

Resiliency Week – Media Talking Points

The time to start preparing for disasters is now, before we go into the times of year when hurricanes, tornadoes, and wildfires are more common. Preparing before a storm makes it less likely that you'll have to rebuild after and for the first time ever we have a real incentive in place designed to reverse the cycle of destruction that for so long has left homes and lives vulnerable to disasters.

- We know that another disaster will happen, even if we don't know where or when. By encouraging more resilient construction standards and increased mitigation in states across the nation, the new law will literally save lives.
- The **Disaster Recovery Reform Act** signed into law last year by President Trump represents an enormous step toward a smarter, forward-looking disaster policy that will better protect Americans and reduce the need for disaster aid.
- The DRRRA will massively increase funding for state and local mitigation projects to reduce future storm losses, and a new law originally part of the DRRRA creates an incentive for states to build stronger – the first-of-its-kind in the nation's history, by rewarding those states that prepare for disasters and build more resiliently with additional federal disaster recovery funds.

Take a good look at your home and see what you can do to improve its overall strength. A good place to start is by checking building codes to see what is required, and then going a step further. That's because we know stronger building codes can make a huge difference.

- Building resiliently can have an enormous impact on whether a home will survive even the most extreme natural disasters, and it's a lesson that should guide the rebuilding and recovery. We saw that most recently in the Florida Panhandle, where one house, whose owners had invested in stronger building techniques, stood strong in the wake of Hurricane Michael.
- Resilient building means many things – and it doesn't have to cost a lot. Looking at the way a door swings, the size of a nail, the use of straps to more securely attach a roof to the frame of a house – these are all small measures that can add up to make a big difference between a house that survives a major storm and one that is a total loss.
- In fact, research, including a new study by the University of Colorado, has shown that every dollar spent on mitigation can save as many as \$11 in disaster losses, so even as the federal government incentivizes disaster preparation, the ultimate cost will be significantly lower for the taxpayers.

Resilience means preparing for natural disasters before they happen.

- It means looking at your home or business and seeing what you can do to strengthen it and make it less vulnerable to whatever Mother Nature brings.
- Look for inexpensive ways to reinforce your home or business and remember, a small investment now will mean less money spent later.
- Resilience also means being smart, not just about how we build homes, but where we build homes, and being realistic about the risks being incurred by building in areas that are prone to increasingly strong natural disasters.