

REBUILD Northwest Florida, Inc. (REBUILD)

... a Florida not for profit corporation, with § 510(c)(3) status, was created following Hurricane Ivan (2004) – the worst day in the modern history of west Florida.

SOME ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Significant (\approx \$16,000 average cost/house) hurricane repair to over 2,000 need based homes (total tab \approx \$32 million)
- Hardening (i.e., windstorm mitigation) of almost 14,500 homes from all economic spectrums at an average cost of \approx \$9,200 (total tab \approx \$133 million)
- Encouragement and/or hands on with many local governmental entities and not for profits, including: Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties; the cities of Pensacola, Gulf Breeze, Milton and Century; ECUA; Escambia Community Clinics; Sacred Heart Health System; Baptist Health Care; UWF; the local public school systems; ARC; Capstone; etc.
- Along with Escambia County, a key role in 4 laning Alabama highway 113 (northbound evacuation route to I-65)

THE LYNCHPIN:

The determination, goodwill and generosity of the people of west Florida. Except for that, REBUILD started with nothing.

REBUILD never solicited local government funding, always paid full permit fees, etc. and otherwise carried its own weight throughout. Approximately 50% of the need based home repairs, and 75% of the house hardening, would not have been possible without financial assistance from the State of Florida and the Federal Government (FEMA), respectively.

HOME HARDENING MATTERS

Wind Mitigation Is Not Just for Hurricanes

Escambia County had enjoyed 46 years without an EF3 tornado. In a two-week period, we were hit with two. Both were extremely powerful, packing winds that far exceeded those of 2004's Hurricane Ivan. What we learned in the aftermath is that home hardening measures done by REBUILD Northwest Florida, while not designed for tornadoes, WORK.

FEBRUARY TORNADOES BY THE NUMBERS

CENTURY

February 15
Max Winds 152 mph
Max Width 300 yards
Damage Path 16.5 miles

380 Homes Damaged

85 Homes Destroyed

135 REBUILD Homes in Damage Paths

15 REBUILD Homes with Direct Hits

0 REBUILD Homes Destroyed

PENSACOLA

February 23
Max Winds 155 mph
Max Width 300 yards
Damage Path 8 miles

ALL of the 135 homes that REBUILD retrofitted remained livable. NONE of the REBUILD retrofitting measures failed.

"The house next door, the roof came off. They tell me it probably won't even be rebuilt. The same amount of wind came through here, and this house is intact. If we hadn't had REBUILD Northwest Florida, I might not even be here."

**WATCH
THE VIDEOS**
rebuildnwf.org

— **Survivor of the Pensacola tornado
whose REBUILD-retrofitted
home took a direct hit**

URGENT CONSUMER ALERT:

REBUILD Northwest Florida is advising local homeowners impacted by the recent tornadoes to be aware of two critical Florida building code requirements involving roof repairs:

- **8d Ring Shank Nails** to allow for 2 inches of protrusion from the roof deck into the truss
- **6-inch Spacing** between nails to help prevent loss of roof sheathing in high winds

Be sure to ask your contractor to specify these details in writing and verify that the work has been done properly. Adherence to Florida construction standards could be the difference between a roof that withstands a wind storm and one that fails.

REBUILD Northwest Florida fortifies homes against hurricane-force winds. Under their Wind Mitigation Program, qualified homeowners receive FEMA funding to cover 75% of the cost of improvements, and the homeowner pays the remaining 25%. Visit rebuildnwf.org or call **497-7024** for more information.

FUTURE DISASTERS: LONG TERM RECOVERY

FEMA (Voluntary Agency Liaisons (VALs)): Long Term Recovery Committee

	<u>Ivan</u>	<u>Future</u>
Advocacy	B	B
Construction (repairs, etc.) (?)	B	HH
Case Management/Social Service Agencies		BRACE
Facilities/Warehousing/Equipment	B	B
Faith Based Organizations (?)	B	BRACE
Fundraising	B	B
Volunteers (local and out of town)	B	BRACE, B and HH

BUT: Business Community (B)
Staying Power of Social Service Agencies (not a negative)

FUTURE PLAYERS (not in priority order):

BRACE
Business Community (B)
Habitat for Humanity (HH)

GOLD STARS: Local government housing departments*
BIDs

*SHIP money (FHFC): Extra allocations available for disasters, but very time sensitive.