

East Winwood-Altamonte Springs Community Report Hazards and Risks



Central Florida Florida Disaster Resilience Initiative Phase 1 Stage 2 2019

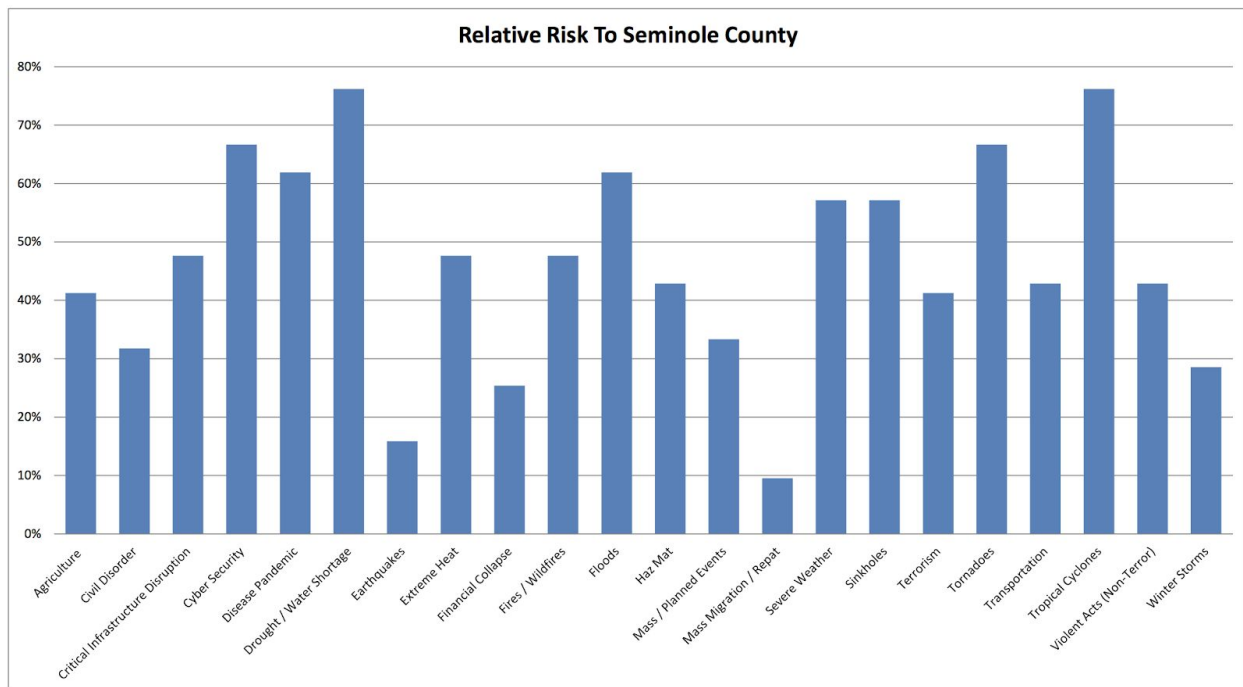


These materials were developed by Health Initiatives Foundation, Inc. in 2019. Surveys were conducted under the auspices of Health Initiatives Foundation, Inc.'s Florida Disaster Resilience Initiative, with funding from The Miami Foundation.

Seminole County Local Mitigation Strategy 2015-2020 (LMS) Identified Risks

The Local Mitigation Strategy identifies Drought/Water Shortage (76%), Tropical Cyclones (76%), Cyber Security/Cyber Attack (67%), Tornadoes (67%), Disease and Pandemic Outbreak (62%), and Flooding (62%) as the High risk hazards with the highest risk.

Graph 1. Seminole County Identified High Risk Hazards¹



Drought is the assigned the highest risk in the LMS:

One of the major bodies of water providing a water source for much of our crops and agriculture territory in Seminole County is the St. Johns River. During long periods of drought, a disruption in the watering cycle can have potentially damaging effects including substantial crop loss in the northwestern portion of the County. In addition to the crop loss and live stock reductions, drought in Seminole County is associated with increase in wildfire threat which in turn, places both human and wildlife populations at a higher risk.

¹ Seminole County Local Mitigation Strategy 2015-2020
<<https://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/core/fileparse.php/3333/urlt/LMS-2015-2020.pdf>>



In partnership with County and municipal staff and the St. Johns River Water Management District, a contingency plan is in place to restrict water use across the county in an effort assist with water conservation efforts during periods of drought.

Some direct impacts related to drought include reduced crop production, increased fire hazard, reduced water levels at major lakes and rivers, damage to fish habitat, and income loss for the agriculture industry. These impacts have been recorded as a result of historic events including the extreme drought conditions of 2010-2012.

The Office of Emergency Management regularly monitors the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, National Weather Service, United States Geological Survey, and the Southeast River Forecast Center for water, river, and lake levels. Activation of public information messages may be necessary if water levels become dangerously low. Seminole County and all of its municipalities may be affected by drought conditions. Structures are not vulnerable to the consequences of drought; therefore do not have a potential dollar loss. Consequences associated with drought can be public health, agricultural loss, economic recovery assistance programs, mass care, and notification and warning.

The Local Mitigation Strategy recognizes that with a changing climate, there is the potential for an increasing risk of environmental impacts from drought and water shortages and that future mitigation and adaptation strategies related to this hazard should be considered.²

Flood

Altamonte Springs participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). There are 665 NFIP policies in force in Altamonte Springs, with \$145,058,500 of Insurance In-Force and \$352,009 of Written Premiums In-Force as of 8/31/2014.

² [Seminole County Local Mitigation Strategy 2015-2020](https://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/core/fileparse.php/3333/urllt/LMS-2015-2020.pdf), p. 17
<<https://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/core/fileparse.php/3333/urllt/LMS-2015-2020.pdf>>



Altamonte Springs participates in the voluntary Community Rating System program, which provides reduced insurance premium discount incentives to participating municipalities and counties based on floodplain management requirements. Altamonte Springs had a Credit Rating of 7 in 5/1/2014, which entitles residents to a 15% flood insurance premium.

Heat

The Seminole County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) also addresses Heat and Flood Hazards. With respect to heat, the LMS states:

With its location in Central Florida, Seminole County is susceptible to periods of extreme heat. The greatest vulnerability to extreme heat events is the public health of the citizens of Seminole County. While anyone can be affected by extreme heat, the most vulnerable are the elderly, lower income, and homeless populations. Seminole County currently implements a cooling station plan in the event of an extreme heat event. One of the great challenges to implementing this plan would be notification and transportation of individuals to cooling facilities that do not have means of transportation. In a recent study conducted by the Florida Council on Homelessness, Seminole county recorded 842 citizens who were either homeless or staying in emergency housing. Seminole County School Board notes almost 2,000 students are homeless and 45% are now on free-reduced lunch. Based on current census data 13.8% of Seminole County's population is 65 years old or older. In addition to physical health risks (mainly heat stroke), extreme heat can also cause physiological strain. Higher electrical demand during extreme heat often causes power outages that further exacerbate the impact of the event. Extended periods of high heat can also have a negative impact wildlife and fishery habitats.

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) projects an average of 13.8 summer days of extreme heat for Seminole County. The LMS also includes a history of Seminole County's hottest days, and this acknowledgement that the climate is changing, and we must develop mitigation and adaptation strategies:



Consequences associated with extreme heat are notification and warning, economic disruption, mass care, economic recovery assistance program, and activation of the cooling plan.

The Local Mitigation Strategy recognizes that with a changing climate, there is the potential for an increasing risk of environmental impacts from extreme heat and that future mitigation and adaptation strategies related to this hazard should be considered.³

³ [Seminole County Local Mitigation Strategy 2015-2020](https://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/core/fileparse.php/3333/urlt/LMS-2015-2020.pdf), p. 20
<<https://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/core/fileparse.php/3333/urlt/LMS-2015-2020.pdf>>





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