

KAM K. MOVASSAGHI  
SECRETARY

# *Louisiana*



## ***FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT FACTSHEET***

**Volume 17 - Number 1**

**December 2000**

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

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### FEMA ELEVATION CERTIFICATE

As of October 1, 2000, a FEMA Elevation Certificate must be completed in order to purchase flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program. The latest revised FEMA Elevation Certificate is dated July 2000. Communities in Louisiana have been using the new form since January 2000.

Through contacts with the different communities, our office has found that the certificates are not always completed as per the instructions. Now is a good time to stop and make sure that the elevation certificates you are receiving are properly completed. On pages 4 and 5, you will find an explanation of what is required as you complete and review the first page of the certificate.

As administrator, your responsibility is to assure that all development is compliant with your Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. A correctly completed Elevation Certificate is one way to assure compliance. Each certificate must be checked at the time you receive it. Don't take for granted the surveyor or engineer knows and understands your program requirements. If you are a participating CRS community, correctly completed Elevation Certificates are mandatory.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact this office at (225) 274-4354.

## **UN-NUMBERED A ZONES**

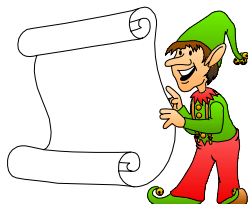
Determining the base flood elevation (BFE) for an area on your FIRM that has not been studied and does not reflect elevations can be a problem. Your Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance requires you to “obtain, review and reasonably utilize any base flood elevation data and floodway data available from a Federal, state or other source”. The first recommendation is to check with the Corps of Engineers, Natural Resources Conservation Service or other agency that might have this information.

The problem is when you have searched for information and have not been able to locate any. Well, Mr. J. Benton McNicoll, Flood Plain Manager, for Rapides Parish has the following suggestion for locating a BFE.

“Determine the nearest known point on the ground. This may be a section line which surveyors can locate or center of the stream which generates the flood prone area. Then scale the distance from this known point to the flood plain contour line. The highest elevation between these points shall determine your BFE. In reality, your surveyor creates the BFE for you.”

Mr. McNicoll says he has the “complete cooperation from the surveyors and this method gives the builder the most accurate BFE.” If you have any questions, you may contact Mr. McNicoll at (318) 487-5401.

If you have a method for locating the BFE or applying any other part of your program and would like to share it with other communities, contact this office. We will publish your suggestion in the next newsletter.



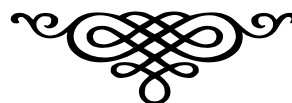
## **DO YOU THINK IT HAS BEEN DRY?**

When we look outside, everything is brown and dry. Statewide we are below our normal rainfall levels by 30+ inches and the Governor signed a drought declaration for 55 parishes during 2000.

### **DROUGHT????**

Information from the Federal Insurance Administration shows that from October 1, 1999 to May 31, 2000, Louisiana citizens filed 1,391 flood insurance claims against the National Flood Insurance Program for a total of \$14,640,903.

Flooding is alive and well in the state. These statistics add emphasis on the importance of Floodplain Management and enforcement of your Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance.



## **DON'T FORGET AIR CONDITIONERS**

Your ordinance states: “All new construction or substantial improvements shall be constructed with electrical, heating, ventilation, plumbing, and air conditioning equipment and other service facilities that are designed and/or located so as to prevent water from entering or accumulating within the components during conditions of flooding.”

This includes air conditioners for manufactured homes.



Photo by Dave Saville/FEMA News Photo



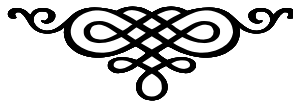
## State of Louisiana BENCHMARKS

**National Geodetic Survey** benchmark information contains position, height, and descriptive information for more than 19,000 control points in Louisiana.

Information about survey monuments on record with the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) is published in a Digital Survey DATA (DSDATA) format. The format consists of fixed field records in an 80 column ASCII text file. The authoritative source for digital survey data format is the NGS bluebook.

Use the webpage <http://h13000ts08/benchmarks/main.asp>

to generate maps and extract data about the benchmarks. Move your mouse over the maps and elements will change color indicating more information can be obtained by clicking. Retrieve data for circular, rectangular and trapezoidal location definitions. LADOTD routes, GNIS place locations, USGS Section Township Range information and 30 meter satellite imagery will display as you zoom in on location areas of interest. Click on the benchmark designation to retrieve the Digital Survey data.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The *LOUISIANA FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION'S* 2001 State Conference will be held April 18-20, 2001 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana at the Holiday Inn South.

The **Certified Floodplain Manager** exam will be given during the conference. For information concerning the application, the exam text, applicant qualifications, costs, etc., see: [www.floods.org](http://www.floods.org) (Click on Certification)

Watch for further details in the next LFMA Newsletter.



The Floodplain Management Staff would like to take this opportunity to extend our warmest wishes to you and yours this holiday season.

Janet  
Sandra

Cindy  
Sue

**Pages 4 and 5 are the instructions to  
complete Page 1 of the  
FEMA Elevation Certificate.**

**For an 11x17 printed version  
of the EC and instructions, please  
contact us at 225-274-4354.**



# CRS CORNER

## REVERIFICATION

Seventeen CRS communities will be receiving a reverification visit during 2001. The purpose of this visit is to determine if the community has been accomplishing the requirements of the activities for which they applied.

If you are due a visit, you should review your application and the CRS manual to determine what paperwork will be needed for the reverification. Certain activities require information for the previous five years (ex: Activities 310, 320, 330, 360, 540).

The following CRS Communities are due for a reverification visit in 2001:

Ascension Parish	Mandeville
Bossier City	Ruston
French Settlement	St. Tammany Parish
Gonzales	Slidell
Houma	Sorrento
Jefferson Parish	Terrebonne Parish
Kenner	Walker
Livingston Parish	Zachary
Lutcher	

If you have any questions, you can contact this office at (225) 274-4354.



## HELP WANTED

**Now that the 2000 elections are “mostly” over, this office is interested in the results of any changes in administration. If you had a change in the CEO or person responsible for your Floodplain Management Program, please let us know. We maintain a data base of officials and contact personnel for our purposes and FEMA for each community participating in the NFIP.**

**This request applies any time your community has a change in its CEO or contact for Floodplain Management.**

**Please contact this office at (225) 274-4354 or write to Janet B. Griffin, DOTD, P. O. Box 94245, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9425 or you may send e-mail to [jgriffin@dotdmail.dotd.state.la.us](mailto:jgriffin@dotdmail.dotd.state.la.us)**

## FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR HEADACHES...

### How To?

**If you have a question that you would like to submit for a future newsletter, please contact our office at (225) 274-4354 or email: [jgriffin@dotdmail.dotd.state.la.us](mailto:jgriffin@dotdmail.dotd.state.la.us)**

#### QUESTION:

Two non-residential buildings are being planned, each will be over 30,000 square feet, single floor. Building #1 is for a site that is partly Zone AE, partly Zone X. Building #2 is for a site that is partly Zone AE and partly Zone V. Do these buildings need Flood Zone Permits and Elevation Certificates?

#### ANSWER:

To fully answer for either building, one needs more detailed information; reject an application until all the information is provided. Requiring a detailed site/plot plan, signed by a surveyor, is often appropriate.

If just one corner of Building #1 touches the Zone AE of the site, it is subject to the requirements in your ordinance.

Building #2 definitely needs a permit and elevation certificate (the entire site is in the SFHA). If just one corner of Building #2 touches the Zone V, the whole building is subject to the standards for V Zone construction.

#### BONUS CONSIDERATION:

Be precise in determining the BFEs... Use the Flood Profiles in the Flood Insurance Study! Elevating just a portion of one foot unnecessarily can be expensive for buildings this size!

The owner may wish to go one foot above the BFE to get lower insurance premiums. Fill (not allowed in V-Zones) costs less than flood insurance for the duration of the mortgage.

Building #1 could be put on landfill to get a LOMR-F and get out of needing flood insurance. In evaluation by the FEMA Mapping Department, the LAG will be compared to the BFE figured to the nearest tenth of a foot. Pity the permit official gave a BFE that was used successfully for local compliance, but failed for a LOMR-F by two-tenths of a foot!

For further information or comments, you can contact David Hiegel at FEMA, Region VI, (940) 898-5405 or email [david.hiegel@fema.gov](mailto:david.hiegel@fema.gov)

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**NFIP Requirement for Manufactured Homes to Elevate  
On and Anchor to a Permanent Foundation**

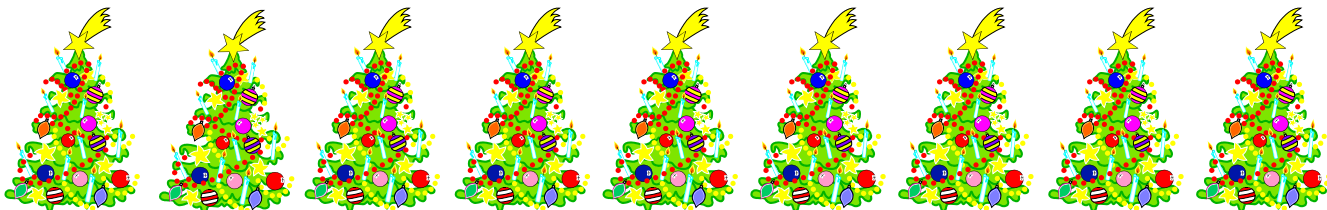
The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in guidance for installing Manufactured Homes in the Special Flood Hazard Area, issued a guidance paper, not as policy, but to provide community officials with information upon which to base local decisions when complying with 44 CR Part 59-60, Section 60.3. The following is an excerpt from this paper:

“In general, Sections 60.3(b)(8), (c)(6), and (c)(12) of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) regulations require that manufactured homes in Zones A1-30, AE, AH, AO and A be elevated on and anchored to a permanent foundation to resist flotation, collapse, and lateral movement during the base flood. This requirement is intended to be a general performance criterion and not a specific design standard. However, the installation of a manufactured home in a Special Flood Hazard Area necessitates certain minimum features that will enable the home to resist flood forces at the site. Generally, a permanent foundation should include the following features:

1. A below-grade footing capable of providing resistance against overturning of the manufactured home (the depth of which takes into account frost depth and expected scour) and sized appropriately for the site’s soil bearing capacity;
2. An anchoring system (consisting of a combination of ties, anchors and anchoring equipment) capable of providing resistance to uplift and overturning of the manufactured home due to flood and wind forces, and able to maintain the required pullout resistance in saturated soil conditions; and
3. Adequate connections between all the components of the foundation and the home such that the foundation acts as a cohesive unit when resisting flood and wind forces. The size, strength, and configuration of each of the components is dependent upon the site conditions (soil type, frost depth, wind exposure, topography) and expected flood conditions (depth, velocity, duration of flooding expected).

The local floodplain permit official must determine whether the proposed foundation setup meets the NFIP performance standard for resisting flood forces at the site. The local official may require an engineer to determine whether the proposed foundation system and connections between the foundation and the home will resist the flood forces at the site.”

The guidance goes on to talk about “dry-stack” pier systems which are acceptable, insurance implications, substantial damage requirements and replacement of home that was evacuated to avoid flooding. If you would like a copy of this guidance paper, please contact this office at (225) 274-4354.



***DID YOU KNOW?***

**20 - 30 percent of small businesses do not reopen after a disaster and that floods are the most common natural disaster?**

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

**Cindy O'Neal, Floodplain Insurance Analyst  
Sandra Batten, Floodplain Insurance Analyst  
Sue Blanchard, Floodplain Insurance Analyst**

**The *LOUISIANA FLOODPLAIN  
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necessarily reflect the views and policies of the  
Federal Government.**

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**If you know someone who would like to be  
added to our mailing list for future copies of the  
*Factsheet*, please fill out the following  
information and mail to the Department of  
Transportation and Development, Floodplain  
Management, Section 64, Post Office Box  
94245, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245 or  
fax (225) 274-4351.**

**NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
AGENCY \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE & ZIP \_\_\_\_\_**

**or send an email to:  
[sblancha@dotdmail.dotd.state.la.us](mailto:sblancha@dotdmail.dotd.state.la.us)**

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**LA Department of Transportation & Development  
Floodplain Management  
Section 64  
Post Office Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245**