- Length:** 90 minutes
- Subject:** Regulatory Building
- Target Audience:** Engineers, Policy Makers, Code Officials
- Presenter Name:** Whitford Remer, AICP, ENV SP
Counsel & Director of Public Policy
Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety
- Biography:** Whit is Counsel & Director of Public Policy at the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety. He focuses on internal IBHS legal issues, as well as federal and state legislative and regulatory policy affecting building codes and standards, mitigation funding and incentives, and community resilience.
- In addition to his law degree from Loyola University, Whit earned a Master of Urban and Regional Planning from the University of New Orleans and a bachelor's degree in geography and political science from Florida State University. He is well versed in a wide range of legal and public policy issues of importance to IBHS, having most recently served as Senior Manager of Federal Government Relations for the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). Whit's previous experience also includes working on climate adaptation and catastrophe recovery for vulnerable populations.
- Co-Presenter:** None
- Biography:**
- Abstract:** Well developed and enforced building codes are a critical foundation to achieving a more resilient community. Over the last two decades, Florida has taken aggressive steps to adopt and enforce a statewide building code. Florida is now considered to have one of the strongest building codes in the nation, but as often is the case, it took a major catastrophe for the state to get serious about adopting and enforcing building codes. A review of claims data and field research shows new building codes adopted after Hurricane Andrew (August 1992) was extremely effective in reducing damage from Hurricanes Irma and Michael. Advancements include an expanded windborne debris area, enhanced roof and wall sheathing attachment requirements, requiring roof covers with higher wind ratings, and mandating design pressure-rated doors and windows (especially pressure-rated garage doors). This session will preview building code trends across Florida and the county, with a special focus on the FORTIFIED Home standard developed by the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety. The session will also explore new public policy mitigation incentives at the federal level and how Florida is preparing for significant new mitigation funding dollars.