

FLORIDA

Flood-related disasters are the costliest and most frequent type of disaster facing the United States. From 2000 to 2018, flood-related events cost more than **\$830 billion in economic losses**,¹ accounted for **73% of presidential disaster declarations**,² and caused more than **6,200 deaths**.¹ Floods are an **immediate threat to 53 military installations** across the nation.³

These numbers reflect what Americans and people across the globe already know: **floods are affecting our way of life**. Addressing the challenges posed by flooding and other extreme weather impacts will require individuals, communities, and state and federal governments to work collaboratively to build a more sustainable future for us all.

Surging Waters: Science Empowering Communities in the Face of Flooding is a report produced by AGU that shows how science is essential to finding solutions to mitigate flooding now and in the future. For more information, visit www.scienceisessential.org.

TO EMPOWER COMMUNITIES TO UNDERSTAND AND ADDRESS THEIR FLOOD RISK, POLICY MAKERS CAN:

- 1 Support robust and steadily increasing funding** to science-based federal agencies.
- 2 Support science centers and programs** that research region-specific flooding concerns and incentivize scientists working within their communities.
- 3 Support legislation** that ensures science can be conducted and inform policy freely and openly.
- 4 Support policies** to manage flooding and its impacts that account for a changing world.



The Florida Division of Emergency Management recognizes flooding as the **#1 natural hazard** posing risk to people and property in the state.⁴



Between 2000 and 2018, floods and flash floods caused **\$1.2 billion in agricultural damages** in Florida. In the same period, **hurricanes** caused **\$2.6 billion** in agricultural damages.⁵



Flooding is an immediate threat to **six military facilities** in Florida.³

The **U.S. Geological Service Water Science Centers** fund and conduct water research and monitoring **driven by state priorities**

CONTACT THE FLORIDA OFFICES:

Lutz, FL: 813-498-5000
Tallahassee, FL: 850-553-3640
Fort Myers, FL: 239-275-8448

The **NOAA National Sea Grant College Program** supports coastal communities through research and extension programs **shaped by local needs**.

CONTACT THE MAIN OFFICE:

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL: 352-392-5870

BETWEEN 2010 AND 2019...

The **Caribbean-Florida Water Science Center**⁶ spent

\$111 MILLION

Florida Sea Grant⁷ spent

\$2.4 MILLION

...on Florida's flood research and education priorities.

Florida is also home to **NOAA's National Hurricane Center**, which provides definitive predictions and safety information for Atlantic tropical storms.

PREPARE YOUR DISTRICT FOR FLOODS: ready.gov/floods. Assess your home or office's flood risk: msc.fema.gov.
NEED HELP NOW? Contact Florida's Division of Emergency Management: **850-815-4000**

1. NOAA. U.S. Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters. National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) (2019). Available at: <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/>. (Accessed: 23rd July 2019) 2. The Pew Charitable Trusts. *Infrastructure Upgrades Can Help U.S. Businesses Better Withstand Disasters* (2019). Available at: <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2019/05/15/infrastructure-upgrades-can-help-us-businesses-better-withstand-disasters>. (Accessed: 5th July 2019) 3. US Department of Defense. Report on effects of a changing climate. (2019). 4. State of Florida. Enhanced state hazard mitigation plan. (Florida Division of Emergency Management, 2018). 5. NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information. Storm Events Database. Available at: <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/stormevents/>. (Accessed: 14th August 2019) 6. Sumner, D; Caribbean-Florida Water Science Center. Personal communication. (2019). 7. Sidman, C; Florida Sea Grant. Personal communication. (2019).