



KAM K. MOVASSAGHI  
SECRETARY

# *Louisiana*



## ***FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT FACTSHEET***

**Volume 18 - Number 2**

**March 2002**

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

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### **CONGRATULATIONS!**

**Ms. Cindy O'Neal  
Floodplain Insurance Manager**

Ms. Cindy O'Neal has been selected as the new manager of DOTD's Floodplain Management Section. Ms. O'Neal has been in Floodplain Management for 6-1/2 years and has completed the Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP and the Community Rating System courses at the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

### **WELCOME!**

**Ms. Pam Barbee  
Floodplain Insurance Analyst**

Ms. Pam Barbee has been with the Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development for 10 years; and will be coming from the Pavement and Geotechnical Unit. We look forward to working with Pam, and ask that everyone extend her a warm welcome as she embarks on her new career in Floodplain Management.

### **One Last Word From Janet...**

I simply want to say thank you.

Nine years ago I walked into Floodplain Management. Like everyone, I was not born knowing 44 CFR Sections 59 and 60. But as time went on and with the help of Floodplain Administrators statewide, I soon learned. So I would like to thank each of you for teaching me and being patient while I learned.

While in Floodplain Management, I strived to serve you. To serve by assisting with problems, by being there to talk over problems and answer questions and by standing behind you in the decisions you made. Thank you for letting me serve you.

Best of all, I can't tell you how many fond memories I have from Floodplain Management. Floodplain Management is full of the best people in the world. We shared so many great times and so much laughter that I will have a retirement full of wonderful memories.

So, again I simply want to say thank you and keep up the good work.

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## Are You Aware of Your Community's Floodplain Regulations?

(Adapted from an article by Chris Colclasure, Arkansas State Floodplain Planner)

Turnover in Louisiana communities poses a problem when it comes to Floodplain Management. Each of the 288 communities that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) has **adopted a Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance**. Contained in this ordinance is a set of regulations that the community has agreed to enforce in order to mitigate against flood losses. Each community that participates must also have a floodplain administrator to oversee its floodplain requirements. The mayor or parish president serves as this administrator unless he or she appoints someone to the job or the ordinance names an administrator.

Most floodplain violations that occur are a result of undertrained floodplain administrators. When newly elected officials take office, someone is handed the job of managing floodplain development. The new floodplain administrator, in most cases, has no idea what floodplain management encompasses. Violations to a community's floodplain ordinance are the direct result of little or no training. Listed below are some common NFIP violations that occur in Louisiana communities.

- **No Floodplain Development Permitting System** - Each participating community is required to permit development that occurs in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). Development is defined as any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to buildings or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations.
- **Certification of Lowest Floor** - It is a community's responsibility to ensure that all structures built in a SFHA elevate to the 100-year flood level. This is done by requiring all new or substantially improved construction in a flood zone to have an **elevation certification**. Your ordinance requires that a registered professional engineer, architect, or land surveyor submit a certification that the lowest floor is elevated to or above the base flood elevation. It is important to certify these elevations in order to decrease the community's monetary liability in case of flooding.
- **Structures Built in a Special Flood Hazard Area and not Elevated to the Base Flood Elevation** - Any residential structure built in a special flood hazard area must be elevated to its appropriate base flood elevation. Non-residential structures can be elevated or floodproofed.
- **Structures Located in Regulatory Floodway Lacking a "No Rise" Certificate** - Any structure built or placed in a regulatory floodway is required to have a certificate of "no rise" completed by a certified engineer.

If left unresolved, violations to a community's floodplain ordinance can lead to probation or suspension from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Participation makes flood insurance available for all the incorporated areas of cities and towns or unincorporated areas of parishes. Communities that don't participate in the NFIP do not qualify for federal disaster assistance as a result of flooding.

The Louisiana DOTD Floodplain Management Section and the Louisiana Floodplain Management Association (LFMA) have various training opportunities in the form of courses, workshops and conferences. **See Pages 3 - 5 for a schedule of events for this year's LFMA Annual Conference.**

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**LOUISIANA FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION**  
**2002 State Conference Schedule**  
**Wednesday, April 3 - Friday, April 5, 2002**  
**Holiday Inn - Convention Centre**  
**701 4<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Alexandria, Louisiana**  
**(318) 442-9000**

**Wednesday, April 3, 2002**

- 7:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Golf Tournament - Links of the Bayou
- 12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m. Registration
- 1:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. Board Meeting
- 2:00 p.m. - 2:10 p.m. Welcoming Address  
 Myron K. Lawson, Rapides Parish Police Jury  
 Chair of Flood Map Study Committee
- 2:10 p.m. - 2:40 p.m. Community Responsibility After A Disaster  
 David Hiegel, FEMA  
 The role of the floodplain administrator and the community's relationship with FEMA changes dramatically during the disaster recovery.
- 2:40 p.m. - 3:10 p.m. ICC - Advantages and Application  
 Diana Herrera, Territory Manager, NFIP Region VI Bureau & Statistical Agent  
 The ICC program provides supplemental assistance to disaster victims. What it will do and how to become eligible.
- 3:10 p.m. - 3:25 p.m. Break
- 3:25 p.m. - 3:55 p.m. Flood Prevention Measures  
 Ali Mustapha, City of Shreveport  
 Tips on property acquisition procedures and structural improvement programs.
- 3:55 p.m. - 4:25 p.m. No Adverse Impact  
 Ted DeBaene, Owen and White, Inc.  
 This ASFPM initiative focuses on a local community's floodplain management practices which prevent the action of one property owner adversely impacting the rights of other properties.
- 4:45 p.m. - till Wine and Cheese Reception

**Thursday, April 4, 2002**

- 9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Five Most Difficult Problems for a Floodplain Administrator  
 Eric Duck, City of Alexandria  
 We all have floodplain management problems. How do your problems compare with Alexandria's?
- 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Training Sessions at Emmitsburg  
 Rod Emmer, Rod Emmer and Associates  
 FEMA provides free training to floodplain administrators. Information on what is available and how to sign up.
- 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. NRCS Projects  
 Britt Paul and John Jurgensen, NRCS  
 River Basin Studies, Floodplain Management Studies and Floodplain Easements are some of the floodplain activities performed for communities.
- 10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Break
- 10:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. Impact of DMA 2000  
 Kathryn Perry, URS  
 The proposed Disaster Mitigation Act 2000 is in draft form. It will impact the planning performed by Louisiana floodplain managers.

- 11:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Map Modernization Program  
Gary Zimmerer, FEMA  
There may be some hope for the replacement of the archaic FIRM maps. New federal funding and technology are on the horizon.
- 12:00 noon - 1:30 p.m. Lunch  
Keynote Speaker - John Cooksey, U.S. Congressman, 5<sup>th</sup> District
- 1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. GIS Floodplain Data Base  
Rachel Beer, USACE New Orleans  
A floodplain management GIS database system has been developed for 30 parishes in the New Orleans District.
- 2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. "A" Zone Elevations  
Monther Madanat, Michael Baker, Jr., Inc.  
Tips on how to establish base flood elevations in "A" Zones.
- 2:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. Break
- 2:45 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. New Crawlspace Regulations  
David Hiegel, FEMA  
A November 2001 guidance publication by FEMA describes the NFIP requirements for all crawlspace construction in the Special Flood Hazard Area.
- 3:15 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. Community Rating System 2002  
Phil Anderson, ISO  
Some important changes are proposed for the CRS program in 2002.
- 3:45 p.m. Demonstration of Flood Resistant Materials  
Invited: The Lowe Company  
Flood resistant materials that are allowed by the NFIP to be installed for enclosures below the base flood elevation.
- 5:30 p.m. Crawfish Boil Cookout  
Harold Miles Park

**Friday, April 5, 2002**

- 9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. LOMA/LOMR Processing  
Joe Martinenza and Suzy McElroy, PBS&J  
Discussion on what needs to be included in each LOMA and LOMR application to reduce the long processing delays.
- 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Elevation Certificate Roundtable  
Cindy O'Neal, LA DOTD  
Gary Zimmerer, FEMA  
Jack Farmer, Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix and Hixson  
Juanita Fowler, City of Natchitoches  
Panel of agency officials, local government and surveyor will respond to questions. **Please furnish questions that you wish to be discussed with your registration form or at the registration table.**
- 10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. General Session and Election of Officers  
Pam Sturrock, LFMA Chairman  
If you would like to be considered as an LFMA officer or regional representative, please turn in your request at the registration table.
- 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. CFM Exam

**Conference Credits**

Certified Floodplain Managers - 8 Continuing Education Credits  
Professional Engineers - 8 Professional Development Hours

Please contact Ted DeBaene for above certificates by Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at [Ted@OwenAndWhite.com](mailto:Ted@OwenAndWhite.com) or 225-926-5125.

**Certified Floodplain Managers (CFM) Exam  
Application**

The Louisiana Floodplain Management Association is proud to offer you the opportunity to advance your floodplain skills to a national level by becoming certified with the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) on April 5, 2002 in Alexandria, Louisiana. The fee for the test is \$100 for ASFPM members or \$260 for non-members. Membership to this national organization is \$70. Please make check payable to ASFPM.

Please mail this form to the following by March 22, 2002:

LFMA - CFM Exam  
P. O. Box 64725  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70896

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

The exam will be given on Friday, April 5, 2002 at the Holiday Inn in Alexandria, LA from 1-4 p.m. (following the conference). Any test study information can be found by accessing [www.floods.org](http://www.floods.org).

If you have any questions, please call Pam Sturrock at (337) 437-3600.

**2002 - LFMA Conference  
Registration Form**

Please print or type:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Firm: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Conference Co-Chairmen: Pam Sturrock (337) 437-3600 or [psturrock@cppi.net](mailto:psturrock@cppi.net); Ted DeBaene (225) 926-5125 or [Ted@OwenAndWhite.com](mailto:Ted@OwenAndWhite.com)

Registration includes: Conference packet, Luncheon, Wine & Cheese Reception and Hospitality Cookout.

- \_\_\_ Members \$80
- \_\_\_ Non-Members \$110 includes membership
- \_\_\_ One Day \$40
- \_\_\_ Spouse \$25
- \_\_\_ Golf \$30 handicap\_\_\_\_\_

Player(s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to LA Floodplain Management Assn. Registration fee and this form should be mailed to:

Pam Sturrock - LFMA Treasurer  
P. O. Box 64725  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70896

Hotel room accommodations must be made DIRECTLY through the Holiday Inn - Convention Centre, 701 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Alexandria, LA, (318) 442-9000. **Reference LFMA - \$55/night + 12% tax by March 18, 2002.**

### ASK FEMA

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

- Q.** The Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) shows that my property is in the mapped floodplain (an area susceptible to being inundated by flood waters), however my house is on a high portion of the property. I believe I shouldn't be shown in the floodplain. What are FEMA's requirements to remove the property and/or a structure from the floodplain?
- A.** To be removed from the floodplain shown on the FIRM, the property or structure must be on land that is not subject to a 1% chance of being flooded in any given year (100-year floodplain). Be advised that more severe floods can and do happen, so even if your house is found to be on high ground, it may still be damaged by an extreme flood event.

If your property or a structure is on **natural ground** that is higher than the floodplain required base flood elevation (BFE) shown on the FIRM, then you may request a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA). To support the request for a LOMA, you will have to get a registered engineer or licensed surveyor to determine the ground elevation and complete an Elevation Certificate. If the natural ground is higher than the required BFE, then FEMA will issue a LOMA.

If your house was built **on fill** that was placed on the land after the FIRM was prepared, you may request a Letter of Map Revision Based on Fill (LOMR-F). As with a LOMA, you will need to get a registered engineer or licensed surveyor to complete an Elevation Certificate. If the filled ground is higher than the BFE, and if you do not have a basement, then FEMA will issue a LOMR-F.

Although FEMA may issue a LOMA or LOMR-F, it is the lending institution's prerogative to require flood insurance before granting a loan or mortgage as a condition of its own beyond the provisions of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973.

For more information call 1-877-FEMA MAP or visit [www.fema.gov/mit/tsd](http://www.fema.gov/mit/tsd)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> National Floodproofing Conference March 25 - 29, 2002 Tampa, Florida

Full information and registration forms are now available online for the 2<sup>nd</sup> triennial National Floodproofing Conference "Spring Training" in Tampa, Florida. Go to [www.floods.org/Tampa](http://www.floods.org/Tampa) where you will also find quick clicks to the exhibitors information and related activities. This 3-day conference will again include exhibits, a technical field tour and side training workshops in addition to the regular program and will showcase the state-of-the-art in programs, floodproofing applications, materials, services, equipment, accessories and techniques to accomplish flood mitigation through floodproofing. Join your peers in Tampa for some Spring Training and hear how regional, state, local and federal officials and their partners successfully integrate engineering, planning, parks, insurance and environmental protection all over the U.S. to provide safer, healthier housing and prepare for a better, sustainable future. Sponsored by ASFPM, FEMA Region IV, the Corps of Engineers-National Floodproofing Committee and the Florida Department of Community Affairs.



### 2002 ASFPM National Conference June 23 - 28, 2002 Phoenix, Arizona

Planning is well underway for the ASFPM's 26<sup>th</sup> National Conference, Breaking the Cycle of Repetitive Flood Loss, to be held at the Hyatt Regency Phoenix, June 23-28, 2002. There are some changes in the traditional schedule pattern, so it is extremely important that you preview the agenda before making your travel plans! Look for information and the full brochure at [www.floods.org/Phoenix](http://www.floods.org/Phoenix).



## COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM CORNER

### CRS Coordinator's Manual Changes



Activity Number	Activity Title	Change/Credit
310	Elevation Certificates	Added credit for putting Elevation Certificates on a community's web site. CREDIT: Maximum credit of 36 points
330	Outreach Projects	Increased credit for addressing multiple hazards in Outreach Projects Strategy (OPS) element. CREDIT: Credit increased from 100 to 125 points.
350	Flood Protection Library (now called Flood Protection Information)	Added a new sub-element (WEB) to credit web sites. CREDIT: Maximum credit of 36 points.
410	Additional Flood Data	Added a new element called Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP). CREDIT: Maximum credit of 143 points.
420	Open Space Preservation	Revised activity to incorporate credit for a new element called Land Development Criteria (LDC) and to move Low Density Zoning (LZ) from Activity 430. CREDIT: Maximum credit of 100 points for LDC.
430	Higher Regulatory Standards	<p>Increased maximum credits for new elements but lost 600 points by moving LZ to Activity 420. CREDIT: Maximum increased by 825 points.</p> <hr/> <p>Divided the Building Code and Staffing (BCS) element into two elements: BC and STF. CREDIT: N/A</p> <hr/> <p>Created a new element called Staffing (STF). CREDIT: Maximum credit of 50 points.</p> <hr/> <p>Increased points for the State-Mandated Regulatory Standards (SMS) element. CREDIT: Increased from 25 to 45 points.</p> <hr/> <p>Added Insurance Agent Training (IAT) element. CREDIT: Maximum credit of 20 points.</p> <hr/> <p>Added a new element for Manufactured Home Parks (MHP). CREDIT: Maximum credit of 50 points.</p> <hr/> <p>Added a new element for Coastal AE Zones (CAZ). CREDIT: Maximum credit of 650 points.</p>
510	Floodplain Management Planning	Increased credit for addressing multiple hazards in the planning process. CREDIT: Increased from 235 to 304 points.
520	Acquisition and Relocation	Changed formula to recognize credit for repetitive loss buildings located outside the SFHA. CREDIT: N/A
530	Retrofitting (now called Flood Protection)	Activity revised to reflect structural flood control projects. Abbreviation changed from RB to PB. CREDIT: N/A
610	Flood Warning Program	Added an element called the Storm-Ready Community (SRC). CREDIT: Maximum credit of 25 points.
630	Dam Safety	<p>Deleted the sub-element Dam Failure Regulations (DFR). CREDIT: N/A</p> <hr/> <p>Increased the sub-element Dam Failure Planning (DFP). CREDIT: Increased from 25 to 100 points.</p>

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

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**Cindy O’Neal, Floodplain Insurance Manager  
and Editor  
Pam Barbee, Floodplain Insurance Analyst  
Sandra Batten, Floodplain Insurance Analyst  
Sue Blanchard, Floodplain Insurance Analyst**

**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.**

**The *LOUISIANA FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT FACTSHEET* is published through assistance provided by FEMA under the Community Assistance Program - State Support Service Element of the National Flood Insurance Program. The contents do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Federal Government.**

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

**or send an email to:  
coneal@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**