Friday, March 22, 2013

Workshop Session 5

Time of Session: 1:30-3:00 PM

Session Title: University Education & Outreach—Building Resilient Communities

A. Critical Need for Improved Construction Standards for Disaster Resilient Homes

   Speaker: **Vijaya (VJ) Gopu**, The University of New Orleans

B. A Resilience Success Story: How Significant Losses were avoided during Hurricane Isaac

   Speaker: **John E. Bourdeau**, FEMA

Room: 250

Head Count: 12

Note Taker: Carrie Beth Lasley

John Bourdeau

FEMA conducts Loss-Avoidance Studies for Hurricane Isaac

- Conducted by FEMA Hazards and Performance Analysis teams
- LAS is examination of cost savings from mitigation projects
- Storms hit LA every 2.14 years, allowing for Post-Katrina projects to be examined.
- Observations from Isaac
    - Inside levees is safe; new levees succeed
    - Post-K mitigated public facilities fare well
    - Elevated homes fared well; nonelevated did not.
- Loss Avoidance Study assesses elevated properties in floodprint to see if losses would be present if home was not elevated, then how much money was saved because of the project.
- Methodology: For Losses Avoided, add up:
    - Building Repair Cost
    - Contents damages
    - Displacement costs

    Then,

    Loss Avoidance/Mitigation=X

    If $X > 1$, mitigation has paid for itself.

    If $X < 1$, mitigation has not paid for itself in this single event, but mitigation has 30-year lifespan