



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, Photographer

Hazard Mitigation Assistance Application Resources

Did you know
Hazard Mitigation Assistance provides access to resources to help you develop better grant applications?

Visit **HMA's Publications page** ([fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance-publications](https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance-publications)) to learn more about project activities like flood mitigation, benefit-cost analysis, green infrastructure mitigation, severe storm mitigation and much more such as:

- ✓ Acquisition
- ✓ Earthquake
- ✓ Elevation
- ✓ Flood Projects
- ✓ Hazard Mitigation Planning
- ✓ Mitigation Reconstruction
- ✓ Non-Structural Retrofitting
- ✓ Saferoom
- ✓ Structural Retrofitting
- ✓ Wildfire
- ✓ Wind Retrofit



From the Chair



I would like to thank Jefferson Parish, with the help of this year's conference chair, Michelle Gonzales, for an excellent 2019 LFMA conference. The event would not have been possible without her help. I really hope everyone enjoyed themselves and experienced the Kenner area. I would also like to thank all of our speakers for delivering such great content to us. The format worked out quite well this year. The turnout and sponsorships were also incredible. This was one of the largest attended conferences I can remember. Thanks to everyone involved for making this year's conference a great success.

Congratulations to the new LFMA board and regional representatives and alternates. If anyone has any questions about anything floodplain related, please reach out to one of these members. One of the biggest perks of LFMA is the networking and our ability to coordinate with your fellow counterpart from another municipality.

Be on the lookout for our upcoming workshops. Our next workshop will be held in Scott, LA on July 19 from 8 am to 12 pm. We will be releasing more details on the website about the fall workshop location once we have all the details finalized.

In closing, we are always looking for volunteers for hosting and helping with workshops. If you or anyone you know may be interested, let a member of the board know so we can set this up. Workshops are a great opportunity for getting your local members involved and to discuss topics relevant to your specific needs. It's a great way to get problems specific to you brought up, discussed, and corrected.

Toby Fruge', PE, CFM

From the Director's Desk

By: Theodore DeBaene, P.E., CFM Executive Director



National Flood Insurance Program: Reauthorization

Congress must periodically renew the NFIP's statutory authority to operate. On May 31, 2019, the President signed legislation passed by Congress that extends the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP's) authorization to June 14, 2019.

Congress must now reauthorize the NFIP by no later than 11:59 pm on June 14, 2019.

FEMA and Congress have never failed to honor the flood insurance contracts in place with NFIP policyholders. Should the NFIP's authorization lapse, FEMA would still have authority to ensure the payment of valid claims with available funds. However, FEMA would stop selling and renewing policies for millions of properties in communities across the nation. Nationwide, the National Association of Realtors estimates that a lapse might impact approximately 40,000 home sale closings per month.

NFIP reauthorization is an opportunity for Congress to take bold steps to reduce the complexity of the program and strengthen the NFIP's financial framework so that the program can continue helping individuals and communities take the critical step of securing flood insurance.

Source: FEMA 05/31/2019

Proposed House Bill

The proposed house bill for reauthorization contains an increase in the flood map program from \$400 million to \$500 million, and an increase in ICC payments from \$30,000 to \$50,000. Whether it passes as proposed is uncertain.

Elevation Certificates

The current expired elevation certificate forms will continue to be valid until the new certificates are approved. This is expected to take about six months.

Louisiana's Disappearing Coast

Submitted by Vicki Holmes

The New Orleans Lakefront Airport was built by the Louisiana governor Huey P. Long on a tongue of fill that sticks out into Lake Pontchartrain. Its terminal was designed by the same architect Long had used to build a new Louisiana state capitol and a new governor's mansion, and it was originally named for one of Long's cronies, Abraham Shushan. Within eighteen months of the airport's opening, in 1934, Shushan had been indicted for money laundering and Long had been murdered. A few years later, the architect, too, went to prison.

Today, Lakefront Airport is used for small planes, which is how I recently found myself there, aboard a four-seat Piper Warrior. The Piper's pilot and owner was a lawyer who liked having an excuse to fly. The plane took off to the north, over Lake Pontchartrain, and looped back toward New Orleans. We picked up the Mississippi at English Turn, the sharp bend that brings the river almost full circle. Then we continued to follow the water as it wound its way into Plaquemines Parish.

Plaquemines is where the river meets the sea. On maps, it appears as a thick, muscular arm stretching into the Gulf of Mexico, with the Mississippi running, like a ropy blue vein, down the center. At the very end of the arm, the main channel divides into three, an arrangement that calls to mind fingers or claws, hence the area's name—the Bird's Foot.

Seen from the air, the parish has a very different look. If it's an arm, it's a horribly emaciated one. For most of its length—more than sixty miles—it's practically all vein. What little solid land there is clings to the river in two skinny strips.

Read the full article [here](#).



LFMA Annual Conference

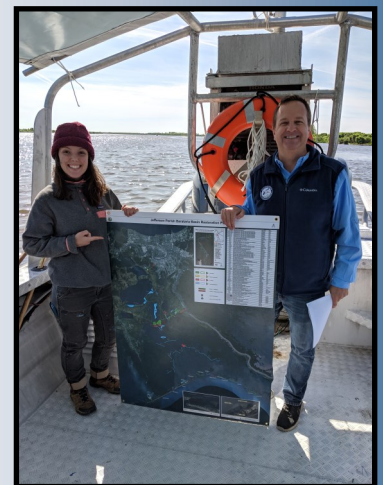
The annual conference was held in Jefferson Parish this past April and was a huge success! We had 203 attendees and 20 sponsors. On the agenda were 3 Tech Tours, a CRS Breakout session, and a variety of engaging speakers. Thanks to all who participated!



LFMA Annual Conference—Networking



LFMA Annual Conference—Tech Tours



LFMA at the ASFPM National Conference in Cleveland



Photos submitted by Melissa Becker and Kim Reeves

FEMA Seeks Public Comment for New Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

Submitted by Mike Hunnicutt

This week, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is announcing an invitation for the public to comment on the development and implementation of Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA) Section 1234: National Public Infrastructure Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) will focus on reducing the nation's risk by funding public infrastructure projects that increase a community's resilience before a disaster.

Communities from all levels of government federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial, as well as key stakeholders, including private businesses, citizens, vulnerable and at-risk populations, critical infrastructure sectors, and non-profit, academic, and philanthropic organizations are encouraged to provide comment. The development of the BRIC program – and how as a nation we can deliver those outcomes – is vital.

Ideascale

Comments will be accepted from May 20 through July 15, 2019, on IdeaScale at <https://fema.ideascale.com/a/campaign-home/61112> or by email at BUILDBRIC@fema.dhs.gov.

Webinar Series

FEMA will also host a webinar series during the month of June to provide a brief overview of the different topic areas that are important for the development of the BRIC program. Each session will include an opportunity for stakeholders to comment through the chat platform.

For detailed information of each session, visit <https://www.fema.gov/drra-bric>. The call-in information is the same for each webinar:

Phone: 1-800-320-4330 Code: 338559#

Adobe Connect: <https://fema.connectsolutions.com/engage-bric/>

- **Webinar 1:** Infrastructure Mitigation Projects and Community Lifelines **Thursday June 6, 2019** (2 - 4 p.m. ET)
- **Webinar 2:** Hazard Mitigation Planning, Grant Application & Evaluation, Risk Informed Funding **Thursday June 13, 2019** (2 - 4 p.m. ET)
- **Webinar 3:** Funding & Resource Management and Benefit-Cost Analysis **Thursday June 20, 2019** (2 - 4 p.m. ET)
- **Webinar 4:** Building Codes and Enforcement and Capacity and Capability **Tuesday June 25, 2019** (2 - 4 p.m. ET)

For more information on DRRA, visit www.fema.gov/disaster-recovery-reform-act-2018.

New Risk Rating System Will ‘Close Insurance Gap,’ FEMA Says

Submitted by Vicki Holmes

By redesigning the National Flood Insurance Program’s (NFIP) risk rating system, FEMA says it’s focused on building a culture of preparedness by “closing the insurance gap.”

A new approach to modernizing rates, Risk Rating 2.0, that is more aligned with actual risk is scheduled to go into effect next year when the new rate structure is announced in April 2020. The rates are scheduled to go into effect for single-family detached homes on Oct. 1, 2020.

Some experts have long been advocating for a rate structure that is more equitable as far as pricing flood insurance based on risk. And they are cautiously optimistic that the new structure may address some of the issues relating to fairness, transparency, if not eventually putting the program on a path to sustainability.

“This new approach is likely to be fairer and more equitable and intends to better communicate risk through insurance rates,” said Laura Lightbody, project director of flood-prepared communities for the Pew Charitable Trusts. “If the program is seen and better understood as a fairer program that more closely reflects actual risk of the policy holder, you could see more uptick in policies because of the transparency of the program.”

The NFIP is still some \$20 billion in debt after forgiving \$16 billion of debt last year.

Read the full story [here](#).

[Risk Rating 2.0 Overview](#)

[Risk Rating 2.0 FAQs](#)



Post-Disaster Code Enforcement Achieved Through Grassroots Disaster Response Teams

Submitted by Darla Duet

On August 16th, 2016 the Louisiana Floodplain Management Association (LFMA) Disaster Response Team (DRT) embarked on their first team mission to assist communities affected by an unnamed storm, commonly referred to as the "Great Flood of 2016." The storm event produced historic and widespread flooding throughout 22 parishes and affected over 150,000 homes. Despite having formed as an official committee of LFMA one month prior, the resourceful and dedicated team was able to band together to assist five jurisdictions on the fringes of the Baton Rouge metropolitan area.

Under the leadership of LFMA DRT Coordinator, Shandy Heil, CFM, the team of 15 volunteers, comprised of floodplain managers, building code officials, and mitigation professionals were able to assist communities with flood-damage reconnaissance of the entire jurisdictional boundaries; collect high-water mark data that was put into GIS maps to capture the historic flood depths; provide flood recovery education to property owners; and perform Substantial Damage screenings. Substantial Damage assessments in E. Feliciana Parish solely by DRT volunteer/former retiree, Russ Hicks, CFM, with assistance from the DRT Coordinator. It is notable to report that Hicks came out of retirement to fill the role of Floodplain Manager for his community to ensure Substantial Damage Estimator (SDE) determinations were handled and to aid the residents of his community during the recovery process.

While FEMA PTS contractor support was provided to many of the larger jurisdictions affected by the August 2016 flood, utilization of the LFMA DRT was essential for the smaller communities needing assistance. In two cases, where there were several thousand affected structures within the jurisdiction needing SDE assessments, the DRT's flood damage reconnaissance and high-water mark data collection was still used by the local Floodplain Administrators to communicate the actual conditions in the days following the flood event and provide this data to the FEMA PTS contractors, who were not able to arrive until three to four weeks after the flooding. This ability to be nimble and respond immediately after waters receded proved to be the DRT's greatest strength; capturing the most accurate flood inundation levels as possible and helping communities expedite recovery in the days and weeks following the flood event.

Bill Smith, CFM, P.E., of the Oklahoma Floodplain Management Association (OFMA) DRT, has been leading the way for the DRT concept since 2008, proving that dedicated volunteers are willing and capable of performing the post-disaster code enforcement requirements for affected communities. Smith reports that since many of the communities prone to flood are small, most of the SDE field work and evaluations are fully taken care of by the State Association DRT, rarely requiring assistance from FEMA and preventing duplication of efforts when FEMA assistance is needed. It is important to note that DRT coordination with the State Emergency Operations Center and FEMA region is a must when forming a DRT and is still critical during disaster events to ensure clear communication and proper documentation is achieved.

Continued next page

Grassroots, continued

Although the LFMA and OFMA DRTs differ somewhat in the ancillary services they provide, their post-disaster code enforcement operations are the same. This is done in an effort to standardize training and certification requirements across state boundaries in hopes of satisfying a FEMA Region VI initiative to promote increased disaster response capabilities throughout the region; creating an alliance for disaster response and recovery assistance between Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas and New Mexico.

This vision of interstate mutual aid assistance through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) is now becoming a reality for floodplain administrators and building code professionals after the revision of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA) of 2018. DRRA Section 1206, *Eligibility for Code Implementation and Enforcement* amendment allows building code enforcement and floodplain management (including substantial damage determinations) to be eligible under Stafford Act. This overturns the 1998 policy prohibiting reimbursement of mutual aid assistance through EMAC under Cat. B of Public Assistance.

However, in order for these DRT capabilities to be realized, planning and preparation during blue sky operations must be done in advance before a disaster strikes. State chapters of AFPM, ICC, AIA and other member organizations with building safety, code, and floodplain management personnel should begin by creating an inventory, or Mission Ready Package (MRP), of the trained and certified professionals capable of performing Substantial Damage Estimates and building safety assessments. FEMA's National Integration Center (NIC) is in the process of creating resource typing within the National Incident Management System (NIMS) to include building professional in the disaster response arena to make this process easier for a professional group that has not been traditionally viewed as disaster responders.

For more information about DRT formation or mutual aid deployment through EMAC, please contact Shandy Heil, Stantec, at shandy.heil@stantec.com. Bill Smith can be reached at wbsmith@hisinc.us regarding questions about the OFMA DRT.



Check out FEMA's SDE Tool for yourself: <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/18692>.

For more information and tips on preparing yourself, family and friends for potential disasters, visit [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov).

For more information about FEMA Building Science Branch, visit <https://www.fema.gov/building-science>.

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards Network

Submitted by Lisa Ledet

Weather Radio

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service office. NWR broadcasts official Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts, and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Working with the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Emergency Alert System, NWR is an "all hazards" radio network, making it your single source for comprehensive weather and emergency information. In conjunction with federal, state, and local emergency managers and other public officials, NWR also broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards – including natural (such as earthquakes or avalanches), environmental (such as chemical releases or oil spills), and public safety (such as AMBER alerts or 911 Telephone outages).

Louisiana Weather Radio Stations

Click on the station call sign for detailed information.

Site Name Call Sign Frequency

Alexandria [WXK78 »](#)162.475

Baton Rouge [KHB46 »](#)162.400

Bogalusa [WNG521 »](#)162.525

Buras [WXL41 »](#)162.475

Lafayette [WXK80 »](#)162.550

Lake Charles [KHB42 »](#)162.400

Monroe [WXJ96 »](#)162.550

Morgan City [KIH23 »](#)162.475

Natchitoches [WXN87 »](#)162.500

New Orleans [KHB43 »](#)162.550

Shreveport [WXJ97 »](#) 162.400

Mississippi River flood is longest-lasting in over 90 years, since 'Great Flood' of 1927

Submitted by Mitch McDonald

Flooding in at least 8 states along portions of the Mississippi River – due to [relentless, record-breaking spring rainfall](#) – is the longest-lasting since the "Great Flood" of 1927, the National Weather Service said.

The [1927 flood](#), which Weatherwise magazine called "perhaps the most underrated weather disaster of the century," remains the benchmark flood event for the nation's biggest river.

Anytime a [modern flood](#) can be mentioned in the same breath as the Great Flood is newsworthy: During that historic flood, hundreds of thousands of people fled their homes as millions of acres of land and towns went underwater.

At one point in 1927, along the Tennessee border, the Mississippi rose an astonishing 56.5 feet above flood stage, and in Arkansas, the river ballooned to 80 miles wide, according to the book Extreme Weather by Christopher Burt.

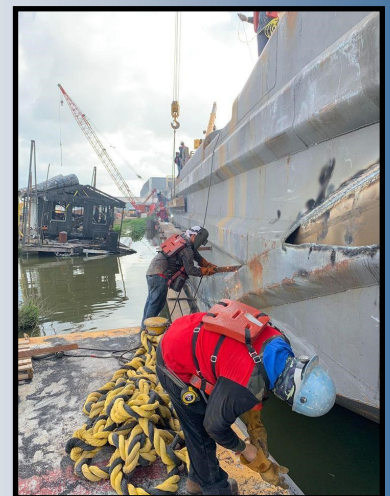
Read the full story [here](#).

Morganza Spillway preparations: Here's the history of sinking barges to control backwater flooding

MORGAN CITY — Lee Dragna was born in 1973, the first time the Army Corps of Engineers opened the Morganza Spillway control structure to alleviate flooding on the Mississippi River.

That's when the late Morgan City Mayor C.R. "Doc" Brownell first sank a barge in Bayou Chene to stop the swollen Atchafalaya River from pushing flood water north and inundating parts of St. Mary, lower St. Martin, Assumption, Lafourche, Terrebonne and Iberville parishes.

Read the full story [here](#).



Terrebonne Parish Begins Construction on Emergency Operations Saferoom

Submitted by Lisa Ledet



A new “safe room” is currently being constructed adjacent to the Joseph L. Waitz Emergency Operations Center in Gray to shelter up to 150 parish employees and first responders during hurricanes that may impact Terrebonne Parish. The safe room is constructed of steel and concrete and can withstand category 4 hurricane force winds. The building was designed to store emergency supplies and provide temporary office space for governmental agencies following a hurricane or any other emergency in which additional office space may be needed. The total cost of construction is \$2.7 million and was 75% funded by a Federal Emergency

Management Agency grant and a 25% match from the Terrebonne Parish Government. A smaller safe room is also being constructed on the east side of Terrebonne Parish in order to shelter first responders to facilitate emergency response on the east side of Terrebonne Parish during a hurricane. This safe room is also funded through a grant from FEMA with a 25% match from Terrebonne Parish at a total cost of \$1.2 million. We are thankful that we now have adequate and safe sheltering capabilities for all essential parish employees and first responders that are asked to stay in the Parish to assist us before, during and after a hurricane event.

Terrebonne Parish deploying flood tubes ahead of Morganza Spillway opening

Submitted by Lisa Ledet

By Amanda Roberts | May 28, 2019 at 9:20 PM CDT - Updated May 29 at 2:27 PM

GIBSON, La. (WVUE) - Many homeowners along Bayou Black Drive are already seeing flooding in their yards, less than a week away from the day the Army Corps of Engineers plan to open the Morganza Spillway.

As of Tuesday (May 28), Terrebonne Parish leaders said no homes or business have flooded yet, but along with the Army National Guard, they have started laying flood tubes ahead of the water expected to come when the spillway is open. Still residents said they are growing fearful it may not be enough.

The Morganza spillway is scheduled to open on June 2, and residents in Terrebonne Parish said they've been fighting high water levels for months. Parish President Gordy Dove said the flooding is worse than they usually see.

"We have more portable pumps running than in the history of Terrebonne Parish," Dove said. Dove said they are pumping upwards of 500 gallons of water a day. But, he said knowing how much water will be coming their way when the spillway opens, they still have work to do. "When you have the backwater flooding from the Atchafalaya, the water is running south so fast at a high cubic feet-per-second, it does a 180 and comes back towards us. And it comes up what they call the Bayou Chene and the Chachoula Basin, and that's where we get our flood water from," Dove said.

That's why parish crews with the Army National Guard have started deploying another tactic -- fire crews are filling flood tubes and placing them near the southern edge of the Chacahoula Basin.

It will take crews an estimated four days to roll this tube out for over two miles and fill it with water. The goal is to keep homes and businesses from taking on the backwater flooding that they're already starting to see.

"We've fought this before, and we're constantly building levees in Terrebonne Parish, we're constantly fighting mother nature down here," Dove said.

Compared to when the spillway opened in 2011, Dove said they're more prepared. But, he also said they have no choice but to prepare, as they're expecting much worse flooding impacts this time around. "This is a lot worse because we've been having backwater flooding since January, so the Atchafalaya basin's full, it's got a lot of water. Then, the spillway plains are already wet," Dove said.

James Stoot lives off of Bayou Black Road and said the water spilling over the road is nothing compared to what's at his house. "If I drive my four-wheeler in my back yard, I have two feet of water, if not four," Stoot said. He wanted to drive and see what kind of relief the flood tubes may bring, but Stoot said knowing what kind of water is at his house right now, he doesn't have as much confidence in the tubes. "It's not interrupting my day to day, but it's got snakes and everything else coming out behind my house," he said. "Yeah, it's not good, but if we get this spillway water it isn't going to look good down here."

Dove said these aren't the only measures they're taking and they're also building levees near Bayou Chene. And, he's encouraging anyone that sees water over the road or anywhere else to call parish government so they can address it as soon as possible.

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State hires contractor team to build Mid-Breton Sediment Diversion

Submitted by Vicki Holmes

By [Mark Schleifstein, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune](#)

A new joint venture company made up of national construction firms with a history of building levees and bridges in Louisiana has been selected by the state coastal authority to oversee construction of the proposed \$800 million Mid-Breton Sediment Diversion in Plaquemines Parish.

Louisiana Diversion Company LLC, whose partner firms include Brown & Root Industrial Services LLC of Baton Rouge; Massman Construction Co. of Overland Park, Kansas; Parsons Construction Group Inc., of Westminster, Colorado; and Traylor Brothers Inc. of Evansville, Indiana; was one of three joint venture groups considered for the contract by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority.

“This competitive process produced three quality proposals from experienced local and national firms that all have a strong presence in Louisiana,” said CPRA Executive Director Bren Haase, in a news release announcing the contract. “The state is confident LDC brings the necessary experience and team members needed to construct this transformational restoration project.”

Read the full story [here](#).



Terrebonne Parish braces for flood water from Morganza Spillway

Submitted by Lisa Ledet

"If they do not put a barge in Bayou Chene, some homes will flood."

Author: Jade Cunningham / WWL Eyewitness News

Published: 6:22 PM CDT May 23, 2019

Updated: 6:25 PM CDT May 23, 2019

TERREBONNE PARISH, La. — In Terrebonne, they're already dealing with high water. Work is being done to try and get that water down, but with news that the Morganza Spillway is expected to open, worry is beginning to rise. "Our flooding here is caused by the Mississippi River, by the river relieving itself through the Atchafalaya river," said Parish President, Gordon Dove. The parish is fighting it with dirt levees along roads and portable pumps.

"We're pumping about 360 million gallons per 24 hours with this location," Dove said. "We have another location that we're pumping about 140 million gallons so we're doing about a half-abillion gallons per day trying to keep the water from rising."

With the Atchafalaya and other tributaries reporting high water levels, it's been tough getting this water out. Now, with the Morganza expected to open, worry is flooding in.

"The issue with the Morganza is it brings additional water down the Atchafalaya river which brings additional backwater flooding to us," said Earl Eues, the Director of the Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.

Officials though are working on a plan, one which helped the last time Morganza opened in 2011. "There's talk at the present time of putting in a temporary barge structure in Bayou Chene," Eues said. "If the barge goes in, it gives us more protection from the backwater flooding. If it doesn't go in, we can expect another half foot to foot of water in the western part of Terrebonne Parish."

It's now a race against time to get it in place before it opens, officials are confident though.

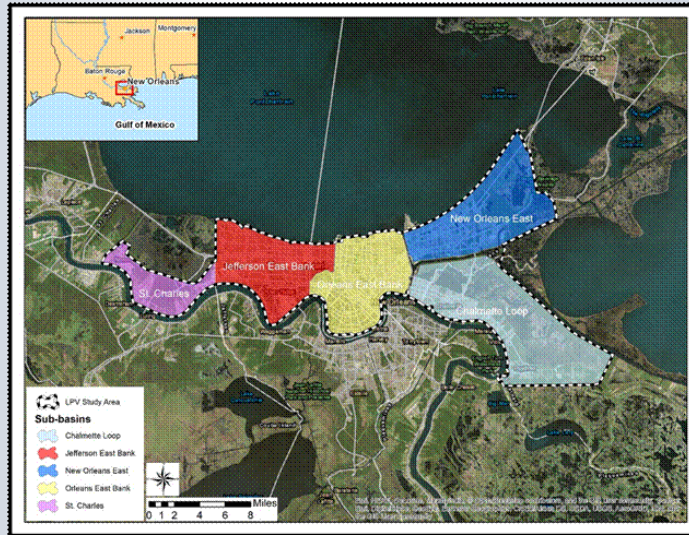
"It takes about 12-to-13 days of long hours working 24/7 to put that barge in place," Eues said.

"So hopefully we'll have that in place before the majority of water comes down from Morganza and affects the Atchafalaya river."

They also say they'll be working day and night to help make sure residents are not just safe, but dry too. The key right now is to get the funding and procedures for the barge in place by May 28.

Army Corps Assesses Need For Levee Improvements

Submitted by Vicki Holmes



The levees that protect New Orleans are sinking, just as officials knew they would. The Army Corps is doing a study to figure out what repairs are needed. On Tuesday the agency held several public meetings on the process.

The Corps and local levee authorities built a \$14 billion Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) around the city after Hurricane Katrina. Because of the soft soil the levees were built on, they're naturally sinking. Sea level rise also poses a risk.

If the system sinks or is damaged to the point that it can no longer provide protection from a 100-year storm - a storm with a one percent chance of happening - property in New Orleans will become too vulnerable to flooding to receive subsidized federal flood insurance.

Read the full story [here](#).

Louisiana Floodplain Management Association (LFMA)
Disaster Response Team (DRT)
Assisting Communities When the Waters Rise

Submitted by Shandy Heil

With Spring flooding in full swing and the 2019 Atlantic Hurricane Season having just begun, the LFMA DRT wants to remind local Floodplain Administrators that they are here to assist during flood events that may arise.

The LFMA DRT is a volunteer group of flood professionals that help affected jurisdictions before and after a flood event. The team can assist requesting communities with the following services:

Pre-flood event planning: blue sky days or impending flood events

Flood damage reconnaissance: areal imagery using a drone and street-level windshield assessments

Flood recovery education to property owners

Substantial Damage Estimate screenings and assessments: capabilities now reimbursable through FEMA Public Assistance funding, following the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018, Sect. 1206 amendment

+

What can a local Floodplain Administrator do to help the DRT serve them better?

Print out the most **up-to-date map** of your **jurisdictional boundaries**. This map will be used by the DRT to perform windshield assessments of each street to ascertain preliminary damage levels. Adding a flood map layer, indicating the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), will help determine where Substantial Damage Estimates need to be performed. Indicating flood prone X Zone areas on the map is also needed so the team can collect high-water mark data and provide flood recovery education to the property owner.

Pre-load tax assessor data into the Substantial Damage Estimate (SDE) 3.0 tool, for properties located in the SFHA. This will require you to first locate all properties that fall into this category, then work with your Tax Assessor to obtain the following information about the properties:

Address

Owner's name

Structure Type: Residential or Non-Residential

Structure age

Structure dimensions/square footage

Number of stories

Structure Attributes: foundation type, wall framing, etc.

Tax parcel number (PIN)

Continued next page

Assisting Communities When the Waters Rise, continued

It is important to note that some tax assessor data may be out of date, so be sure to check it for accuracy before use. If the data is usable for your needs, it should be entered into a spreadsheet so it can easily be imported into the SDE 3.0 program. If the data is not usable, this may be a good prompt for your tax assessor to update or digitize their records for the local code and regulatory practitioners who need it during post-disaster events.

Visit the link below to access SDE training videos provided by FEMA Region VI. These training modules are excellent tools to get caught up to speed on SDE assessment protocol, using the SDE 3.0 software, and understanding and using the assessment results. <http://bit.ly/FEMASDETraining>

Future SDE field assessment workshops are currently being scheduled throughout the state to supplement these training modules.

Inform your community leaders that you wish to utilize the DRT, preferably during blue sky days. This includes the Mayor, Parish EOC, and law enforcement. If a deployment is ever needed in your community, this will help other local officials and residents understand that DRT volunteers were deputized by the FPA/community to assist with post-disaster response tasks. Disaster events are very stressful on everyone involved and clear communication can make all the difference.

For more information on the LFMA DRT and post-disaster response and SDE trainings, please reach out the Shandy Heil, LFMA DRT Coordinator at disasterresponse@lfma.org.



DOTD's latest issue of FACTSHEET is now available

Submitted by Pam Lightfoot.

You can access the newsletter [here](#).

 LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & DEVELOPMENT	Shawn D. Wilson, Ph.D. SECRETARY	LOUISIANA FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT
	FACTSHEET	
June 2019	Issued quarterly by the Louisiana Dept. of Transportation & Development Floodplain Management Section	Volume 19 Number 2

America's Achilles' Heel: the Mississippi River's Old River Control Structure

3 Part Series

Submitted by Vicki Holmes

America has an Achilles' heel. It lies on a quiet, unpopulated stretch of the Mississippi River in Louisiana, 45 miles upstream from Baton Rouge. Rising up from the flat, wooded west flood plain of the Mississippi River are four massive concrete and steel structures that would make a pharaoh envious: the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' greatest work, the two billion-dollar Old River Control Structure (ORCS). The ORCS saw its second highest flood on record in March 2019, and flood levels have risen again this week to their fifth highest level on record. While the structure is built to handle the unusual stress this year's floods have subjected it to, there is reason for concern for its long-term survival, since failure of the Old River Control Structure would be a catastrophe with global impact.



Chaining the Mississippi to its current channel

This marvel of modern civil engineering has, for fifty-five years, done what many thought impossible—impose man's will on the Mississippi River. Mark Twain, who captained a Mississippi river boat for many years, wrote in his book *Life on the Mississippi*, "ten thousand river commissions, with the mines of the world at their back, cannot tame that lawless stream, cannot curb it or define it, cannot say to it 'Go here,' or Go there, and make it obey; cannot save a shore which it has sentenced; cannot bar its path with an obstruction which it will not tear down, dance over, and laugh at." The great river wants to carve a new path to the Gulf of Mexico; only the Old River Control Structure keeps it at bay.

Failure of the Old River Control Structure and the resulting jump of the Mississippi to a new path to the Gulf would be a severe blow to America's economy, robbing New Orleans, Baton Rouge, and the critical industrial corridor between them of the fresh water needed to live and do business. Since a huge portion of our imports and exports ship along the Mississippi River, a closure would cost \$295 million per day, [said Gary LaGrange](#), executive director of the Port of New Orleans, during the great flood of 2011. An extended closure of the Lower Mississippi to shipping might cost tens of billions. Since barges on the Mississippi carry 60% of U.S. grain to market, a long closure of the river to barge traffic could cause a significant spike in global food prices, potentially resulting in political upheaval like the "Arab Spring" unrest in 2011, and the specter of famine in vulnerable food-insecure nations of the Third World.

Read the rest of Part 1 [here](#).

Read Part 2 [Escalating Floods Putting Mississippi River's Old River Control Structure at Risk](#).

Read Part 3 [If the Old River Control Structure Fails: A Catastrophe With Global Impact](#)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Since [this video](#) was shown at the LFMA Annual Conference, there have been several requests from locals and vendors of how green infrastructure components are incorporated into FEMA funded elevation projects. Join Michelle Gonzales and Maggie Talley for a short discussion and overview of how projects are selected and submitted to FEMA. See examples of implementation successes and challenges. Weather permitting there will also be site visits to locations where green infrastructure components have been installed. If you have any questions or would like to RSVP, please email Michelle at mgonzales@rostan.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

LFMA Summer Workshop

July 19, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. —12:00 p.m.

Scott Events Center
110 Lion Club Rd
Scott, LA 70583
AGENDA – TBA



Workshop Contact: Tammy Vincent

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ASFPM's 44th Annual National Conference



Stay tuned for more details!

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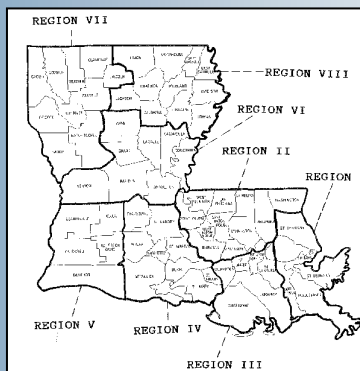


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