

Implementing a Hazard Resilience Tool: The Coastal Community Resilience Index

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The Coastal Community Resilience Index seeks to increase risk awareness among local communities of their susceptibility to natural hazard events. Developed in partnership with the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, the CRI is delivered through interactive sessions with community decision-makers and facilitated by trained facilitators from Sea Grant Extension, Cooperative Extension, National Estuarine Research Reserves, and other partners. Now in the implementation phase, the CRI will be delivered to at least five communities in the five Gulf of Mexico states, with each community completing the CRI at one-year intervals. Tool effectiveness will be measured through qualitative and quantitative data in the initial three-year implementation and evaluation period. The CRI is a snapshot in time, assisting communities in assessing their natural hazard preparedness and planning. The recipient audience can include floodplain managers, land-use planners, local elected officials, natural resource managers, and emergency managers, and is applicable at the city and county or parish level. The CRI can be coupled with existing training programs as an entree to introduce other natural hazard planning topics, such as sea level rise and climate change to coastal communities. The end outcome is for communities to take actions to address the weaknesses they identify utilizing the CRI, and community decision-makers that are more informed on their community's level of risk, ultimately increasing their capability of responding to disasters. The CRI development, delivery and adaptation model can be readily transferred to all U.S. coastal communities, and is easily adapted for natural hazards more applicable to inland communities.

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