



FALL 2005

BLUEPRINT FOR SAFETY NEWS

'A TALE OF TWO HOUSES' UPDATE:



A

Punta Gorda, Fla., couple's worst nightmare has transformed into the sweetest of dreams. Teresa Fogolina and Jim Minardi took official ownership of their new storm-resistant home at a home dedication ceremony on Sept. 16, 2005. The home's construction

was a joint effort of the nonprofit Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH®), home improvement guru Bob Vila, and Mercedes Homes.

Completion of the new home put to rest the couple's nightmare encounter with Hurricane Charley in 2004, an



From Left: Teresa Fogolini and Jim Minardi cut the ribbon for their new home with Jesse Gonzales of Mercedes Homes, Leslie Chapman-Henderson, FLASH CEO, Michael Morris of Mercedes Homes, and Bob Vila.

experience that made them the focus of FLASH's 'A Tale of Two Houses' program.

Packing winds of 145 mph, Hurricane Charley made landfall just north of Captiva at about 4 pm on Friday, Aug. 13, 2004. Charley's eye then passed over Punta Gorda. Jim was alone inside their over 40-year-old house when the worst of Charley's winds hit. He stayed inside as long as he could. But when the house started to come apart he fled to a neighbor's. He watched in horror as winds ripped the roof off his home and tossed it into the canal.

He described the frightening scene as it happened over the telephone to his wife Teresa, who was at the time visiting family out of state. Teresa, clutching the receiver as if gripping Jim's hand, quickly realized their dream home was gone. They were among the thousands of Charlotte County residents left homeless by this devastating hurricane.

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From Hurricane Nightmare To Dream Come True

DISASTER OFFERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO EDUCATE ABOUT SAFER HOMES

By Leslie Chapman-Henderson, President and CEO, Federal Alliance for Safe Homes, Inc. - FLASH®

After back-to-back hurricane seasons marked with such destruction and sadness, we all need a positive story. We need a story, not just of survival, but of triumphant renewal. You get that in this issue of *Blueprint for Safety News*.

Teresa Fogolini and Jim Minardi know personally what too many people in Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas and Florida are going through now. The Punta Gorda, Fla., couple lost nearly everything last year when Hurricane Charlie ripped ashore on Aug. 13, destroying their home and almost taking Jim's life.

But sometimes tragedy offers opportunity. In this case a nonprofit, a home improvement guru, and a builder came together to turn the nightmare into a dream. More importantly FLASH®, Bob Vila, and Mercedes Homes used the story to reach millions of people with critical information about ways to better safeguard their homes and families from disaster.

After Katrina, the media were desperate for positive stories among all those of heartbreak – CNN, MSNBC, ABC's Good Morning America, Fox Magazine, Associated Press, and dozens of Florida television affiliates and newspapers ran stories about Jim and Teresa and their new storm-resistant home.

As for me, I look forward to the day when the top news story after a hurricane is not about how many homes and lives were destroyed, but how many were saved thanks to safer building practices. FLASH is committed to bringing that day about.

TO SEE 'A TALE OF TWO HOUSES' VIDEO & SLIDESHOW VISIT www.Flash.org

For more information, VISIT WWW.FLASH.ORG.



Storm-Resistant Home Features



CAST-IN-PLACE CONCRETE WALLS provide superior wind resistance and impact resistance from windborne debris.

IMPACT-RESISTANT WINDOWS AND SLIDING GLASS DOORS keep the windows and window glass in place. No need for additional shuttering.



SUPERIOR ROOF SYSTEM WITH ENHANCED METAL CONNECTORS, THICKER DECKING THAN REQUIRED BY THE BUILDING CODE (PLYWOOD NOT OSB) AND INSTALLATION OF A SECONDARY WATER BARRIER to keep the roof on the house and water out.

ENHANCED ATTACHMENT METHODS FOR THE ROOF COVERINGS (BARREL TILES) We used two stainless steel screws on the tiles instead of one (or none - most older homes only have mortar). Widespread roofing failure often follows problems with attachment methods. Roofing tiles can also become windborne debris.



SOLID WOOD BLOCKING BEHIND THE SOFFITS to avoid failure and resulting water intrusion into the home's interior.



PERMANENT GENERATOR for power outage with a special switching panel to protect against electrocution. Sufficient to power AC and other crucial systems to keep things dry and prevent damage in the event of any water intrusion.



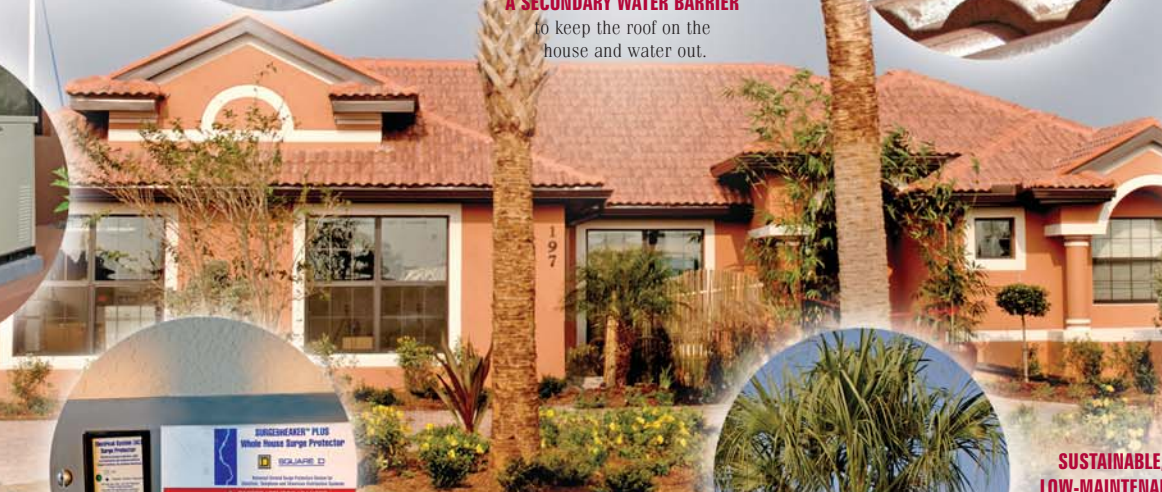
WHOLE HOUSE SURGE PROTECTION to guard the house and appliances against lightning strike and power surges.



SUSTAINABLE, LOW-MAINTENANCE NATIVE TREES AND LANDSCAPE MATERIALS are proven to stand their ground in high winds and resist erosion better than exotics.



IMPACT-RESISTANT GARAGE DOOR A home's garage door is particularly vulnerable to failure under high wind pressure. This impact-resistant garage door passes more stringent tests than a wind pressure-only rated door and does not require additional shuttering.



STORM RESISTANT HOME MORE FEATURES:

OUTWARD OPENING ENTRY DOORS to reduce wind-driven rain leakage into the house and reduce the possibility of wind pressure blowing doors in.

REINFORCED, IMPACT-RESISTANT WIND ABATEMENT SCREENING ACROSS THE LANAI Allows light in and keeps debris and most water out.

ELEVATED ENTIRE FOUNDATION with a three-foot stem wall below the slab to mitigate for flood damage and help owners qualify for insurance credits/discounts.

MOLD-RESISTANT DRYWALL with non-organic glass mats instead of paper discourages mold growth in the event of any water intrusion.

FLEXIBLE EXTERIOR PAINT MEMBRANE forms an extremely durable and flexible film which increases resistance to wind-driven rain.



DISASTER SAFETY THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

ACADEMIC PARTNERS

Austin College
Central US Earthquake Consortium
International Code Council
Texas Tech Wind Science and Engineering Research Center
The Actuarial Foundation

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Florida Select
Georgia Department of Insurance
Georgia Emergency Management Agency
Independent Insurance Agents of Texas
Insurance Council of Texas
Kentucky Division of Emergency Management
Kentucky Office of Insurance
Kentucky Weather Preparedness Committee
New Jersey Office of Emergency Management
New York State Insurance Department
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Home Builders Association of Greater Dallas
Miami-Dade Emergency Management
Tulsa Partners
Volusia Prepares

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DuPont
FamilySafe
PGT Industries
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Smart VENT, Inc.
Ventilated Awnings
Wayne-Dalton

A few days later as Jim and Teresa were outside their destroyed home looking for anything salvageable, Leslie Chapman-Henderson, FLASH President and CEO, drove into their driveway. Leslie was on a mission to bring some good out of the bad created by Hurricane Charley. She asked them if they would participate in 'A Tale of Two Houses,' a new FLASH program that would tell the story of two homes hit by Charley, one with "code-plus" building standards, the other without.

Just across the street, Leslie found the second home for 'A Tale of Two Houses' in the home of Chris and Jeri Webb. A new house built with standards above the current building code, the Webb's home had survived Charley with only minor damage. With both houses for the project chosen, FLASH worked with partner State Farm Insurance, in particular Jamie France and expert editor and videographer David Burke, to film and produce a short film for 'A Tale of Two Houses.'

For Jim and Teresa, having their destroyed home be the focus of this film was bittersweet – no one wants to be the example of what went wrong. Fortunately for them the story wasn't over yet. It was about to become their dream come true. At the same time FLASH and State Farm were producing the 'A Tale of Two Houses' film, Bob Vila, home improvement expert and star of his own television series, was in touch with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Bob wanted to do something that would not only help someone who had lost their home to Hurricane Charley, but educate a large audience about the things they could do to protect their homes from disaster.

FEMA's Todd Davison, a FLASH steering committee member, told Bob about FLASH's 'A Tale of Two Houses' program. Through FLASH Bob Vila had found the family he would help to rebuild their home – Jim Minardi and Teresa Fogolini. Jim and Teresa couldn't believe their luck. Not only were they going to get a new, disaster-resistant

home, the project would be the focus of a season of Bob Vila's nationally syndicated television show.

With a new partner in Bob Vila, FLASH moved quickly to find a homebuilder. Through the University of Florida, FLASH found Mercedes Homes, a Melbourne-based company with a proven commitment to incorporating advanced construction methodologies into residential home building. Dozens of partner companies volunteered products and services to help finish the project.

Now complete, Teresa and Jim's new home serves as a model for what can be done to better safeguard homes and families from disasters such as hurricanes. Among the storm-resistant technologies the home incorporates: a superior roof system with enhanced metal connectors, cast-in-place concrete walls, an elevated foundation, impact-resistant windows and garage door, outward-opening entry doors to impede pressure, a built-in generator, and a whole-house surge protection system.

The new season of the nationally syndicated television program Bob Vila began airing in September. For more information about where and when the show airs, visit www.bobvila.com. To see the 'A Tale of Two Houses' film and a slideshow, visit www.Flash.org.

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FIND OUT WHEN BOB VILA AIRS
AT www.bobvila.com



From Left: Jim Minardi, Bob Vila, and Teresa Fogolini



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