Hunters Point: Leading the Charge in Hurricane Resilience

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Hunters Point, located in Cortez, Florida, is a pioneering community designed to be resilient to extreme weather events. The development was intentionally built above code standards, incorporating advanced construction techniques to enhance durability and safety. During Hurricane Milton, the construction techniques used in Hunters Point were rigorously tested, demonstrating their effectiveness in withstanding severe weather conditions and reinforcing the community's commitment to resilience.

Design and Construction Features

Elevation and Structural Integrity: Each home at Hunters Point is elevated 16 feet above the flood zone, significantly reducing the risk of flood damage. The ground-floor garages are situated approximately six feet above previous high-water marks, ensuring additional protection. The homes are framed using two-by-six lumber instead of the standard two-by-fours, enhancing structural strength.

Hurricane-Resistant Materials: All windows are equipped with hurricane-grade impact-resistant glass, and the roofs are constructed from steel. The design incorporates steel straps connecting each floor, creating a continuous load path that enhances the building's ability to withstand high winds.

Graphic



Keeping the Lights On

Power Storage: Homes are equipped with solar panels connected to battery systems capable of providing power for up to 10 days during emergencies. This setup ensures energy independence during grid outages and contributes to the community's net-zero energy status, as the homes produce more energy than they consume.

Performance During Hurricanes Helene and Milton

During Hurricanes Helene and Milton, while millions in Florida experienced power outages, the homes at Hunters Point remained fully powered and sustained minimal to no damage. This resilience is credited to the community's elevated design, robust construction methods, and self-sufficient infrastructure.

Conclusion

Hunters Point serves as a model for integrating natural hazard-resistant construction techniques. Its design and construction principles offer valuable insights for future developments in hurricane-prone regions, demonstrating that it is possible to build communities capable of withstanding extreme weather events. The foresight shown by Hunters Point proves that there are affordable and highly cost-effective strategies that communities, local governments, land owners, developers, and tenants can put into practice to reduce the impact of natural hazards. Remember, the 2019 Mitigation Saves Report shows that mitigation saves up to \$13 for every \$1 invested, and above-code design could save \$4 per \$1 invested.

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