

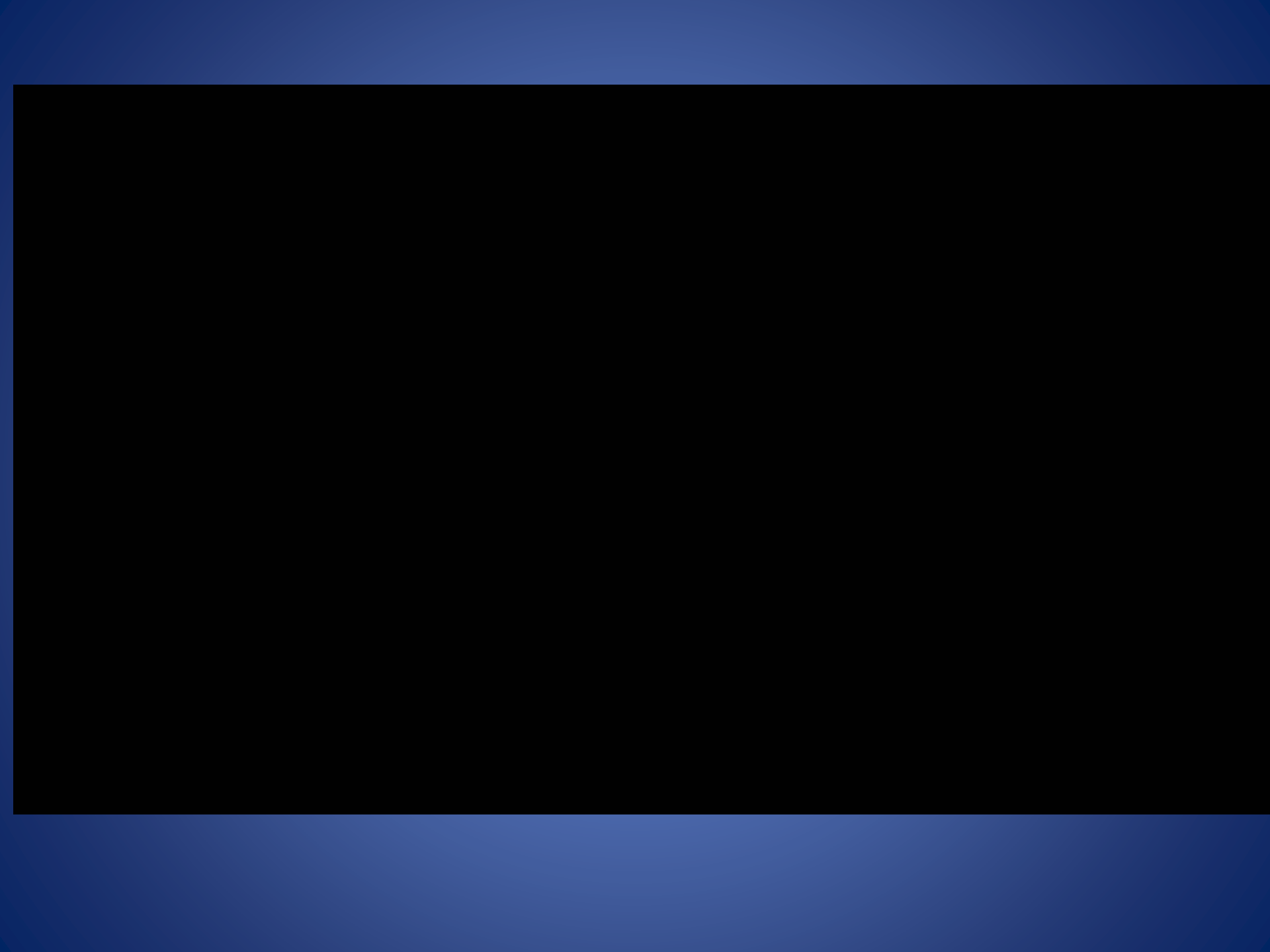
# Lessons Learned and Challenges from Louisiana flooding 2016

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# What made the LA flooding disaster unique?

- Impacts to parishes and communities not normally affected by riverine flooding.
- A large number of impacted properties were uninsured or underinsured.
- Many of the impacted properties were located outside the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA).
- A number of properties were determined to be substantially damaged and non-compliant with local floodplain management ordinances

# Best Practices

- Expedited SD Contract (TX/LA)
- Establishing FRO office and JFO shortly after declaration (TX/LA)
- Prompt issuance of NFIP Policy decisions such as Extending Grace Period and proof of loss deadlines, advanced payments (TX/LA)
- Issued Fact Sheets on MHU and Temporary occupancy (LA)
- \*\*Embedding staff in local permitting offices and Insurance staff in DRC's. (LA)

# Lessons Learned

- Communication breakdown over delivery and placement of some MHU's
- Staffing shortages at JFO
- Elected officials not always aware of what is in the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance
- Homeowners not aware of what the flood ordinance says (i.e.: substantial damage requirements)
- mailboxes under water or did not exist to mail the SD letters

# Substantial Damage

- Expedited contracts
- On ground within 2 weeks following the declaration.
- Began work on 8/31 and completed inspections on 11/9
- 60,000 structures inspected, of which 8,400 were in SFHA and estimated to be above the 50% threshold for Substantial Damage
- Community must still make final determination

# Permitting Temporary Occupancy of substantially damaged structures

- Ensure that the home is safe for habitation
- Issue permit for temporary occupancy
- Permit temporary repairs in order to make home safe and sanitary and follow up with permit for permanent repairs at a later date.

*CHALLENGES: requires follow up to ensure no permanent repairs are done until SD inspection process is complete and that an additional permit is obtained.*

# Placement of MHU's in the floodplain





# Placement of MHU's in the floodplain

- May not be placed in coastal high hazard areas or the regulatory floodway.
- elevated to the highest level practicable for the placement on blocks and anchored to prevent movement.
- Communities may issue permits for the placement of temporary housing units for up to six months with extensions not to exceed a cumulative total of 18 months.

# Placement of MHU's in the floodplain

## "Mapping mailbox process"

- Mitigation undertook a significant supportive role to ensure MHU's were not placed in the floodway.
- In support of EO 11988 and the 8 Step Process, the Mitigation Branch provided flood determinations to EHP prior to MHU placement.
- Provided support to both IA and PA through map mailbox both in TX and LA

# Challenges with higher standards

- *Several CRS communities had higher standards in ordinance*
  - *Freeboard*
  - *40% SD threshold*
  - *Elevation to Flood of record*
  - *Higher standards for homes outside of the SFHA*

Questions?