

Coastal Management Supporting Data

The purpose of the Coastal Management element is to provide for the protection of residents and property in those campuses within the coastal area of the host community, and to limit expenditures, and where appropriate, restrict development, in those areas subject to destruction by natural disaster within the coastal high hazard area.

Coastal High Hazard Zone

The coastal high-hazard area is the area below the elevation of the category 1 hurricane storm surge line. The Tallahassee Campus is inland and is not subject of the Coastal Management issues.

The Panama City Campus sits on North Bay; however, it is not in a high hazard zone. Except for just a fringe at the water's edge, the campus is not vulnerable to the direct effects of storm surge of a category 1 hurricane.

The other properties along the coast, such as St. Teresa and Alligator Point are discussed in the State Lands Management Plan. (See the accompanying volume entitled "An Inventory and Analysis of Land Use Suitability of the Parcels under the Control of The Florida State University.")

Storm Surge & Hurricane Evacuation Zones

Evacuation Zones are based on hurricane storm surge as determined by the National Hurricane Center using ground elevation and the area's vulnerability to water from lakes/oceans being pushed over land by a hurricane. 100-year floodplain maps are extremely conservative in comparison to hurricane tidal surge maps. Along the coast, storm surge is often the greatest threat to life and property from a hurricane. The Tallahassee Campus and related properties in Tallahassee are inland and not vulnerable to storm surge.

The Panama City Campus is located within Zone A of Bay County's four evacuation zones (A, B, C and D). As Zone A includes coastal areas of the county it is considered the most vulnerable to storm surge for category 1 and greater hurricanes and is the first zone considered for evacuation by public safety officials. Water over land from storm surge on the Panama City Campus associated with a category 2 or greater hurricane could include depths ranging from .5 feet to 15 feet according to the Florida Division of Emergency Management's regional hurricane evacuation study.

Emergency Sheltering

In 2003, the Department of Community Affairs surveyed the University's Main Campus to determine available shelter space and the capacity available. The results of that survey are available from the Division of Emergency Management, Executive Office of the Governor.

The University's existing recreation and athletic fields are potentially available for staging emergency operations, but they are in the 100-year floodplain that could be inundated in times of severe storms. Expansion plans would add large open areas to the east along the north side of Gaines Street that should be out of the floodplain.