

KAM K. MOVASSAGHI
SECRETARY

Louisiana



FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT FACTSHEET

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A Quarterly Report issued by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development
Floodplain Management Regulations Section

COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM CORNER

The Community Rating System is a program which encourages communities to go beyond the FEMA minimum requirements for development. Participating communities receive discounted flood insurance rates for their citizens. In return, they must meet the requirements of the activities for which they receive credit.

Several of the activities require annual mailings and/or updates. This, the beginning of the new year, is always a good opportunity to do updates or mailings.

Communities receiving credit for Activity 320 - Map Information, must notify lenders, insurance agents and real estate agents, or the entire community through an Outreach Program to Communities (OPC) that FIRM information is available through their office.

Outreach Projects - Activity 330, should be updated and mailed. The 1996 CRS manual

covers 10 topics which may be addressed. (The 1999 CRS manual "weights" these topics. If you are required to use the 1999 manual please note the information on page 330-7). Communities receiving credit in Activities 320, 360 and 540 can use Activity 330 to meet the publicizing requirements.

Now is a good time to update information in the library. Free publications from FEMA and the Corps of Engineers are listed in the CRS manual on pages 350-5 through 350-8.



The Floodplain Management Staff (Janet, Cindy, Sandra and Sue) would like to take this opportunity to extend our warmest wishes to you and yours this holiday season!



ASK FEMA

In an effort to provide greater assistance to local floodplain officials, FEMA Region VI Mitigation Division in Denton, Texas will have a regular column in question and answer format concerning all aspects of floodplain management - regulation, insurance, ordinances, mapping, permitting, etc.

Questions that would prove beneficial to those responsible for floodplain management in their communities are welcome.

Please submit your questions to:

Ms. Janet Griffin
Floodplain Insurance Manager
Section 64
P. O. Box 94245
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245

or

email: jgriffin@dotdmail.dotd.state.la.us

QUESTION:

How can a community establish base flood elevations (BFEs) if they are not included on the community's flood insurance rate map (FIRM) or flood hazard boundary map (FHBM)?

ANSWER:

Several options exist to establish elevations within the community. One option is to use historical data. For example, watermarks left on buildings by floods of record can be measured and used as benchmarks for establishing BFEs. Floodplain maps with unnumbered A zones can be compared to U.S.G.S. quad maps for approximate elevations until further technical studies are completed. Another possibility is to employ a licensed engineer or surveyor to determine elevations in special flood hazard areas. Also, the local Corps

of Engineers may be contacted to ascertain if high water marks for a particular area have been identified.

(Answer provided by: Shari Brand, FEMA Region VI, Mitigation Division)



Did you know?



The annual Louisiana Floodplain Management Association's (LFMA) conference will be held April 12-14, 2000 in Lafayette, Louisiana. Mark

your calendar now and make plans to attend. Further information will be provided at a later date.



Quick Facts

As of January 31, 1999:

- Flood insurance is available in 18,988 participating communities nationwide. Regular Program: 18,803 Emergency Program: 185

(Text taken from: <http://www.fema.gov/nfip/qkf199.htm>)

Garages

“ATTACHED” GARAGES . . .



...are connected to the existing structure and for floodplain management purposes are treated as *enclosures below the base flood elevation* (BFE).

New (post-FIRM) construction [*a garage attached to the main structure*] is exempt from the elevation requirement in Section 60.3(c)(3) **if it is used solely** for parking, building access, or limited storage **AND** if it meets the following requirements:

- NO machinery or equipment which services a building such as furnaces, air conditioners, heat pumps, hot water heaters, washers, dryers, elevator lift equipment, electrical junction and circuit breaker boxes, or food freezers; are permitted below the base flood elevation;
and
- ALL interior wall, floor and ceiling materials located below the base flood elevation must be unfinished and resistant to flood damage;
and
- The walls of any enclosed area below the base flood elevation must be constructed in a manner to prevent flotation, collapse, and lateral movement of the structure;
and
- meet the opening requirements in Section 60.3(c)(5).

AN “ADDITION” TO A GARAGE

If it meets the above-mentioned conditions, such that it is consistent in design and use with the garage (which also meets these above-mentioned conditions), then the addition can be considered to be in compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program regulations.

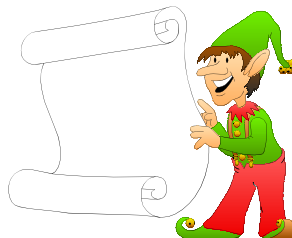
“DETACHED” GARAGES



In cases of new (post-FIRM) construction, a garage detached from an existing structure is exempt from the elevation requirement in Section 60.3(c)(3) **if it constitutes a minimal investment**, and if, at a minimum, the following conditions are met:

- use of the garage must be restricted to parking and limited storage;
and
- the garage must be unfinished and built using flood damage resistant material;
and
- the garage must be adequately anchored to prevent flotation, collapse, and lateral move of the structure;
and
- meet the opening requirements in Section 60.3(c)(5);
and
- any mechanical and utility equipment in the garage must be elevated to or above the base flood elevation;
and
- the garage must comply with floodway encroachment provisions in Section 60.3(c)(10) or (d)(3).

It is recommended that detached garages (and other detached accessory structures) be elevated to or above the base flood elevation in order to minimize damage to the structure, to vehicles and to other stored contents.



MITIGATION PLANS

VS.

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PLANS

Mitigation is defined as "sustained action that reduces or eliminates long-term risk to people and property from natural hazards and their effects." It describes the ongoing effort at the Federal, State, local, and individual levels to lessen the impact of disasters upon our families, homes, communities and economy.

Planning is a comprehensive "future oriented" approach that determines how a community will deal with its flooding problem(s) and protect the natural and beneficial functions of its floodplain. Planning guides the community through its flooding problems(s) by reviewing options for solving the problems and identifying the most appropriate solutions.

Several Louisiana communities have already adopted a mitigation plan or are in the process of drafting a plan. While a mitigation plan can be a good floodplain management tool, a Floodplain Management Plan developed using the Community Rating System(CRS) guidelines, should be much more useful and comprehensive.

The CRS Floodplain Management Plan must be developed using a standardized, step-by-step, planning process. To receive CRS credit for a floodplain management plan, the community's process must include each of following 10 steps:

- Organize to prepare the plan
- Involve the public
- Coordinate with other agencies
- Assess the hazard

- Assess the problem
- Set goals
- Review possible activities
- Draft an action plan
- Adopt the plan
- Implement, evaluate, and revise

"It should be noted that other programs have adopted this 10-step planning process or refer to it in their planning guidelines. A plan developed for the CRS may also fulfill the flood mitigation planning prerequisite for a grant from FEMA's Flood Mitigation Assistance Program(FMAP), which also provides funds to communities to help prepare such plans. This program is administered by the state hazard mitigation office (LAOEP)."

"The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers also has a new floodplain management planning requirement. Communities receiving funding from the Corps for flood protection projects are required to prepare a floodplain management plan following a procedure similar to this 10-step process. The Corps guidance specifically states that CRS plans may be sufficient for that requirement. For more information, contact your District Office of the Corps of Engineers."

"Other federal programs also encourage comprehensive floodplain management planning, including FEMA's Project Impact, the Fish and Wildlife Services' Habitat Conservation Plans, the Natural Resources Conservation Service's watershed planning, and the Environmental Protection Agency's multi-objective management planning.

(Continued on Page 5)

A community's flood protection planning efforts should include contacting these programs and coordinating with them as much as possible."

Several communities have asked this office to review their Mitigation Plans. Whether your community is developing its own plan or has hired a consultant to prepare it, your plan should be as comprehensive as possible. If you would like our office to review your plan or if you would like further information regarding the CRS Floodplain Management Plan guidelines, please contact this office at 225-379-1408 (225-274-4354 - after 1/14/00).

(Excerpts from the NFIP/CRS Coordinator's Manual - January 1999 Edition)



Check it Out !!!

There is a new website that lists the LOMAs and LOMRs since October, 1994. It is located at LomaLomr.com



F Y I

FEMA has added 44 CFR to its website. The 1999 edition of the NFIP rules and regulations can be found by visiting the fema.gov site, click on library, click on legal, then Title 44.

Need Information on Flood Maps?

A wealth of information is only a click away at: www.fema.gov/mit/tsd

Homeowners will find:

- Answers to Frequently Asked Questions
- How to File a Flood Insurance Claim
- Options for Changing the Floodmap and Fees Required.

Engineers and Surveyors will find:

- A listing of approved software and links to obtain free copies where available
- Forms and fees for requesting a map change or requesting study backup data
- Link to a list of training courses and conferences.

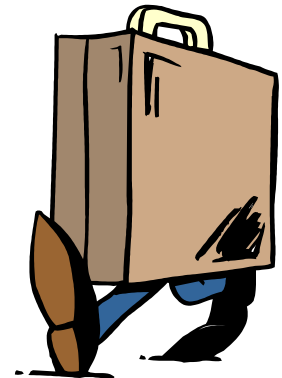
Floodplain Managers & Community Officials will find:

- Guides for Community Officials
 - Managing Floodplain Development in Approximate Zone A Areas
 - Interim Guidance for State & Local Officials - Increased Cost of Compliance Coverage
 - How to Read a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM)
- Elevation Certificate Form
- Floodproofing Certificate Form
- NFIP Regulations





**THE FLOODPLAIN
MANAGEMENT SECTION IS ON
THE MOVE!**
(for real this time)



The Floodplain Management Section (Janet, Cindy, Sandra and Sue) will be leaving the DOTD Headquarters Building and moving to new offices at 8900 Jimmy Wedell Street (near BR's Metro Airport).

The move has been scheduled for January 11, 12 & 13, 2000. Hopefully, we will not be out of pocket for more than a day or two.

Please make a note of our new telephone number which is (225) 274-4354 and our new fax number which is (225) 274-4351. Our mailing address will remain the same.

If you need to stop by our office in person, you will travel north on I-110 from our old location to the Southern University/Metro Airport Exit (exit 6). Cross Harding Blvd. at the traffic light and look for Harry P. Williams Drive on the right. Jimmy Wedell Street and the DOTD office building will be at the end of Harry P. Williams Drive.



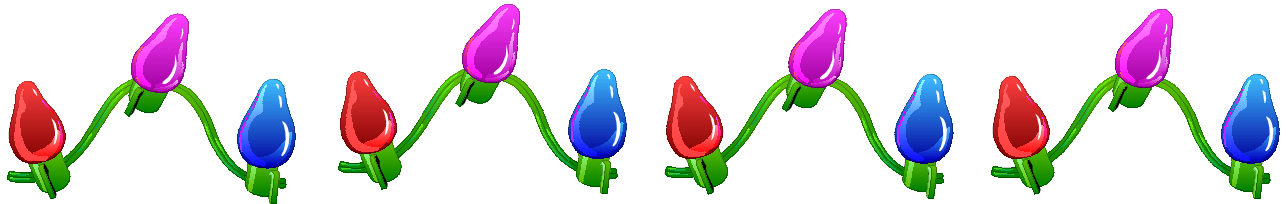
ARE YOU EC 2000 COMPLIANT?

January 1, 2000 is fast approaching and along with it, is the requirement for using the new FEMA Elevation Certificate. Here are some questions you may want or need to consider.

- What thought have you given to changes which may be necessary in your office on a day-to-day basis?
 - Will you obtain the elevation certificate that shows the lowest floor prior to any wall construction?
 - At what point will you look at the lowest elevation of machinery and/or equipment servicing the building?
 - At what point will you require a final, correctly completed certificate?
 - What changes will you make to handle the elevation certificate for a manufactured home or pier building?
- The surveyor must now give information on permanent openings below the BFE. How will you address this during the permit phase? Once the certificate is received?
 - Every item (a-i) **must** be filled, even if only N/A appears. Who will watch for this?
 - Is everyone in your office capable of reading your mind or have you trained the office staff on the new requirements?

The new Elevation Certificate will provide better information regarding what is actually taking place in the real world. It will be a measuring tool by which to gauge how well you are enforcing your Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance requirements.

Are you ready for EC 2000?



**Contacts in the
Floodplain Management Section:
(225) 274-4354**

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**For those interested in being included on our
mailing list for future copies of the
Factsheet, please fill out the following infor-
mation blank and mail it to the Dept. of
Transportation and Development, Floodplain
Management, Section 64, Post Office Box 94245,
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245**

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MANAGEMENT FACTSHEET***

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The contents do not necessarily reflect the
views and policies of the Federal Government.**

NAME_____

AGENCY_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY_____

STATE & ZIP_____

Or send us an E-Mail to:

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