

ICAR

THE INITIATIVE ON COASTAL ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE

ICAR & Storm Squad Community Annual Review

G-SAL Lab



UNIVERSITY of
SOUTH FLORIDA
ST. PETERSBURG

Our Mission

- Use research and education to provide the understanding and ideas needed to make critical decisions regarding our changing and vulnerable coasts
- Engaging stakeholders to facilitate adoption of policies and practices focused on coastal adaptation and resilience
- This transdisciplinary initiative includes the science, engineering, policy and social sciences and will examine the interactions between climate change, water systems, land use, the built environment and ecosystem functions.

Engaging With The Community

With our sponsors and partners such but not limited to NSF, Duke, and FLFPC... We were able to provide a monthly safe space for individuals who wanted to share personal experiences and major community concerns.



Monthly Meetings

- Monthly Meetings were held for members interested in becoming Storm Squad Ambassadors and Storm Captains for their communities. These meetings were held at 6 PM at Enoch Davis Community Center, 1111 18th Ave S St. Petersburg, FL 33705.
 - Jan 11th: 8 Attendees
 - Jan 18th: 11 Attendees
 - Feb 6th: 16 Attendees
 - March 5th: 13 Attendees
 - May 7th: 13 Attendees
 - June 4th: 11 Attendees
 - Aug 6th: 11 Attendees
 - Sept 3rd: 7 Attendees

Community Town Hall Events

In addition to the monthly meetings, Quarterly town hall events were held in various locations!



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April 6th Event

- 10 AM to 1 PM at Enoch Davis Community Center, 1111 18th Ave S St. Petersburg, FL 33705.
- 20 Attendees were present
- An update on the Storm Squad and research data for the local area was provided.
- Shania Bent, Chief Executive Officer of the St. Pete Free Clinic gave a presentation on the Fresh PACE Healthy Neighborhood Store Program.
- The CRIS survey was provided and the intentions of the research were shared.
- Mary Burrell, Whole Community Engagement Program Lead, Pinellas County Emergency Management shared resources, preparation tactics and timelines to ensure safety in future potential natural disasters.
- There was an open discussion for community members to express questions, concerns, challenges, and possible solutions to preparing for Hurricane Season
- Bay Area Legal Services presented resources and contact information for after disaster assistance.
- The App for flood reporting was tested and our 2 first Storm Squad Ambassadors, Rebekah Johnson & Morresia Johnson-Harris were recognized!



July 13th Event

- 10 AM to 1 PM at New Faith Free Methodist Church, 2427 Irving Ave S St. Petersburg.
- 28 Attendees were present
- A Storm Squad team presented how to build a plan to prepare for hurricane season.
- Bay Area legal services presented resource availability for after a disaster.
- TaVon Holmes a Disaster Case Management Resource Coordinator from Endeavors presented on long-term recovery and unmet needs from Hurricane Idalia.
- The CRIS Survey and Flood Data Reporting App were shared with the attendees.
- A breakout session gave attendees the opportunity to share their concerns for hurricane season.
- Attendees had an opportunity to look up their evacuation zone, to sign up for ALERT Pinellas, to download the Ready Pinellas app and to register for the Special Needs Evacuation Program.
- Raffle prizes were given to attendees!



October 26th Event

- 10 AM to 1 PM at the Child's Park Community Center, 4301 13th Ave S, St. Petersburg, FL 33711.
- 26 Attendees were present
- The event was opened with grounding and a drum circle to help provide support for those who were significantly impacted by the two hurricanes that impacted the area.
- A listening session allowed attendees the opportunity to discuss how they fared, if they felt prepared, and communication gaps they found.
- A resource expo was held for attendees to gather resources. Bay Area Legal Services, Endeavors, Red Cross Emergency Management, and the Small Business Administration were in attendance.
- A storm squad update was provided along with data that was collected during the two hurricanes.
- Attendees had an opportunity to fill out the CRIS survey and to test the flood app.
- Flood recovery supplies were distributed and a closing drum circle concluded the meeting.



December 3rd Event

- 6 PM to 7 PM at the Enoch Davis Community Center, 1111 18th Ave S St. Petersburg, FL 33705.
- 15 Attendees were present
- The event was opened with a moment of gratitude and storm squad updates for the 2024 year.
- Dinner was commenced as attendees participated in a flood-related activity- photos were presented and attendees answered on what they felt was the severity of the flood.
- An open discussion was had on the hurricane season successes and challenges.
- Attendees had an opportunity to fill out the CRIS survey.
- Special recognition awards were presented to those who had a significant role in recovery from Hurricanes Helene and Milton. Raffle drawings were pulled for holiday gifts and storm supplies.



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