



A Resource of the State of Florida

**HURRICANE LOSS REDUCTION  
FOR  
HOUSING IN FLORIDA**

**A Research Project Funded by  
The State of Florida Department of Community Affairs  
Through Contract # 05RC-11-13-00-05-001**

**QUARTERLY REPORT No. 3  
For Quarter Ended March 31, 2005**

DUE BY April 15, 2005

PREPARED BY  
THE INTERNATIONAL HURRICANE RESEARCH CENTER  
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

**HURRICANE LOSS REDUCTION FOR FLORIDA HOUSING**  
**A RESEARCH PROJECT UNDERTAKEN BY**  
**THE INTERNATIONAL HURRICANE RESEARCH CENTER**  
**At Florida International University**

**QUARTERLY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED MARCH 31, 2004**

**SUMMARY**

This report summarizes the activities of the International Hurricane Research Center (IHRC), at Florida International University (FIU), and its research team related to the project designated as *Hurricane Loss Reduction for Housing in Florida* (hereinafter Project) being funded by the Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA) under contract # 05RC-11-13-00-05-001 executed on January 18, 2005.

This quarterly report covers activities of the IHRC research team from January 1, 2005 through March 31, 2005. This quarterly report is submitted in compliance with the reporting requirements of above referenced contract. There are no problems or circumstances currently affecting the completion date, milestones, scope of work, and cost of the project.

Stephen Leatherman, Director at the IHRC, is Principal Investigator (PI) and Project Director. Carolyn Robertson, Research Associate at the IHRC, is responsible for project management.

**Major activities during this quarter include:**

1. The IHRC contacted various researchers to carry out the proposed 2004-2005 research agenda to discuss specific research tracks, timelines, schedule of deliverables and budget estimates. All contractual and administrative steps to organize and secure the research team for this project were completed by February 2005. Formal executions of subcontracts are still pending for University of Clemson and University of North Texas.
2. The Wall of Wind testing apparatus was delivered to the IHRC in early January. Initial testing was conducted on March 4. The IHRC continues to make structural modifications under the direction of Forrest Masters.
3. The final contract was signed and executed on January 18, 2005 by Craig Fugate.
4. DCA Secretary Thaddeus Cohen visited the IHRC on January 26, 2005 and met with researchers to discuss future FIU research tracks under the HLMP program.
5. During the months of February and March investigations of the feasibility and effectiveness of retrofits to existing roofs were conducted using 2" staple legs in 5/8" thick plywood and 1½ " staple legs in ½" thick plywood.
6. Carolyn Robertson attended the RCMP/HLMP Advisory Council meeting on February 21, 2005 in Tallahassee.
7. A no cost extension until September 20, 2005 was granted for the referenced contract on March 2, 2005.
8. On March 16, 2005 FIU hosted the Miami-Dade County Local Mitigation Strategy meeting. Approximately 100 participants including community leaders, researchers and policy makers discussed the mitigation strategies implemented during 2004 in Miami-Dade County.
9. Permission to purchase a state vehicle to conduct research was received March 23, 2005. Purchase of the vehicle was initiated the same day.

10. Storyboards for the Florida Atlantic University animations were approved March 31, 2005. These animations will compliment the work conducted under the “Effects of Residential Neighborhood Configurations on Hurricane Winds” research conducted during years 3 and 4 of this project.

### ORGANIZATIONAL/ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

During this quarter, the initial research team for 2004-2005 was assembled at both the IHRC and participating universities. The assembled research team is as follows:

**Principal Investigator:** Stephen Leatherman      FIU/IHRC  
**Project Manager:** Carolyn Robertson      FIU/IHRC

**Principal Researchers:**

Forrest Masters	FIU	Wind Engineering
Nicole Dash	UNT	Sociology
Betty Morrow	Consultant	Sociology
Dario Moreno	FIU	Sociology
David Prevatt	Clemson	Civil Engineering
Christian Resick	FIU	Psychology
Edmund Skellings	FAU	Electronic Communication
Keqi Zhang	FIU	Environmental Studies

**Research Assistants:**

Collette Blessing	FIU	Civil Engineering
Pat Houle	FIU	Environmental Studies
Frank Preto	FIU	Civil Engineering

**Undergraduate Students:**

Victor Camps	FIU	Architecture
Alex Cuesto	FIU	Computer Engineering
Brie Losego	FIU	Architecture

**\* Other research assistants will include a minimum of 5 graduate and under graduate students located at participating universities.**

**Support Staff:**

Natalie Defraene	FIU	IHRC
Susana Enger	FIU	IHRC
Kathy-Ann Declé	FIU	IHRC