



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

FEMA

HMA
Hazard Mitigation Assistance

Mitigation Minute

Updated Guidance Now Available for NFIP Building Performance Requirements

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Technical Bulletins provide guidance for complying with the NFIP's building performance requirements. The bulletins help state and local officials interpret the NFIP regulations and are also useful resources for homeowners, insurance agents, building professionals, and designers.

User's Guide to Technical Bulletin
Developed in Accordance with the National Flood Insurance Program
NFIP Technical Bulletin 0 / July 2019

Elevator Installation
For Buildings Located in Special Flood Hazard Areas
In Accordance with the National Flood Insurance Program
NFIP Technical Bulletin 4 / June 2019

Corrosion Protection for Metal Connectors and Fasteners in Coastal Areas
In Accordance with the National Flood Insurance Program
NFIP Technical Bulletin 8 / June 2019

FEMA is currently in the process of updating all 12 technical bulletins.

Three revised technical bulletins are now available:

- TB 0:** The technical bulletin **user's guide**
- TB 4:** NFIP regulations concerning the **installation of elevators** below the Base Flood Elevation in Special Flood Hazard Areas
- TB 8:** Guidance on **corrosion-resistant metal connectors** for the construction of buildings in coastal areas

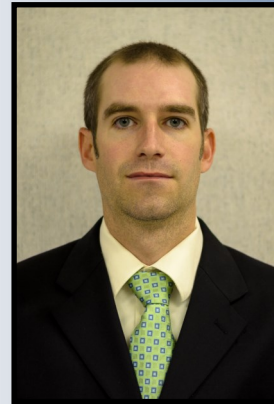
Look for additional technical bulletin updates in the coming months!

Learn more about these changes at

<https://www.fema.gov/nfip-technical-bulletins> or visit
<https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/166093>

for more information.

From the Chair



Toby Fruge', PE, CFM

On September 4, 2019 a newly created House Subcommittee was setup and their inaugural meeting took place at the state capital. This committee is chaired by Chip Kline, executive assistant to the governor for coastal activities and chairperson for CPRA. Here are my notes from this meeting:

Cindy O'Neal, LaDOTD, was asked to speak to provide an update on the NFIP for the state. She went through several slides about policies and rep loss structures. Currently in the state of LA there are 25,517 rep loss structures. She then went into what she calls issues with the program. The first is the fact that FEMA does not recognize structures built on pier and beam to be released from the mandatory flood insurance requirement. Only homes built on fill can apply for a LOMR. This is because FEMA puts structures in or out the flood zone based upon the lowest adjacent grade. Since pier and beam buildings don't bring in fill, their lowest adjacent grade is below the BFE. Even though a home may be elevated 10 feet above ground, they still must purchase flood insurance. Cindy went on to say that since fill in floodplains is a hot topic and can cause issues, this is a huge catch 22 and something at the federal level needs to be changed.

Cindy's second point had to do with freeboard. She is urging statewide legislation to require a minimum of 1 foot freeboard for all new construction above the BFE. She believes the only way to have requirements like this passed is to do it at the state level because local politics play such a huge role.

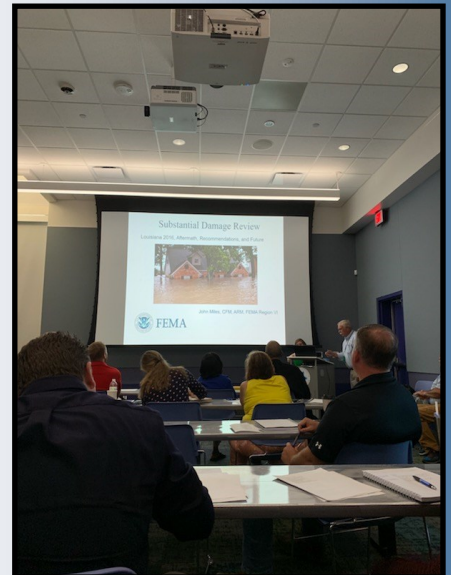
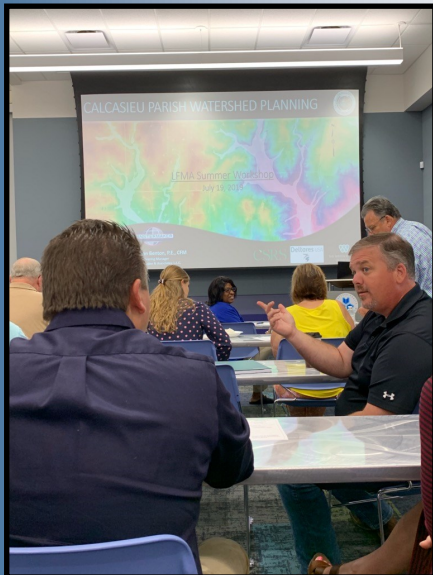
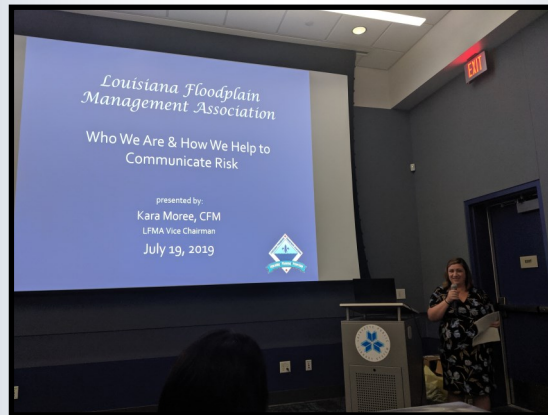
Pat Forbes, Executive Director of OCD, spoke next. He gave an update on the Watershed Initiative. HUD issued guidance on the spending of the \$1.2B on August 30, 2019. 50% of the funds must be spent in 10 specific Parishes. These include EBR, Ascension, Livingston, St Tammany, etc. Funds should be available for spending by the spring of 2020.

David Maurstad, Chief Executive of the NFIP, presented on Risk Rate 2.0. David claims the new evaluation procedure will provide "fair and accurate" insurance ratings. These ratings will be structure specific and storm based. The program is to begin April 1, 2020 with implantation beginning October 1, 2020. The program will be rolled out in segments. Price of homes and their rebuilding costs will be included in your flood insurance rate. Commercial structures will not be rolled out in the first segment. Rates will be dependent on your risk of flooding due to hurricanes, riverine, and urban risks. Your rate will not be determine by only one risk but by all three.

Michael Eby, Senator Cassidy's Office, updated on NFIP extension. NFIP runs out on September 30, 2019 without reauthorization. Senator Cassidy is working on a bill to reauthorize and make a few changes to the program. The first will lower the maximum annual rate increase from 18% per policy to 9% increase per policy annually. The bill would increase the cap on residential maximum building coverage from \$250k to \$500k. The bill would also include language to setup Risk Rate 2.0.

LFMA Summer Workshop

The summer workshop was held in Scott, LA this past July and was a huge success! We had 59 attendees. On the agenda were a variety of engaging speakers. Thanks to all who participated and especially to our sponsors.



Recent findings from National Geodetic Survey show Louisiana is in fact sinking

Submitted by Darla Duet



By [Rachael Thomas](#) | July 16, 2019 at 3:53 PM CDT - Updated July 17 at 10:12 AM

BATON ROUGE, La. (WAFB) - It has been 29 years since the [National Geodetic Survey \(NGS\)](#) measured Louisiana's subsidence, but according to recent results from 2018, the state's elevation is changing.

With the help of [LSU's Center for Geoinformatics \(C4G\)](#), NGS completed four absolute gravity observations.

"This is the second observation NGS has performed in Louisiana, with the first one having taken place at the University of New Orleans in 1989. Since then, the four additional observations through 2018 show a cumulative apparent subsidence of 147 mm in 29 years, which is 5 mm a year," said LSU Chief of Geodesy Cliff Mugnier.

C4G says a closer look at the results show Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Oakdale, Hammond, and Shreveport have not changed in elevation, while other areas are instead sinking.

Read the rest [here](#).

Upcoming FEMA Region 6 Webinars

Submitted by Melissa Becker

September 24, 2019 - Resilient Communities using Base Level Engineering: Ideas for Floodplain Administrators

October 29, 2019 - Letters of Map Change (LOMCs) for Floodplain Managers

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fema-region-6-virtual-brown-bag-tickets-33718884090>



New Communication Toolkit from FEMA





New Flood Risk Communication Toolkit for Community Officials Features Mitigation

FEMA's New Flood Risk Communication Toolkit was developed to help community officials begin and maintain an open channel for communication with the public about flood risk during the flood mapping process, but it is also useful at other times, including seasonal or annual events such as hurricane season or flood awareness week.

The toolkit can help officials create a plan to communicate with critical audiences, raise awareness of flood risk during the flood mapping process, and motivate flood risk reduction efforts.

The toolkit includes templates and guides for:

- ✓ Designing a communication plan
- ✓ Effective public meetings
- ✓ Creating and delivering a social media strategy to address flood risk

The toolkit is supported by story maps and videos that focus on the value of mitigation.






Download the complete toolkit at: <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/179697>

Check out the complete video series at: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL720Kw_OoijlUiWw2bDc-On5MjQw13E6e

Explore several story maps on various subjects, including flood mitigation success stories (<https://www.floodeconomics.com>).

ISO/CRS News

Submitted by Mechelle Olivier

Sherry Harper has been tapped as the new Director of Natural Hazards, replacing long-time Director William Trakimus who retired May 31. Sherry began her career in 1991 as an Urban and Regional planner with Okaloosa County, FL where she was later promoted to Planning Manager. Sherry obtained her AICP in 2000 and CFM in 2001. She has been with Insurance Services Office working with the Community Rating System since 2003 and served as a Senior Technical Coordinator with the CRS program, conducting reviews of hazard mitigation plans, coordinating the repetitive loss updating, and other various programmatic functions. Sherry has a Bachelor's degree in Education and a Master of Arts in Public Administration. Sherry took over as Director on June 3.

Amanda Gowens is the newest addition to the ISO/CRS technical coordinating team. Amanda will be the 5th Technical Coordinator, and her first day in her new role was Monday, June 17. Amanda joined ISO in 2009 and very quickly established herself as a dedicated, talented and versatile member of the ISO/CRS team. Her dedication to her communities was immediately noticed as she steadily gained one of the most positive reputations with her communities. In addition, she assumed additional responsibilities with ease, and became a lead instructor for EMI and field deployed classes.

Jonathan Smith will replace Sherry Harper on the ISO/CRS technical coordinating team. Jonathan joined ISO in 2009, working the Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama areas. Since then Jonathan has worked all across the US conducting some of the most challenging gradings and has always demonstrated a willingness to take on new challenges in new areas. Since 2016 Jonathan has been assisting in Activity 510 reviews, and has become a part of the 510 review team, lending his experience and expertise as a former floodplain official, city planner and GIS Technician. Jonathan is also one of the instructors for the EMI and field deployed CRS classes. Jonathan will continue his scheduled visits for the remainder of the year while in training for his new position. Mechelle Olivier from Houma, LA will pick up Jonathan's Louisiana communities beginning in 2020.

PDM and FMA grant application period opening soon!



Fiscal Year 2019 Grants for Pre-Disaster Mitigation and Flood Mitigation Assistance

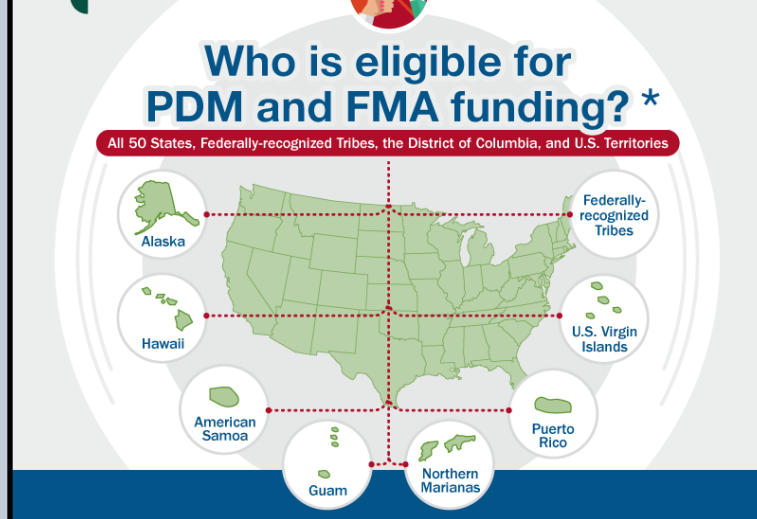
A total of \$410M in funding is available for these competitive grant programs.

PDM \$250M **FMA \$160M**

Application Period: September 30, 2019 → January 31, 2020

Who is eligible for PDM and FMA funding? *

All 50 States, Federally-recognized Tribes, the District of Columbia, and U.S. Territories



For full eligibility requirements visit www.fema.gov/pre-disaster-mitigation-grant-program and www.fema.gov/flood-mitigation-assistance-grant-program.

eGrants Webinars



Mitigation Minute

Join an upcoming **eGrants Webinar** FOR BEGINNERS

With the application period for the FMA and PDM grant programs fast approaching, FEMA invites you to join an eGrants webinar for basic and new users.

Applicants and subapplicants to the **Fiscal Year 2019** grant programs for...

 AND 

... will need to use the **Mitigation eGrants System** to create and submit their applications for mitigation grants.

This webinar will be offered **four times** and prospective Applicants and subapplicants may attend any session.

- ▶ **Wednesday • September 18 • 9am - 10am EDT**
- ▶ **Thursday • September 19 • 5pm - 6pm EDT**
- ▶ **Wednesday • October 16 • 5pm - 6pm EDT**
- ▶ **Monday • October 21 • 9am - 10pm EDT**



TOPICS COVERED WILL INCLUDE:

How to access eGrants
Where to go for help
Plenty of time for Q&A



PDM AND FMA APPLICATION PERIOD:

SEP
30

2019

through

JAN
31

2020

All requests for eGrants technical assistance for the FY19 grant cycle **MUST BE SUBMITTED NO LATER THAN 3PM E.T. ON JANUARY 29, 2020**

This will help ensure timely resolution of technical issues prior to the application deadline.

See you there!



View the full HMA webinar schedule and instructions on how to join at <https://www.fema.gov/2019-nofo-webinar-schedule-hazard-mitigation-assistance-grants>.

Learn more about eGrants at <https://www.fema.gov/mitigation-egrants-system-0>.

View the DHS Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) FY 2019 Pre-Disaster Mitigation and Fact Sheet at <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/182171>.

View the DHS Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) FY 2019 Flood Mitigation Assistance and Fact Sheet at <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/182169>.

Why is Louisiana seeing more 'showers on steroids,' intense downpours these days?

Submitted by Darla Duet

[BY CHARLES LUSSIER | STAFF WRITER](#) AUG 11, 2019 - 5:32 PM

If it seems like rainfalls in south Louisiana are becoming more intense and flash flooding more frequent, it's not your imagination.

A new research study led by a team from LSU closely examined rainfall amounts in Louisiana over a period of decades and found that today's showers, on average, are more intense and deposit their rain loads more quickly than they did in the early 60s.

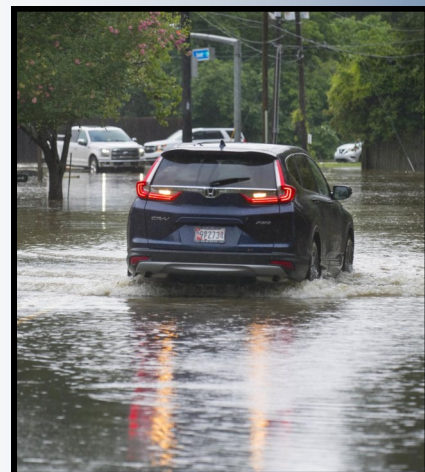
The result is flash flooding that surprises and sometimes strands motorists and leaves streets and yards underwater before the rains soon move on.

Barry Keim, state climatologist and professor at LSU, notes that these aren't your typical afternoon storms that cap off hot summer days with a brief, cooling dose of precipitation. Rather, he said, these are "showers on steroids."

And he and other researchers say these kinds of summer rains may be the new normal for south Louisiana.

Keim says a normal summer thunder shower starts with the morning sun which heats up the air above the ground. That heated air rises into the atmosphere through the day, bringing moisture with it. The water vapor condenses into cumulus clouds until enough droplets of water fill the clouds and then fall to the ground as rain.

Read the rest of the story [here](#).



\$19 million in grant funding coming to Terrebonne to rebuild local marsh

Submitted by Mitch McDonald



Good news for Southeast Louisiana: Close to \$25 million in grants were given today to Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana.

U.S. Senator Bill Cassidy, M.D. (R-LA) sent out a news release announcing the grants, given from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to the CPRA of Louisiana.

The amount of the grants totals \$24.8 million and it will go for three projects in the state designed to create and nourish marsh habitat, build terraces and restore ridge habitat along Louisiana's coast.

Altogether, once complete, 1,309 acres of marsh will be created or nourished by the projects.

“It is vital that we protect local communities and industries along our coast,” said Dr. Cassidy. “Securing funding like this is essential to restore our dissolving coastline. I thank the Trump administration for their support of our costal restoration efforts.”

Read the rest of the story [here](#).

\$3 Million: Flood feasibility money finally flows to St. Tammany Parish

Submitted by Vicki Holmes

By [THOMAS PERUMEAN](#)

It's been a long three years. In 2016 St. Tammany Parish requested money to conduct a feasibility study for proposed flood control projects as part of the Water Resources Development Act.

The bill passed, but the parish never got the money. Finally, after persistent action by Congressman Steve Scalise on behalf of the Parish, the federal government is providing the money.

"We've been working hard to try to get the Corps of Engineers to pay attention to us in our very first effort. And so much of the thanks go to Congressman Scalise," Parish President Pat Brister says.

The \$3-million dollars will go to the Army Corps of Engineers to conduct the study. It's the first time in a long time attention is being paid to the North Shore and coastal area of St. Tammany, rather than on Orleans Parish.

"We have our own needs over here, too," Brister said. "And Congressman Scalise recognized that and has been helping us to get the Corp to do this study."

Brister says the study will be on much more than just the flood prone North Shore of Lake Pontchartrain.

"The Pearl River, the Tchefuncte River, a lot of our flooding comes from riverine flooding," Brister notes. "So that will be part of the study also."

Brister says the Louisiana Master Plan will be used as the guide for the whole of St. Tammany Parish as for flood and shoreline protection. She also indicated ecosystem restoration will be included in the study.

September is National Preparedness Month



Week 1: Sept 1-7

Save Early for Disaster Costs

Week 2: Sept 8-14

Make a Plan to Prepare for Disasters

Week 3: Sept 15-21

Teach Youth to Prepare for Disasters

Week 4: Sept 22-30

Get Involved in Your Community's Preparedness

See [here](#) for resources and information!

Disaster Declaration for Louisiana

DECLARED SEPTEMBER 19, 2019

SUMMARY

STATE: Louisiana
NUMBER: FEMA-4462-DR
INCIDENT: Flooding
INCIDENT PERIOD: May 10 to July 24, 2019
DATE REQUESTED BY GOVERNOR: August 15, 2019
FEDERAL COORDINATING OFFICER: John E. Long
National FCO Program

DESIGNATIONS AND TYPES OF ASSISTANCE:

INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE (Assistance to individuals and households):

Not Requested.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE (Assistance for emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities):

Assumption, Caldwell, Catahoula, Concordia, East Carroll, Franklin, Iberville, Ouachita, Pointe Coupee, Rapides, St. Martin, Terrebonne, and West Feliciana Parishes.

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM (Assistance for actions taken to prevent or reduce long term risk to life and property from natural hazards):

All areas in the State of Louisiana are eligible for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

OTHER: Additional designations may be made at a later date if requested by the state and warranted by the results of further damage assessments.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

LFMA Fall Workshop

October 11, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. —12:00 p.m.

Cheniere Lake Lodge
104 Cheniere Lake Drive
West Monroe, LA 71292

DRT Training
CFM Exam



Workshop Contact: Lisa Richardson

lrichardson@oppj.org

318-398-9780

Hotel Block: Holiday Inn Express, 603 Constitution Dr., West Monroe, LA

[Hotel Booking Link](#)

Room Rate: \$96.00 if booked by 9/26/19

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

LFMA 37th Annual Business and Technical Conference

April 15-17, 2020

Terrebonne Parish



Workshop Contact: Lisa Ledet

lisaledet@tpcg.org

985-873-6567

More details to come soon!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ASFPM's 44th Annual National Conference



The call for abstracts is now open! Details [here](#).

See the countdown to conference timeline [here](#).

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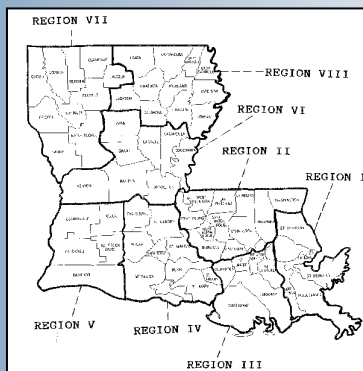


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