



FEMA Unveils Guidebook for Green and Disaster Resistant Construction at FLASH Annual Meeting

October 8, 2010... To help advance construction that is both green and disaster resistant, the Federal Emergency Management Agency recently unveiled a new booklet at the FLASH (Federal Alliance for Safe Homes) Annual Conference in Orlando titled, *Natural Hazards and Sustainability for Residential Buildings*. The new book examines current green building rating systems in a broader context. It identifies green building practices—the tools of today’s green building rating systems—that are different from historical residential building practices and that, unless implemented with an understanding of their interactions with the rest of the structure, have the potential to compromise a building’s resistance to natural hazard events.

Presenting this exciting new book at the FLASH Conference was FEMA’s Deputy Assistant Administrator for Mitigation, Dr. Sandra K. Knight. Dr. Knight explained that while most common green building practices provide sustainability advantages with little or no effect on structural performance or durability, others require reevaluation of the building’s structural design or detailing to retain its integrity during natural hazard events. Often, only minimal design modifications are required to maintain natural hazard resistance. Understanding interactions between green building practices and natural hazards will benefit users—particularly designers, builders, code officials, and those who develop green building rating systems, codes, and standards—by providing a perspective that green building practices, while important on their own, must be part of a larger context that encompasses life safety, disaster resistance, and other related considerations.

To view or download the *Natural Hazards and Sustainability for Residential Buildings* guidebook, go to <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=4347>.

###