



### Chief US Hurricane Forecaster: Education Key to Storm Prep

*Learning about specific storm hazards is key to preparing for the upcoming Atlantic hurricane season*



The new U.S. National Hurricane Center director says learning about specific storm hazards is key to preparing for the upcoming Atlantic hurricane season.

Ken Graham leads the U.S. government's hurricane forecasting hub in Miami. At Florida's annual state hurricane conference Thursday, Graham said teaching storm science to the public helps improve individual and governmental responses to approaching storms.

Graham said understanding how changes in a hurricane's track, size or intensity can alter conditions on the ground is more important than focusing on the five-category scale that ranks hurricane wind speeds.

In recent years, the hurricane center's advisories have focused on educating coastal residents about flood risks and setting deadlines for completing storm preparations.

Hurricane season begins June 1. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration releases its hurricane season forecast next week. Graham told The Associated Press that the most frequent question he gets is, "What's the season going to be like?" His answer: "Whether there's a busy season with a lot of hurricanes, or there's one hurricane on Earth, if it comes to Florida, then it's a busy season."

"We have to be prepared every single year as if we're going to get hit," Graham said. "2017 may not happen again for a long time, or it may happen again this year."

To view the **2018 Hurricane Preparedness Guide**, provided by Office of the Attorney General Consumer Protection Division, please visit the link below:  
[http://myfloridalegal.com/webfiles.nsf/WF/KMAN-AZBM47/\\$file/2018+Hurricane+Preparedness+Guide+v3.pdf](http://myfloridalegal.com/webfiles.nsf/WF/KMAN-AZBM47/$file/2018+Hurricane+Preparedness+Guide+v3.pdf)

To Read More See Excerpt: <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/florida/articles/2018-05-17/chief-us-hurricane-forecaster-education-key-to-storm-prep>



### About The FDOT

The goal of the DBE Supportive Services Program is to increase the number of DBEs participating on FDOT contracts and facilitate the opportunity for DBEs to obtain contracts. The services are designed to:

- Assist established construction firms to move them from bidding as a subcontractor to bidding as a Prime Contractor to produce sound bids.
- Provide access to training increases DBE expertise in handling of daily business operations.

### About The Program

The Construction Estimating Institute (CEI) works with FDOT as the statewide provider of the federally funded Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) Supportive Services Program. We want to increase the number of certified DBEs participating in highway and bridge construction, as well as assist DBEs in growing and eventually becoming self-sufficient. Additionally, CEI provides supportive services by assisting prime contractors and consultants with identifying DBEs for subcontracting opportunities on priority projects.

## Florida's construction industry growing along with 37 other states



Thirty-eight states and the District of Columbia added construction jobs between April 2017 and April 2018, while 29 states added construction jobs between March and April, according to an analysis by the Associated

General Contractors of America of Labor Department data released today. Association officials said the employment growth likely would have been higher if firms could find more qualified workers to hire.

“Firms in many parts of the country are working to keep pace with growing demand for construction services,” said chief economist Ken Simonson. “Many of those firms are having a hard time finding and hiring enough qualified workers as the pool of available workers remains very tight.”

California added the most construction jobs (59,500 jobs, 7.4 percent) during the past year. Other states adding a large number of new construction jobs for the past 12 months include Texas (40,600 jobs, 5.7 percent); Florida (34,900 jobs, 7.0 percent); Georgia (13,900 jobs, 7.6 percent) and Arizona (11,700 jobs, 8.2 percent). West Virginia (11.6 percent, 3,500 jobs) added the highest percentage of new construction jobs during the past year, followed by Nevada (9.8 percent, 8,200 jobs); Arizona; Utah (8.1 percent, 7,700 jobs) and Idaho (7.9 percent, 3,500 jobs).

Eleven states shed construction jobs between April 2017 and April 2018 while construction employment was unchanged in Montana. North Dakota lost the highest total and percentage of construction jobs (-4,900 jobs, -17.0 percent), followed by Iowa (-2,500 jobs, -3.2 percent); Missouri (-1,500 jobs, -1.2 percent); South Carolina (-1,400 jobs, -1.4 percent) and Nebraska (-1,100 jobs, -2.1 percent).

In addition to North Dakota, other states that lost a high percentage of construction jobs for the month included South Dakota (-3.3 percent, -800 jobs); Iowa; Nebraska and Hawaii (-1.9 percent, -700 jobs).

Twenty-nine states added construction jobs between March and April. California added the most (10,000 jobs, 1.2 percent), followed by Texas (4,100 jobs, 0.6 percent); Louisiana (2,200 jobs, 1.5 percent); Georgia (2,100 jobs, 1.1 percent) and Washington (2,100 jobs, 1.0 percent). Louisiana added the highest percentage of construction jobs for the month, followed by Kentucky (1.4 percent, 1,100 jobs); New Hampshire (1.4 percent, 400 jobs); Alaska (1.3 percent, 200 jobs) and Vermont (1.3 percent, 200 jobs). Employment set an all-time high in Texas.

Nineteen states lost construction jobs from March to April, while construction employment was unchanged in Mississippi, Montana and the District of Columbia. Indiana lost the most construction jobs for the month (-2,300 jobs, -1.6 percent), followed by Wisconsin (-2,000 jobs, -1.6 percent); South Carolina (-1,300 jobs, -1.3 percent); Massachusetts (-1,300 jobs, -0.8 percent) and Michigan (-1,100 jobs, -0.6 percent). North Dakota lost the highest percentage of construction jobs (-2.8 percent, -700 jobs), followed by Delaware (-1.7 percent, -400 jobs); Wisconsin; Indiana; South Carolina and South Dakota (-1.3 percent, -300 jobs).

Association officials said strong demand, particularly from the private-sector, was prompting firms in most states to add staff. But they cautioned that relatively few young workers appear to be entering the construction industry. They said the strong economy was increasing competition for most workers and construction recruiting is hampered by the fact relatively few schools offer instruction in construction skills or counsel students to consider high-paying construction careers.

To Read More See Excerpt: <http://www.floridatrend.com/article/24592/floridas-construction-industry-growing-along-with-37-other-states>

## Supportive Services Offered



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