



FLOODWATCH

Educating, Planning, Protecting

The Official Newsletter of the Louisiana Floodplain Management Association

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Newsletter Committee

Vicki Holmes, Editor/Chair

Mitch McDonald, Contributor

Erin Johnson Linderman,
Photographer

December 2020




FEMA Supports Building Code Initiatives

Submitted by Vicki Holmes

✓ **Yes! Building Codes Save** And FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grants Support Building Code Activities

FEMA has found that one of the most cost-effective ways communities can safeguard against natural disasters is to adopt and follow hazard-resistant building codes. For this reason, the agency is providing grant funds to incentivize the adoption and enforcement of modern building codes nationwide.

**Building Codes Save
 National Findings of Modeled I-Code® Savings**

<small>Total Losses Avoided Based on building and content damage</small>	<small>Number of Post- 2000 Structures</small>	<small>Money Saved annually, on average</small>
 Flood	786k	\$484 million
 Seismic	2.4m	\$60 million
 Hurricane Wind	9.2m	\$1.1 billion

The new FEMA study, *"Building Codes Save: A Nationwide Study,"* shows that modern building codes lead to major reductions in property losses from natural disasters. The analysis revealed that over a 20-year period cities and counties with modern building codes would avoid at least \$132 billion in losses from natural disasters, when compared to jurisdictions without modern building codes.



Read the rest [here](#).

LFMA Disaster Response Team (DRT) 2020

Hurricane Response

Submitted by Shandy Heil

The LFMA DRT was able to dust off our equipment and be of service for communities affected by Hurricanes Laura and Delta. Our volunteer efforts spanned the end of August until the first week of November, contributing approximately 80 volunteer hours to Rapides, Calcasieu and Cameron Parish. It is important to note that volunteer hours can be counted towards PA cost-share, to help communities meet their federal/state match requirements to utilize DRR 1206 grant funding.



While Cameron and Calcasieu Parish were out of our team’s scope, in terms of number of affected buildings vs number of available volunteers, the team was able provide educational door hangers and permit office information stickers to both Parishes, as well as provide some consulting guidance on SDE assessments.

One major team success led by the DRT Coordinator, was to alert FEMA VI and affected Parishes to recognize and utilize data from the Building Safety Evaluations (ATC-45 assessments) performed by the State Fire Marshall and state Architect Institute of America (AIA) responder group. By using this rapid response data, communities can identify potentially substantially damaged building through the red, orange, yellow and green tag system. This data triage not only provides FPMs validation on SDE determinations, but it can help the community gain a broad scale understanding on where to prioritize SD field assessments.

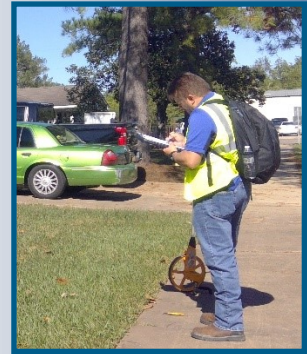
Seven volunteers were able to assist Melissa Becker, FPA for Rapides Parish Area Planning Commission, after widespread flooding caused by Hurricane Delta. A field team of four was able to perform 60 SDE assessments in one day for in two affected communities. A remote data entry team then inputted the hard copy data and photos into the SDE 3.0 program. This split work strategy helped our field team complete more assessments during a days time, while complying with Covid-19 group number mandates, and provided new volunteers wishing to learn about SDEs the opportunity to input real-time assessment data. A special thanks to RAPC for the breakfast and lunch they provided for our team!

Volunteers who assisted in Rapides Parish SDE mission include:

SDE Field Team	Remote Data Entry
Shandy Heil, LFMA DRT Coordinator	Alexandra Lahm, Jefferson Parish
Rick Foster, City of Denham Springs	Susana Pho, Forerunner
Alex Guillory, Bluewing Civil Consulting, LLC	Grant Conner, Bluewing Civil Consulting, LLC
Jeanette Clark, DOTD	Shandy Heil, LFMA DRT Coordinator

Continued on next page

DRT, cont.



Field Team in Action: (Top - Left to right) Jeanette Clark; Shandy Heil; Melissa Becker & Alex Guillory; Rick Foster
Remote Data Entry Team: (Bottom – Left to right) Alexandra Lahm; Susana Pho

The DRT needs leaders among LFMA – seasoned practitioners to newbies - who are dedicated to helping communities affected by disaster. This program provides a channel for professionals who have been through the challenges of post-disaster recovery to help affected communities who are in need of guidance and help. New professionals and communities who have not gone through a disaster can benefit from through the learning experiences presented during an active disaster. Please consider joining the LFMA DRT for the 2021 year.

Continued on next page

DRT, cont.



WANTED

DRT Coordinator

Promote committee program on a state, community, & national level; oversee program activities; oversee disaster deployments and SDE results

Committee Member Recordkeeping

Log current volunteers, capabilities, training, certification

Mutual Aid Liaison

Work with State and Parish EOC for deployment through IMAC/EMAC and reimbursement through DRRRA 1206

Community/Program Outreach

Reach out to small communities during active disasters; promote DRT program on state & community level

SDE Field Assessors

Building assessors experienced or willing to be trained to perform SDEs

Remote Data Entry

Enter SDE data into SDE 3.0 program (training provided)

Contact DRT Coordinator for more information: Shandyogaheil@gmail.com; 202-597-1311

Hurricane Zeta Blasts Grand Isle Levee

Submitted by Darla Duet



Kelli Scardino's little restaurant, Yum's Cafe, sits on one of the highest and widest spots on this exceedingly low and narrow island. When it comes to hurricanes, Yum's is what constitutes as Grand Isle's "safe ground."

But one more beach-devouring storm, and that could change. Hurricane Zeta, the fifth named storm to strike Louisiana this year, made a direct hit on Grand Isle, ripping off roofs, knocking down utility poles and breaking through the island's already severely damaged storm levee, a structure mostly made of sand that was built in 2014.

In at least seven spots, the strong Category 2 storm's waves blasted through the levee and pushed beach sand and sandbags, piled on the levee during other recent storms, more than 500 feet, through yards and driveways and reaching as far as the island's main road, where Scardino watched the hurricane from Yum's.

"There's nothing protecting us now," Scardino said. "Our restaurant is going to be waterfront property if something isn't done soon."

Read the full story [here](#).

Achieving Resilience Starts with Mitigation Planning

Submitted by Vicki Holmes



*See average dollar amounts and totals included, below.
Data analysis conducted by FEMA Hazard Mitigation Planning using OPEN FEMA data.

Learn about Hazard Mitigation Planning grants [here](#).

Hurricane Zeta Damages Estimated to Reach \$2.8 Billion

Submitted by Darla Duet

Insurance industry analysts estimate storm damage from Hurricane Zeta in Louisiana could cost between \$1.7 billion and \$2.8 billion in repairs.

Analytics business CoreLogic estimated that when storm damage in Mississippi and Alabama are factored in Hurricane Zeta caused \$3.5 billion in destruction.

That includes both residential and commercial losses for wind and storm surge but does not include any losses reported to the National Flood Insurance Program for homeowners.

Hurricane Zeta was the fifth named storm to make landfall and broke the record for the number of named storms during one season dating back to 2002.

Read the full story [here](#).



\$234 Million for Wetlands Projects from BP Oil Spill Settlement

Submitted by Vicki Holmes

Louisiana is getting \$234.6 million in BP oil spill settlement money for five wetlands restoration projects in three parishes.

The allocations for Terrebonne, Plaquemines and St. Bernard parishes bring the state's total in such restoration grants to more than \$900 million this year, said Chip Kline, chairman of the state Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority.

The biggest chunk is \$157 million to restore, maintain and monitor up to 1,430 acres of brackish and saline marsh and 80 acres of earthen ridge on the eastern side of Bayou Terrebonne south of Chauvin.



Read the full story [here](#).

Sunken Barge to Help Protect Levee

Submitted by Mitch McDonald



Terrebonne and Lafourche parish officials have sunken a barge in a levee ahead of Hurricane Delta. The barge was purposefully sunk to protect the levee from the storm.

According to Terrebonne Parish President Gordon Dove, the barge made it to Grande Bayou in Lafourche Parish East of Point-Aux-Chenes.

The barge is keeping water out of the Intracoastal Canal, Bourg and Point-Aux-Chenes ahead of the storm.

The levee has a hole in it, so the sunken barge will protect the surrounding communities.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

LFMA 37th Annual Business and Technical Conference



Please visit www.lfma.org for any and all updates related to the Annual Conference, to be held in April 2021 in Houma, LA.

Conference Contact: Lisa Ledet

lisaledet@tpcg.org

985-873-6567

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



ASFPM 45TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

May 9-13, 2021

Raleigh, North Carolina

The Association of State Floodplain Managers will convene the world's largest and most comprehensive floodplain management conference – our 45th annual gathering, May 9 – 13, 2021 at the Raleigh Convention Center. We invite you to share your experiences with local, state, regional, tribal and federal officials, industry leaders, consultants and a wide variety of subject matter experts from diverse fields.

Presenter Selection Notification January 2021

Conference Program Posted January 2021

Registration Opens February 2021

Early Bird Registration Discount DEADLINE April 25, 2021

Conference Begins May 9, 2021

Exhibits Open May 10, 2021

Please note: The safety, health and well-being of our attendees has always been the top priority. We are continually monitoring the developments of COVID-19. At this time, the ASFPM 45th Annual National Conference is moving forward as scheduled in Raleigh, North Carolina. We will continue to monitor CDC and local city/state guidelines. We also hope to offer some form of virtual component to the conference as well. Any event adjustments, changes, or additions will be communicated via the conference website, email and social media.

For more information visit <https://asfpmconference.org/>.

Louisiana Floodplain Management Association

P.O. Box 64725
Baton Rouge, LA 70896

LFMA Board Members and Regional Representatives

CHAIRMAN: Toby Fruge', PE, CFM
(225) 926-5125
toby@owenandwhite.com

VICE CHAIR,
CAP: Kara Moree, CFM
(225) 369-6587
kara.moree@oneatlas.com

SECRETARY: Darla Duet CFM
(985) 537-7603
darlad@lafourchegov.org

TREASURER,
MEMBERSHIP: Melissa Becker, CFM
(318) 487-5401
mbecker@rapc.info

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR: Theodore E. DeBaene, PE, CFM
(225) 926-5125
tdebaene@owenandwhite.com

DRT: Shandy Heil, CFM
(225) 603-4090
shandyogeheil@gmail.com



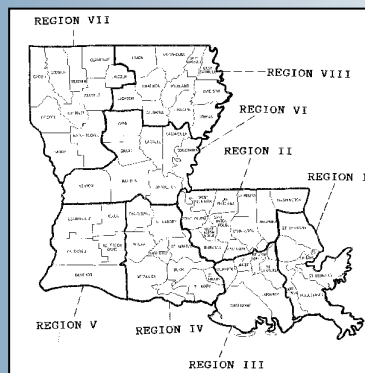
WORKSHOP
COORDINATOR: Darla Duet CFM
(985) 537-7603
darlad@lafourchegov.org

CONTINUING ED: Michelle Gonzales, CFM
(225) 223-2719
mgonzales@rostan.com

NEWSLETTER
EDITOR: Vicki Holmes, CFM
(504) 919-0066
vicki.holmes@cox.net

STATE NFIP
COORDINATOR: Cindy O'Neal, CFM
(225) 379-3005
Cindy.ONeal@LA.GOV

LEGISLATIVE
CHAIR: Gary O'Neal, Jr., CFM
(225) 423-0023
GONeal@gesla.com



Region I
Mike Hunnicutt, CFM
(202) 394-8493
mandjhunnicutt@yahoo.com

Kim Reeves, CFM (alt)
(504) 481-5132
tkreeves@cox.net

Region II
Jerrri Daniels, CFM
(504) 872-3776
jdaniels@dewberry.com

Region III
Lisa Ledet, CFM
(985) 873-6567
lisaledet@tpcg.org

Region IV
Tammy Vincent
(337) 233-1130
tvincent@cityofscott.org

Bonnie Anderson, CFM (alt)
(337) 654-9312
floodmgr@gmail.com

Region V
Dana Watkins, CFM
(337) 721-3600
d Watkins@cppj.net

Region VI
Melissa Becker, CFM
(318) 487-5401
mbecker@rapc.info

Region VII
Juanita Fowler, CFM
(318) 357-3840
juanita@natchitochesla.gov

Region VIII
Lisa Richardson, CFM
(318) 398-9780
lrichadson@oppj.org

Larry Walters, CBO, CFM (alt)
(318) 747-2454
walters@ibts.org

Floodwatch is published by the Louisiana Floodplain Management Association. Information and opinions contained herein do not necessarily reflect the views of all members. Items for publication and other editorial matters should be directed to the Editor: vicki.holmes@cox.net