

KAM K. MOVASSAGHI
SECRETARY

Louisiana



FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT FACTSHEET

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Floodplain Management Regulations Section

HURRICANE SEASON JUNE 1 - NOVEMBER 30

Who Names Hurricanes and How?

The World Meteorological Organization uses six lists in rotation. The same lists are reused every six years. The only time a new name is added is if a hurricane is very deadly or costly. Then the name is retired and a new name is chosen. Retired hurricane names are: Agnes, Alicia, Allen, Andrew, Anita, Audrey, Betsy, Bob, Camille, Carla, Carmen, Celia, Cesar, Cleo, Connie, David, Diana, Donna, Elena, Fran, George, Gilbert, Gloria, Hortense, Janet, Joan, Louis, Marilyn, Mitch, Opal and Roxanne.

2001 Atlantic Hurricane Names

Arthur
Bertha
Cristobal
Dolly
Edouard
Fay
Gustav

Hanna
Isidore
Josephine
Kyle
Lili
Marco
Nana

Omar
Paloma
Rene
Sally
Teddy
Vicky
Wilfred

Louisiana Hurricane Trivia

(see page 7 for answers)

1. Which hurricane was the most destructive and costliest hurricane in the history of the United States?
2. What Louisiana community is among the ten most likely hurricane landfalls in the United States?
3. In 1956, the storm surges of what hurricane completely submerged Grand Isle and caused extensive coastal erosion and flooding?
4. In 1961, what hurricane killed 46 people and caused an estimated \$410 million in damages?

and now for the true test.....

5. A storm of such intensity hit the New Orleans area, it destroyed many buildings and reportedly sank every vessel afloat on the Mississippi River and Lake Pontchartrain. What year was it?
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Definitions

Hurricane Watch: hurricane conditions are possible in the specified area of the watch usually within 36 hours.

Hurricane Warning: hurricane conditions are expected in the specified area of the warning usually within 24 hours.



Do you have an email address? Do you have access to the internet?

The Floodplain Management Section is currently mailing over 700 copies of our quarterly newsletter. In an effort to reduce the amount of paper required to print the newsletter, we are requesting your email address.

Instead of receiving the newsletter via U.S. mail, you will be notified by an email that will contain the following link:

http://www.dotd.state.la.us/intermodal/division/water/fp_newsletter.asp

This site allows you to view and print Factsheets from December 1999 to the current copy and also has a link to download a free version of Acrobat Reader.

So step into the new millennium and send your email address to: coneal@dotd.state.la.us .

If you DO NOT have access to email, never fear, you will still receive a copy of the Floodplain Management "Factsheet" the old fashioned way.



COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM CORNER NFIP/CRS UPDATE



Local Regulations Advisory: Lowest Floor and Freeboard

A community must be fully compliant with the National Flood Insurance Program's regulations in order to obtain or keep its Community Rating System (CRS) classification. Two concerns with local regulatory programs have recently arisen and both are related to CRS credit. This article reviews an issue related to meeting the minimum requirements of the NFIP and receiving freeboard credit. The other advisory to local officials is covered in the article on Elevation Certificates.

The rules: Sections 60.3b(4) and 60.3c(2) of the NFIP regulations (44 *CFR* Part 60) require communities to ensure that the lowest floor of any new residential building is elevated above the base flood elevation. The freeboard element in Activity 430 (Higher Regulatory Standards) of the CRS provides up to 300 points for requiring buildings to be protected to a level higher than the base flood elevation.

Many model ordinances and many locally adopted ordinances have freeboard provisions. These are usually found in the ordinance as a "regulatory flood elevation," a "flood protection elevation," or a "base flood elevation plus (1) foot." It is called the "regulatory flood elevation" in this article.

A problem arises when local regulatory officials focus only on the lowest floor, and neglect other parts of their ordinances where there are additional provisions required by the NFIP regulations. A key one is Section 60.3a(3)(iv), which requires that buildings "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." Section 60.3c(3)(ii) also references protecting "attendant utility and sanitary facilities."

The problem: In short, protecting a building from flood damage means more than elevating the lowest floor above the regulatory flood elevation. Flood insurance claims have shown that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has paid a lot of money for damage to air conditioners, furnaces, ductwork and insulation that were flooded, even though the building's lowest floor was high enough. The new FEMA Elevation Certificate highlights this problem. When properly completed, the surveyor must record the elevation of the "top of the bottom floor," "attached garage," and "lowest elevation of machinery and/or equipment servicing the building," among other things. If the attached garage, machinery, and equipment are not above the base flood elevation or are not otherwise protected from flood damage, then the building is not in compliance with the NFIP regulations.

CRS credit: Similarly, freeboard credit is granted by the CRS only if all of these items are also elevated or protected to the regulatory flood elevation. If only the lowest floor meets the freeboard standard, no CRS credit will be provided. This will be clarified in new language that will be included in the commentary on the freeboard (FRB) credit in Activity 430. It will read:

Continued on Page 7


**NOW AVAILABLE
ON THE INTERNET**

FEMA FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAPS

The official FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps have been scanned and made available through the FEMA website. To access, view, and/or print a Flood Insurance Rate Map follow the instructions below:

To access a Flood Insurance Rate Map:

- Log on to www.fema.gov
- Click on “**National Flood Insurance**”
[located in the left hand column]
- Click on “**The FEMA Flood Map Store**”
[located in the left hand column]
- Click on “**Catalog**”
[located at the top]
- Click on “**FEMA issued Flood Maps**”
- At “Select a Media Type”
Choose “**Online**”
- At “Select a State, District or Territory”
pull the menu down & click on “**Louisiana**”
- At “Select a County, Parish, etc:”
pull the menu down, select & click on a **parish**
- At “Select a Community:”
pull the menu down, select & click on a **community**
- Click on “**Find FEMA issued Flood Maps**”
- At the end of each panel number there is a **green button** - click on the button & a view of the entire panel will come up.

	<p style="text-align: center;">NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">FIRM FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COMMUNITY NAME LOUISIANA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MAP INDEX</p> <p>PANEL PRINTED:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">EFFECTIVE DATE: 00/00/00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Federal Emergency Management Agency</p>
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To view the Flood Insurance Rate Map:

By using the buttons on the left side of the screen, you will be able to manipulate the panel as follows:

- Zoom Win +
 - Left click the Zoom Win + button. Move your cursor over the FIRM. Hold down the left mouse button and drag to draw a box over the area to be enlarged. When the mouse button is released, the map will reload showing the selected area.
- Pan
 - After zooming in, left click the Pan button. Move your cursor over the FIRM. The cursor will change to a 4-headed arrow. Hold down the left mouse button and move the view. When the mouse button is released, the map will reload showing a different area of the same panel at the same scale.
- Zoom In +
 - If you know the area of the panel that you need enlarged, press the Zoom In + button and move the cursor over that area on the right side of the screen. Left click. With each left click, the view reloads zooming in on your selected point.
- Zoom Out -
 - The Zoom Out - button will do the same as the Zoom In + in reverse.

Now that you know the area needed, you are ready

To print a FIRMette:

- Left click the Zoom Out MAX button (**NOTE: Be sure to remember the area of the panel to be printed.**)
- Click Make a FIRMette (Panel will reload and show 3 boxes - one red, two green.)
- Select your paper size by clicking the appropriate button (Letter 8.5x11 is the default.)
- Move the red box over the area of the panel to be printed by dragging (panel will reload)
- Click Scale and North Arrow (panel will reload). Move small red box over the distance scale and north arrow located on the right side of the panel if necessary (panel will reload)
- Click Title Block (panel will reload). Move red box over the front panel on the lower right side as needed (panel will reload)
- Click the Adobe PDF icon. A small version of the FIRMette will appear on your screen
- Click Save your FIRMette
- When your FIRMette appears in a .pdf format, you can print/save the file
 - to save the FIRMette to your hard drive, you must click on the diskette icon. You cannot use FILE, SAVE AS

As stated on the printed copy of the FIRMette,

This is an official copy of a portion of the above referenced flood map. It was extracted using F-MIT On-Line. This map does not reflect changes or amendments which may have been made subsequent to the date on the title block. For the latest product information about National Flood Insurance Program flood maps check the FEMA Flood Map Store at www.msc.fema.gov

ASK FEMA

(Info provided by: David Hiegel, FEMA Region VI)

Q. My community is considering changing the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance to include a penalty clause for non-compliance. How should it read?

A. In accordance with Section 59.2(b) of CFR 44, Chapter 1, of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) regulation, to qualify for the sale of federally-subsidized flood insurance, a community must adopt floodplain management regulations that meet or exceed the minimum standards of Section 60. "These regulations must include effective enforcement provisions."

In accordance with Section 60.1(b) of CFR 44, Chapter 1, of the NFIP regulations, "These regulations must be legally-enforceable, applied uniformly throughout the community to all privately and publicly owned land within flood-prone, mudslide (i.e. mudflow), or flood-related erosion areas, and the community must provide that the regulations take precedence over less restrictive conflicting local laws, ordinances or codes."

THEREFORE:

The following is *suggested wording* for a penalty clause to be included and adopted with your Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. Wording should be modified as necessary to reflect specific local/state statutory provisions.

PENALTIES FOR NONCOMPLIANCE

No structure or land shall hereafter be constructed, located, extended, converted, or altered without full compliance with the terms of this ordinance and other applicable regulations. Violation of the provisions of this ordinance by failure to comply with any of its requirements (including violations of

conditions and safeguards established in connection with conditions) shall constitute a misdemeanor. Any person who violates this ordinance or fails to comply with any of its requirements shall upon conviction thereof be fined not more than \$ _____ per day or imprisoned for not more than _____, or both, for each violation, and in addition shall pay all costs and expenses involved in the case. Nothing herein contained shall prevent the ____ (COMMUNITY) ____ from taking such other lawful action as is necessary to prevent or remedy any violation.

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: coneal@dotd.state.la.us



FEMA FORMS

The **MT-EZ** form used to apply for a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) on a single residential lot or structure has changed. FEMA has advised us that all old forms should be discarded. New forms can be downloaded from the internet at:

<http://www.fema.gov/mit/tsd/mt-ez.pdf>

If you do not have access to the internet, please call our office. We will be happy to send you one.

Other FEMA forms such as the Elevation Certificate, Floodproofing Certificate, etc. can be downloaded at:

<http://www.fema.gov/forms/forms.htm>



**HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE
FOURTH OF JULY!**

Lowest Floor and Freeboard

- Continued from Page 3 -

The NFIP rules require that the lowest floor of residential structures be elevated to or above the base flood elevation and that non-residential structures be elevated or floodproofed to or above the base flood elevation. Attached garages and utilities (including electrical, heating, ductwork, ventilating, plumbing, and air conditioning equipment) must also be protected to the base flood elevation (44 *CFR* 60.3(a)(3)). This can be done by elevating them or constructing them of flood-resistant materials. A freeboard requirement adds height above the base flood elevation to provide an extra margin of protection to account for waves, debris, miscalculations, or lack of data. A freeboard requirement of 1 foot would require the same standards at 1 foot above the base flood elevation. For CRS credit, freeboard must be applied not just to the elevation of the lowest floor of the building or to the elevation to which a non-residential building is dry floodproofed, but also to the level of protection provided to all components of the building. All building utilities, including ductwork, must be elevated or protected to the freeboard level and all portions of the building below the freeboard level must be constructed using materials resistant to flood damage. If the garage floor is below the freeboard level, the garage must meet the opening requirements for enclosures. Two excellent references on these requirements are *Protecting Building Utilities from Flood Damage*, FEMA-348 and *Flood-Resistant Materials Requirements*, FIA-TB-2.

Tri-State Training

Managing Floodplain Development through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)



Mr. David Hiegel, FEMA Region VI, with assistance from Mr. Gary Zimmerer, FEMA Region VI, Ms. Cindy O'Neal, State Floodplain Insurance Manager and Ms. Sue Blanchard, Floodplain Insurance Analyst held the first tri-state training here in Louisiana.

The purpose of this course is to enhance the knowledge and skills of local officials responsible for administering and enforcing local floodplain management regulations. It is also intended to broaden their understanding of floodplain management strategies that can be applied at the local level.

Louisiana State University, Shreveport was the site of the June 3-7, 2002 class. Those in attendance were: Ms. Barbara Perry and Ms. Sandra Turley, from Iowa (Town of), Ms. Lynn Hicks from Cotton Valley, Ms. Melissa Becker from Rapides Parish, Ms. Mary Harmon from Kinder, Ms. Amy Fitch from Harrison County Texas, Ms. Pam Barbee from LADOTD Floodplain Management, Mr. Rodney Greenup, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District, Mr. Grant Bush from Lake Charles, Mr. Greg "Bubba" Prejean from Sulphur, Mr. Gilbert Pitre from Jennings, Mr. Johnny Mullins from the State of Arkansas, Mr. Carol Vinning from St. Mary Parish, Mr. Bill Smith from DeSoto Parish, Mr. Reggie Edmiston and Mr. Mark Joiner from Ruston.

We are hoping to offer this course again next year. Be sure to watch for future announcements.

Answers to Louisiana Hurricane Trivia:
Hurricane Andrew; Grand Isle; Hurricane
Flossy; Hurricane Carla; 1780

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Post Office Box 94245, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
70804-9245 or fax (225) 274-4351.**

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coneal@dotdmail.dotd.state.la.us**
