



NEWS & VIEWS

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ASFPM State Mentoring Program Reboots for 2022

Strong, capable states are critical for reducing flood losses and protecting the natural functions of floodplains. That means the people responsible for building state capabilities for effective floodplain management must continue to expand their skill set, deepen their expertise, and share their knowledge with others.

Whether you are an experienced state floodplain management practitioner or just getting started in the profession at the state level, there’s a place for you in the [ASFPM State Mentoring Program](#). Developed in coordination with FEMA, the ASFPM State Mentoring Program is seeking to expand its network of mentoring partnerships and if you are a state floodplain manager, state NFIP coordinator, or other floodplain management staff at the state level, we invite you to join us in this important endeavor.

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Changes Coming to News & Views

Starting next month, we’ll begin transitioning News & Views from a bimonthly PDF newsletter to an e-newsletter with a fresh, new look and a more frequent publishing schedule. The new News & Views will arrive in your inbox twice per month in the even months (Feb., April, June, Aug., Oct. and Dec.) and once a month during the odd months.



The new schedule will allow ASFPM to provide more timely updates in a more mobile-friendly format. Articles will reside on the floods.org website where they will be categorized by date and topic to make it easy for you to find the information you’re most interested in while staying current on association news and industry insights.

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(State Mentoring, continued from page 1)

The objectives of the ASFPM State Mentoring Program are to:

- **Build floodplain management knowledge, skill, and capability:** The mentoring program helps state floodplain managers assess in which areas they can improve their effectiveness.
- **Provide trusted guidance and feedback:** Mentoring adds value to training and education through relationships with tenured practitioners who share insight and on-the-job experience.
- **Create a peer network and communication forum:** Mentoring activities provide expanded opportunities to meet other floodplain management professionals to discuss valid, relevant, and field-tested information.
- **Provide situational guidance:** State floodplain managers (new and experienced) often find themselves in “crisis management” mode when flood disasters, new technologies, or political priorities demand immediate attention. The mentoring program provides quick problem-solving support and assistance for handling job-related concerns.
- **Sustain professional development:** The mentoring program helps establish relationships with state floodplain managers, creates benchmarks for effective floodplain management, and supports ongoing learning.

[Mentor information](#)

[Mentee information](#)

We're excited to see this program grow and encourage you to check out the [ASFPM Mentoring Handbook](#) to learn more about the program. The handbook is loaded with helpful information on roles and responsibilities, mentoring approaches available to participants, and more.

Please contact Bill Nechamen, CFM, ASFPM State Mentoring Program manager at mentoradmin@floods.org if you have any questions. *Please Note: Local and county level staff are not eligible to participate in the program at this time.*

ASFPM State Mentoring Program

Learn more at
no.floods.org/mentoring



(Changes to News & Views, continued from page 1)

We're also planning to keep the newsletter short and easy to navigate, so you can get the information you need and then get on with your day.

The Insider, ASFPM's member newsletter, will continue its current publishing schedule and format – with a PDF sent to members on the first of each odd month. Past issues of the Insider are available in the member portal. [Learn more about other member benefits.](#)

We're excited about these changes that are coming to News & Views and we're confident they'll provide readers with a better experience. You can expect to receive the first issue of the new and improved News & Views on March 15.

From the Director's Desk

By Chad Berginnis, CFM
Executive Director, ASFPM



RFI...And We Are Off!!

Last week completed the first leg of what I hope will be a journey towards new and improved floodplain management standards for the nation. More than 400 organizations and individuals submitted comments in response to FEMA's Request for Information (RFI) on minimum land use and development standards within the National Flood Insurance Program (see related article, page 4).

FEMA's leadership deserves to be commended for responding positively to the joint ASFPM and NRDC petition for rulemaking last year by issuing this RFI, which has the potential for leading to real, long-lasting NFIP reform. This much is certain, as flood losses continue to rise, something has to be done.

As most of you recall, the NFIP is a four-legged stool, each leg having the ability to impact and reduce flood damage: floodplain mapping, flood insurance, flood mitigation, and floodplain management standards (regulations). But, I would argue that among the four legs, none has more potential for affecting change than improving the minimum land use and development standards of the NFIP.

Sure, we absolutely need mapping to tell us where the flood risk exists, and the [\\$3.2 to \\$11.8 billion](#) to get the job done under the requirements of the National Flood Mapping Program is really pretty cheap when compared to the annual damages brought about by flooding. It seems that we could spend an endless amount of money on flood mitigation and it wouldn't be enough given the amount of buildings and infrastructure at risk from today's and tomorrow's flood threats. Nonetheless, investments in flood mitigation are still critically important not only to reduce risk to families and businesses, but to lessen the financial risk to the NFIP by eliminating repetitive loss structures. Let's hope that the [\\$3.5 billion of FMA funding from the infrastructure bill](#) makes a sizeable dent in those properties. Flood insurance is becoming more actuarially sound as a result of Risk Rating 2.0, which should help better communicate actual flood risk via flood insurance cost. But the one thing that hasn't been touched in 35 years are the minimum land use and development standards. It's time for that to change.

There are literally hundreds of recommendations for improving the minimum floodplain management standards of the NFIP. From freeboard to critical facility protection and siting, and from cumulative substantial damage to having no-rise floodways — all are improvements that several states and communities have already taken. We need a sensible and practical approach to addressing and incorporating endangered species concerns, and we need to finally declare that there are some uses that just aren't compatible with floodprone areas (the NFIP minimum standards have a total of zero use prohibitions). But to me, the area that could lead to the greatest improvement is to have much better standards that apply to subdivisions.

Most new development today happens through the development of land subdivisions, which are typically carried out under state enabling authority. This authority typically gives communities the authority to regulate the layout of the land, roads, and utilities in accordance with local community plans and subject to local approval. Enabling statutes for subdivision control commonly permit or require the planning board to adopt subdivision regulations. These regulations specify the procedure to be followed in submitting plats for review, the information to be shown on preliminary and final drawings, and general standards for subdivision design. These regulations govern the actions of both the planning board and subdivider. The general standards for subdivision design govern anything from layout and locations of

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lots, to design of stormwater management features, to the design, construction, and maintenance of infrastructure in the subdivision. Subdivision standards address both land use and construction. And this is where there is an opportunity for vastly improving NFIP minimum standards.

About five years ago, in partnership with the American Planning Association, a Planners Advisory Service report on subdivision design in flood hazard areas was developed (PAS 584, found [here](#)). It contained more than 60 standards suggested for adoption that could improve overall flood resiliency. Two of them; however, stand out as the most important of the bunch:

1. If the tract being subdivided includes any watercourse that is designated as a USGS blue line stream that isn't mapped by FEMA, the developer is responsible for mapping it.
2. The entire building envelope — that includes the home/business, accessory structure, and septic/septic field replacement — must be located on natural ground outside of the identified 100-year floodplain (that means no fill).

If the NFIP minimum standards were revised to include just these two standards that would apply to all subdivisions — or, at a minimum, major subdivisions — we would have an entirely new approach to land development and its relationship with flood hazard areas and avoid billions of dollars of future flood losses. And there would be the benefit of generating new flood mapping as development occurs. Of course, there are dozens of other standards in PAS-584 worthy of consideration as well.

In the end, good floodplain management is about avoiding risky development and reducing post-disaster suffering. It's about no more sensational headlines because flood risk was anticipated, protected against, and avoided. And for those very reasons, floodplain management at the local and state level, especially higher standards, are often misunderstood by the public and elected officials. It is up to us, the floodplain managers of the world, to not only provide sensible recommendations on better standards, but to always remain vigilant in explaining to local and state officials the reasons for having such standards. In the meantime, we can only hope that FEMA's rulemaking process is ultimately successful and floodplain management is truly improved in the nation for all.

Your partner in loss reduction,



ASFPM Makes Recommendations for NFIP Reform

ASFPM submitted comments to FEMA on Jan. 27 urging the agency to update the National Flood Insurance Program's floodplain management standards and other program elements to better protect communities and critical infrastructure from increasing flood risk associated.

The comments come in response to FEMA's Request for Information issued Oct. 12, 2021 as the result of a [petition](#) ASFPM filed with NRDC earlier in the year.

In its opening letter, ASFPM stated that strengthening the NFIP with better mapping, regulation, mitigation, and insurance provisions will provide communities the opportunity to anticipate and reduce flood risk — saving lives and protecting property.

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Policy Matters!

By Larry Larson, P.E., CFM
Director Emeritus – Senior Policy Advisor, ASFPM



Input on Levee Safety Needed

USACE and FEMA are working together to develop a National Levee Safety Program. Each agency has a role in levee safety and this is an attempt to coordinate the programs and help levee owners, communities, and states get a handle on the elements involved in such programs. As part of this initiative, they are hosting a series of webinars for stakeholders in January and February. Visit www.leveesafety.org to see the dates and sign up for one.

Why is it important you stay abreast of this? First of all, there are more than 30,000 miles of levees in the United States. About half have actually been inspected and have some level of approval from the Corps (if the Corps was provided tax dollars to build it), FEMA (if FEMA determined that it met standards to remove floodplain development regulations behind the levee) or a state (if the state has a program to regulate levees). The rest of them may never had been designed or built to any standard, and certainly not to today's standards.

Many levees have people living behind them, some of whom may actually think the levee always protects them from flooding. Some are not even aware they are behind a levee. Having that awareness can help people decide whether to buy there, what to do if they are told to evacuate because the levee may be overtopped or wash out, who is responsible for the levee, and so on.

We are pleased the Corps and FEMA are working together on this effort, and the webinars are your opportunity to listen to what they are doing and to make suggestions for improvement. What are they missing? What does your community need to know to better manage a levee? How should residents be notified about levee safety issues? What might happen if the levee is threatened by flooding?

It is also important the for Corps and FEMA to explain how locals and states should consider what is needed for any levee analysis; including the setback of any rebuild or new levee or the removal of a failed levee. Levees can present not only a safety threat to people and community but also present a significant liability to the community. Levees can offer some protection to those behind it, but they can also provide a false sense of security, thinking it will always protect. Additionally, levees interrupt the natural functions of a floodplain and by design, raise flood elevations outside of the levee footprint.

While the National Levee Safety Program will provide some guidelines on levee safety, it is important to remember that levee adequacy will only be assured if some entity has regulatory oversight of the levee to make sure it is planned, designed, constructed, and properly operated and maintained. Federal agencies do not have regulatory authority. They may provide tax funds to build, but they do not regulate the levee nor ensure its safety. How do you think that needs to be done?

We urge any of you who deal with or have levees in your state or community to [register](#) for these webinars and provide your ideas on the issues and priorities the levee program needs to address.

Levee Safety Committee Seeks Shareholder Reps

Applications are now being accepted to serve as a stakeholder representative on the new Committee on Levee Safety. Information about committee responsibilities and application requirements can be found in the [Federal Register](#) (document # 2022-01159). Applications are due March 22, 2022.



Managed Retreat in the United States: The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Housing and Urban Development have funded managed retreat across the United States (small dots). Large circles note communities who have relocated together or are considering relocation, and stars indicate academic studies and reports. (Credit: A.R. Siders, “Managed Retreat in the United States,” One Earth, October 2019.)

It’s Time to Retreat from Floodplains

By William S. Becker

The “perfect storm” has become a cliché, but it is the perfect term for the growing threat of floods in the United States. They are already our most frequent and costly weather disasters. Now, four factors are converging to make them much more dangerous and costly.

In addition, these four factors — global climate change, population shifts, outdated flood control structures and policies, and unaffordable costs — create the conditions in which moving people and property out of floodplains is the only safe and sensible way to mitigate riverine and coastal flood disasters.

Global climate change. We know what climate change is doing. As the Earth warms, evaporation increases and more moisture collects in the atmosphere. The results include bigger rain events and more floods. Sea level rise is affecting our coastal communities with more frequent “sunny day floods” and stronger storm surges. Rising water levels are accelerating erosion while groundwater withdrawals are causing land to subside in many places along the coasts. North America is literally sinking and shrinking.

More than 8.6 million people and \$1 trillion worth of property are [especially susceptible to coastal floods](#). In less than one generation, most of America’s coastal areas will be at risk of flooding [30 or more days each year](#). In the meantime, the most comprehensive analysis counts [41 million](#) Americans living in reach of 100-year river floods. But America’s flood-prone population is even larger because 500-year and even 1,000-year flood events are already [happening more frequently](#).

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Population shifts: Experts say climate change will force the next great migration of Americans, comparable to what happened in the Dust Bowl. [Researchers say](#) rising seas could “reshape the United States” by forcing people to retreat inland. One estimate is that 13 million coastal residents in the U.S. will be [forced to relocate](#) during the rest of this century.

Millions more Americans will move from other places climate change makes unhealthy, unsafe or uninhabitable because of wildfires, heat, drought, and riverine floods. “The ‘climate niche’ for habitability is shifting, and so too must we,” [one expert notes](#). But this massive relocation will be even worse because [more Americans are moving into disaster-prone areas today than are moving out](#).

Outdated structures and policies. We are living today with the aging legacy of 20th century flood control structures along with some absurd federal policies. The underlying premise has been that many Americans want to live close to water and they have that right.¹ Shoreline and riverside property owners are plentiful enough to constitute a significant voting bloc. Cheap land attracts real estate developers to floodplains and communities welcome the new tax base.

Consequently, since the federal government took responsibility for flood protection in 1936, its approach has been to change the behaviors of rivers and oceans rather than people. As a result, all taxpayers are required to enable risky decisions about where to build and to indemnify them by paying for uninsured flood damage. “We (thought) we could build our way out of almost any problem, with engineers revered in American society then as only rock stars and sports heroes are today,” the late water law expert [Robert Adler recalled](#) in 1995.

But in the 1960s, Congress found that disaster damage kept going up despite large investments in structural flood control. It began retreating with baby steps. It acknowledged the ecological value of floodplains in 1969; instructed the Corps to give equal consideration to nonstructural measures in 1974; and increased support for government buyouts of floodplain homes in 1993.

In 1968, Congress created the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which allows “floodproofed” buildings to be built or repaired in floodplains. The NFIP lacks the authority to refuse payments for repetitive claims. As a result, buildings can be flooded and repaired over and over again with the help of taxpayer money. From 1989 through 2018, the program made multiple insurance payouts totaling [more than \\$22 billion](#) to nearly 229,000 “repetitive flood loss properties.”

Today, the legacy of structural flood control includes nearly 92,000 dams and 40,000 miles of levees plus countless seawalls, abutments, artificial reefs, and other devices meant to control coastal erosion and storm surges. Most dams were built by landowners, utilities, communities, and developers for water storage, crop protection, power generation, and recreation, but the safety of [more than 43%](#) of the U.S. population depends on structures, including many that do not meet standards for protecting lives.

The average dam is approaching 60 years old; the average levee is more than 50. Few if any were designed to handle the record flood events we see today – events that will get even larger as climate change progresses. Even well-constructed and maintained dams are “inherently hazardous structures,” according to the American Society of Dam Safety Officers. Besides age, poor construction, and deferred maintenance, they are vulnerable to operator errors, unanticipated volumes of water, and even burrowing roots and rodents.

Rising costs: Between 2010 and 2018, annual flood damage in the U.S. totaled \$17 billion, four times more than in the 1980s. The NFIP is in arrears. And flood damage strains the resources of states and local governments, the first lines of defense in disaster response and recovery. The most recent assessment by the American Society of Civil Engineers estimates we need \$115 billion immediately to fix and maintain

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¹ Americans have a constitutional right to own property, but not wherever they want. Governments have the right to control land uses with zoning, and to limit development on public lands, for example.

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[dams](#) and [levees](#), and they will be an ongoing liability.

In the meantime, [a federal study](#) determined a nationwide buyout program would cost about \$180 billion and save \$1.6 trillion over 100 years. It concluded that buyouts are the most effective mitigation option, saving \$6.50 for each \$1 spent, compared to \$2 in savings for each dollar spent on levees or floodproofing.

Shifting from Flood Control to Flood Avoidance

Competent risk management requires that we anticipate worst-case scenarios. One is frequent catastrophes as flood control structures fail and coastal communities are subjected to the escalating physical, economic, psychological, and social stresses of climate change.

So, we are confronted by big decisions. Shall we spend billions more dollars to maintain, repair, and upgrade aging structures? Should we build even more of them? Or should we accelerate the shift in national policy from flood control to flood avoidance, and make the relocation of floodplain properties the mitigation strategy of choice?

With large cities and critical commerce located near water, relocations will not always be possible. But where they are, “managed retreat” is the least expensive, safest, and only permanent solution. Rather than a little-used tool in the Corps’ and FEMA’s toolboxes, relocation should be the tool of choice.

But to employ it at a larger scale, FEMA would have to [fix its buyout program](#) to process home purchases much faster, engage in community-scale buyouts, and correct inherent economic injustices in the current buyout program. Congress would have to give FEMA the power to refuse payouts to repetitively flooded properties. Since many different federal agencies can be helpful in a relocation, they should be coordinated by a “one-stop” federal office.

Some landlocked cities already are advertising themselves as “climate havens,” recognizing that an influx of new workers and industries would be beneficial. The Biden administration should work on a plan to help declining rural and urban communities capture those benefits.

In the meantime, the Corps should substantially expand its work on restoring coastal and riverine ecosystems that retard flooding by reforesting watersheds, putting meander back in rivers, and rebuilding wetlands, coastal reefs, and barrier islands.

Communities would have to forbid any further floodplain development, preferably in areas vulnerable to 500-year events. And property owners would have to realize that government-supported buyouts could be their last chance to recover all the equity in their homes.

The handful of communities that have relocated so far understand it is a disruptive and emotional process. Reforms will make it easier. And we will find that when more cities move their people out of reach of floods, many more will follow.

William S. Becker is the executive director of the Presidential Climate Action Project. He discusses flood avoidance in greater detail, as well as other topics on our relationship with nature, in a new book: “The Creeks Will Rise: People Learning to Coexist with Floods,” It’s available from the [Chicago Review Press](#).

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(NFIP Comments, continued from page 4)

ASFPM outlined nine suggested principles for NFIP reform, including:

- NFIP Standards and Regulations must be strengthened to help communities avoid development in high-flood risk areas, increase flood resilience, support social equity, and enhance the natural benefits of floodplains.
- Mapping program must be robust in supporting avoidance in high-risk areas and we must complete mapping throughout the nation. Future conditions for multiple frequencies and time frames must always be included for planning, regulation, and mitigation.
- Mitigation programs must quickly and effectively help property owners and communities relocate existing buildings away from high-risk areas.
- Flood insurance must reflect full risk rates and support better mapping, mitigation, and regulations, and Risk Rating 2.0 must be adjusted to better support and encourage true mitigation, such as building freeboard elevations, utility elevations, and other mitigation measures.
- Disclosure of flood risk must be improved significantly to assist current and prospective residents, local communities, and states to effectively manage existing and future flood risk.

As part of our submitted response to the RFI, ASFPM included 22 pages of member comments collected during the past couple months. These comments aim to provide FEMA with special insights and perspectives from the floodplain management practitioners on the frontlines.

Follow these links to access the documents ASFPM submitted:

- [ASFPM's suggested principles for reforms to the NFIP Program](#)
- [ASFPM member comments](#)
- [ASFPM's National Flood Program and Policies in Review \(NFPPR\), updated to focus on the NFIP RFI](#)
- [The NRDC and ASFPM Petition for Rulemaking requesting that FEMA amend its regulations Implementing the NFIP - Jan 5, 2021](#)

Floodplain Program Lessons from 2011

*By Traci Sears, CFM
NFIP/CAP Coordinator, State of Montana*

Floodplain management plays a critical role to reduce and mitigate flood losses and economic damages. In Montana most large flood events typically result from rain on snow. In 2011, flooding started with ice jams in January and progressed to heavy snowmelt floods starting April through June.

The DNRC Floodplain Community Assistance Program carefully monitored snowpack reports and recognized the need to start outreach campaigns and training events in February and March. The goal was to prepare communities and coordinate recovery efforts prior to the anticipated flood events. As many FPA and DES coordinators with first-hand experience know, planning and training can only take you so far. Once that flood event starts, it's chaotic, all hands-on deck, and many mitigation plans go out the window when disasters don't go as anticipated.



In 2011, the Musselshell River impacted Montana counties and communities located along its watershed corridor.

In 2011, the state dealt with major flooding events and the impacts of erosion, oil spills, riprap breaches, washed away roads and bridges, damaged and destroyed structures, and the issue of standing water. Plus, we also had the difficulties and intricate dynamics of coordinating with local, state, and federal partners during large-scale disaster events. It is essential for county, state, and local officials to learn and understand the details of recovery and mitigation programs to help communities and property owners navigate the bumpy road of rebuilding their lives and their businesses, which can often seem downright impassible at times. Not to be overlooked is the emotional toll on emergency responders, volunteers, and property owners.

The events of 2011 showed Montana the cracks in its recovery foundations and helped improve and guide the recovery front for floodplain management. As the MT NFIP Coordinator, I gained valuable, hands-on knowledge about the importance of having proper safety equipment for inspections, how to conduct inspections after a disaster, the proper channels to request assistance and funding, and the role that floodplain management and managers play before, during, and after disasters. Now I share this experience and knowledge with the Montana communities and FPA's who participate in the NFIP program. I advise floodplain managers to develop a good working relationship and communication channel with their emergency coordinators.

I recommend they provide property and flood risk information to assist stakeholders and help with damage inspections. It is important for floodplain managers to understand this process as they are the only community representatives that can sign off that a structure is substantially damaged for insurance reimbursements.

Additional lessons learned in 2011 include: 1) riprap is expensive, 2) don't drive through flood waters along the Yellowstone River (or any river for that matter), 3) oil spills can derail a mitigation project in a

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millisecond, and 4) watch where you step when doing flood damage inspections — snakes and other critters will find refuge anywhere.

Most importantly:

- Don't underestimate the importance of staging coordination and training events.
- It is critical to have an inventory of the people, resources and equipment available, including cellphone numbers.
- **Take lots of photos and document everything.**
- Have a recovery plan in place for the community.
- Update information in real time (at minimum annually).
- Maintain open lines of communication with recovery teams and stakeholders.

Lastly, be vigilant and try not to be the reason a community or property owner misses out on funding opportunities or available programs. Floodplain management doesn't stop a disaster from occurring, but it can mitigate both economic and physical impacts from flooding.

Reprinted from the December 2021 issue of Montana Higher Ground, a quarterly newsletter from the [Montana Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation](#).

NRCS Encourages Sponsors to Submit Requests for Watershed Funding

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is encouraging local sponsors to submit project requests for funding through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers several programs to help communities improve land and water resources within watersheds as well as relieve imminent hazards to life and property created by a natural disaster.



Programs include the Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program (WFPO), Watershed Rehabilitation Program (REHAB) and Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP).

Funding is available for new projects as well as those already submitted to NRCS. NRCS will give additional consideration to projects in historically underserved communities that directly benefit limited resource areas or socially disadvantaged communities. NRCS will continue to review as funding is available.

Eligible project sponsors include state government entities, local municipalities, conservation districts, and federally-recognized tribal organizations. Sponsors are encouraged to reach out to their state's NRCS Watershed Program Manager with watershed concerns as soon as possible to ensure their project request is in the funding queue for consideration.

State contacts can be found on the links below:

[Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program Managers](#)

[Watershed Rehabilitation Program Managers](#)

[Emergency Watershed Protection Program Managers](#)

Fact sheets, trainings and other resources are available on the [NRCS website](#).

Nominations Due Feb. 10 for ASFPM Awards

This is your last chance to submit a nomination for the 2022 ASFPM Awards. These annual awards recognize the outstanding contributions made by individuals, agencies, and organizations to keep communities safe from flood loss, promote resiliency, and advance the association's mission.

Please preview the submission form before submitting your nomination. See form for [individual awards](#) and the [chapter award](#).

Winners will be honored at the 2022 ASFPM Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida. **The deadline is Feb. 10, 2022.**

AWARD CATEGORIES

Tom Lee State Award for Excellence is given annually to recognize an outstanding floodplain management program or activity at the state level.

James Lee Witt Local Award for Excellence recognizes outstanding local programs or activities at the front lines of floodplain management. Eligible entries include local units of government such as cities, towns and counties.

Larry R. Johnston Local Floodplain Manager of the Year Award honors outstanding individual efforts and contributions at the local level. It recognizes an individual responsible for the development of a distinguished local program or activity, or one who struggles to implement flood hazard reduction at the local level in the absence of sophisticated programs and support.

John R. Sheaffer Award for Excellence in Floodproofing is presented for completed work involving a particular project, work, research, design or publication that exhibits the incorporation of accepted procedures, practices and constraints of flood proofing, or promotes the field or knowledge of flood proofing by enhancing the awareness and use of new procedures, methods, designs and/or products. Individuals, private organizations or governmental units and agencies are eligible.

Outreach/Media Award acknowledges efforts of media to increase information and/or awareness of flood issues with the general public. It is also open to an individual, agency, or organization for exceptional outreach efforts.

John Ivey Award for Superior Efforts in Certification recognizes exceptional efforts to promote the professional certification of floodplain managers.

Meritorious Lifetime Achievement in Floodplain Management Award recognizes individuals who, throughout their career, have achieved success in a significant aspect of floodplain management. These efforts include policy, outreach, implementation, education, government, research, litigation or other actions that demonstrate the advancement of flood loss and risk reduction within the nominee's professional realm.

Outstanding Chapter Award recognizes an ASFPM chapter for exemplary practices and activities that deserve national recognition. It acknowledges distinguished works by a chapter in going above and beyond its mission in a way that can be shared and replicated by other ASFPM chapters.

Goddard-White Award is given to individuals who have had a national impact carrying forward the goals and objectives of floodplain management.

Jerry Louthain Distinguished Service Award is the highest award ASFPM gives to recognize individuals who, through their long-term efforts, have clearly influenced the work of the association.

[Go here](#) submit your nomination. To learn more, [visit the ASFPM website](#).

Transmission Lines in the Floodplain

By Cheyenne Sun Eagle, CFM
NFIP Specialist, State of Kansas

Developers and community officials often have questions about transmission lines going into the floodplain. There are many considerations for what is required and how permitting needs to be done. All development in the floodplain will need a local floodplain development permit as well as consideration of endangered species. In addition, any work in the floodway will need a no-rise certificate from an engineer. Other project considerations are dependent upon how the poles will be installed as discussed further below.

If not in the floodway, the transmission line poles can usually be done with a “blanket permit,” meaning that all poles in the floodplain for one community can be done under one permit. Other work being done in conjunction with a transmission line project such as temporary culverts, pathways, or other construction, would need separate permits. Transmission lines in general are simple permits since they inherently meet the requirements of flood damage-resistant materials, proper anchoring, and the utility component being elevated at the top of the pole above the base flood elevation. One thing to keep in mind is that some poles for anchoring are set in large cement bases that could possibly constitute “fill” in the floodplain. Under these circumstances, the community official should ask the state for a determination on whether a State DWR permit would be required.

If transmission lines are going into a floodway, it is advisable to ask for a separate permit along with the no-rise certificate from an engineer. This will be separate from any that are going into the floodplain outside of the floodway. This is an important aspect of compliance with the regulations of the floodway that are to carefully document all development and allow the floodway to convey floodwaters.

As with other projects, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) must be considered and you should contact your local field office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services for a determination. There have been transmission line projects that have been delayed due to the possibility of disturbing an endangered species habitat. Another thing to consider is that these projects may stretch out for miles and intersect various jurisdictional lines. Each jurisdiction has a responsibility to ensure development in its floodplains and floodways are properly permitted. Utility companies usually reach out to jurisdictions to inquire about permitting requirements.

Reprinted from the December 2021 issue of Kansas Floodplain Management Tips, a newsletter of the [Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources](#).



Registration opens early Feb!

2022 ASFPM CONFERENCE

May 15-19, 2022



The logo for the 2022 ASFPM conference is circular with a blue border. Inside, there is a green map of Florida over a blue background with white waves and a yellow sun with rays. The text 'MAY 15 - 19 • ASFPM 2022 • ORLANDO, FL' is written around the top inner edge, and 'SHINING LIGHT ON MITIGATION' is written around the bottom inner edge.

Remembering Pat Bloomgren: 1978-79 ASFPM Board Chair Helped Pave the Way for Women in the Field

ASFPM is mourning the loss of one of its pioneering members and a former board chairperson. Patricia Ann Bloomgren of Stillwater, Minnesota, passed away on Dec. 21, 2021. She was 74.

Pat worked for the State of Minnesota for more than 30 years until her retirement in 2008. She started her career as a hydrologist at the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) before moving into various senior leadership roles for the DNR, Board of Water and Soil Resources, Pollution Control Agency, and Department of Health.

At the DNR, Pat played a lead role in the state's floodplain management program with responsibilities in the areas of program management, rule-making, and outreach. A highly effective communicator, she excelled in working with local governments to gain their cooperation in adopting sound floodplain rules and regulations.

Pat was highly active in ASFPM since its founding in 1977 and served as chair of the association's board of directors from 1978-79. She was just the second chair in the association's history – a remarkable achievement given the male-dominated nature of the profession at the time.

"Pat was a pioneer in promoting women in the workplace and an early champion of environmental causes, regularly giving of her time and energy to causes in which she believed," [her obituary reads](#). "As she built her career, she not only focused on moving herself ahead but served as a mentor and coach to help others, particularly women, achieve their goals."

At ASFPM, Pat worked to promote and advocate a national approach to reducing the impacts of flooding across the United States. Larry Larson, ASFPM's director emeritus and senior policy advisor, recalls how when Pat was chair she put a notice in the American Planning Association's newsletter that the Midwest states were meeting with NFIP officials to discuss concerns about the NFIP maps. Instead of the six Region 5 states showing up, there were people from 19 states in attendance, including Alaska, California, and New York. That's when the association knew it need to expand beyond its Midwestern roots and take a national perspective.

"Pat was instrumental in broadening ASFPM from a Midwest group to a national group," said Larson. "She was a great leader and mentor, but mostly a great person. We miss her greatly and remember her fondly."



Levee Safety Workshops Moved Online

The series of levee safety meetings hosted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and FEMA have moved to a virtual format. These workshops will give stakeholders the opportunity to provide input on how to improve the way levees are managed.

Each virtual workshop is limited to 100 participants and you must register ahead of time. For a list of dates and times please go to www.leveesafety.org and click on the "Get Involved" page. If you had previously registered for an in-person meeting, you will need to re-register for a virtual workshop.

We encourage anyone who is responsible for, impacted by, or has an interest in levees and flood risk management to participate. Please direct questions to hq-leveesafety@usace.army.mil.



Roads give way to nuisance flooding as high tide creeps into Norfolk, Va. after a few days of rainfall on May 20, 2020. (Photo by Aileen Devlin | Virginia Sea Grant)

Virginia Releases Coastal Resilience Plan

Virginia's coastal areas face significant impacts from rising sea levels and increased storm-related flooding. On Dec. 7, then-Governor Ralph Northam released a roadmap for protecting the state's extensive coastline, which is home to nearly six million people, or 70% of the state's population.

The [Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan](#) is the culmination of the combined efforts of more than 2,000 stakeholders, subject matter experts, and government personnel. The plan documents the areas exposed to coastal flooding hazards now and into the future, as well as the impacts of those future scenarios on coastal Virginia's community resources and both man-made and natural infrastructure. It also includes a publicly available tool called the "[Coastal Resilience Database and Web Explorer](#)," which catalogs existing resilience projects and funding opportunities.

As reported in the [Virginia Mercury](#), Virginia's coasts are already feeling the effects of rising sea levels linked to climate change. The military-heavy Hampton Roads area, which includes Virginia Beach, Norfolk, and Newport News, has also been slowly sinking for years and is experiencing the fastest rate of sea level rise on the East Coast. The rural Middle Peninsula, Northern Neck, and Eastern Shore are seeing major losses of acreage. And in Northern Virginia, Alexandria is consistently plagued by flooding, particularly in its historic downtown.

The new master plan puts numbers to some of those impacts, concluding that between 2020 and 2080:

- the number of residents living in homes exposed to extreme coastal flooding is projected to grow from approximately 360,000 to 943,000, an increase of 160%;

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

- the number of residential, public, and commercial buildings exposed to an extreme coastal flood is projected to increase by almost 150%, from 140,000 to 340,000, while annualized flood damage increases by 1,300% from \$0.4 to \$5.1 billion;
- the number of miles of roadways exposed to chronic coastal flooding is projected to increase from 1,000 to nearly 3,800 miles, an increase of nearly 280%; and an estimated 170,000 acres, or 89%, of existing tidal wetlands and 3,800 acres, or 38%, of existing dunes and beaches may be permanently inundated, effectively lost to open water.

“This Coastal Master Plan gives Virginia its first strategic approach to dealing with sea level rise,” said Wetlands Watch Executive Director Skip Stiles.

The Commonwealth intends to develop successive updates of the master plan on at least a five-year cycle, [Download the plan](#)

There's No Force Field Protecting Us from Floods

By Steve Samuelson, CFM

While watching the local news the other day, a story came on about how the Omicron variant has caused hospitals to fill up, leaving health officials both exhausted and concerned. The very next story was about a local team winning a basketball game. They had shots of the cheering fans packed in the stands at the game.

Fewer than 10% of those fans were wearing masks.

Believe what you will about the virus but those images couldn't stop me from thinking about flood insurance. There has been a whole lot of news coverage about the pandemic, public health, and the steps we can all take to reduce our risk. A lot of people have just decided to ignore the danger or have decided it won't affect them – much like people who don't buy flood insurance. No matter how much they learn about flood risk, they decide it won't affect them or they simply ignore the message.

Why is that? I blame it all on the original Star Trek television show. Do you remember that show? There would be an alien ship attacking the Starship Enterprise with lasers and missiles and things. The captain would tell one of the crew to turn on the force field. The force field would go up and the missiles would explode harmlessly against the invisible shield of the force field.

Some people act as though they have a personal force field. They subconsciously believe they won't get sick or their house won't flood. It's as if a magic shield will protect them from situations other people may experience. This belief in a magic shield affects their decision-making process.

When I went bungee jumping about 15 years ago, I remember having to sign a form that said I would not hold the bungee jumping company at fault if anything went wrong. Residents have asked me if a form like this exists for flooding so that they could sign it and then be allowed to build a house in the floodplain below the Base Flood Elevation because they don't believe they will ever flood.

What if a form existed that included a section that said the signer would agree to pay all costs if a new person buys the house from them and the house were to flood after that new person was living there? Developers and builders would effectively agree to privately insure all future flood losses for homes built in high risk area. We'd need to make it clear in the language of the agreement that they could not dissolve a company after homes were sold to hide from liability.

(Continued on page 17)

(Continued from page 16)

This idea would have to clear a lot of legal hurdles, but isn't it fun to think about? The idea isn't completely crazy. There are local zoning ordinances that require certain types of businesses to file bonds as a condition of the zoning and to provide proof of that bond.

There are existing developments that would probably never have been built if the developer had known that they would be held responsible for what happened to other people in the future. Other people who did not have a magic force field shielding them.

Remembering Mike Prough, An Illinois Floodplain Legend

By Paul Osman, CFM

Mike Prough, a floodplain administrator in Jersey County, Illinois and a three-time recipient of IAFSM's "Floodplain Manager of the Year" award, passed away Nov. 1, 2021 at age 60. The story of Mike Prough and Jersey County's evolution from worst-to-best is inspirational. Jersey County is perhaps the state's most flood-prone county. Bordered on two sides by the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers, Jersey County has no shortage of mapped floodplain. Major floods occur almost every year. Flood depths often exceed 20 feet!

After the 1993 flood, the county was in deep trouble. Over 1,000 structures lined the river, many of them on Corps of Engineers' leased property. Due to lax enforcement and limited staff understanding, floodplain violations were many. Repetitive flood loss claims had become a livelihood for some building owners. An NBC News spot on "The Fleecing of America" highlighted these failures to the entire nation. The County was on NFIP probation and moving towards full suspension.

Mike Prough was a County Board member at the time, and when learning of the problems, he chose to take on the job as the County's Floodplain Administrator. Starting from scratch and knowing nothing about floodplain management Mike quickly learned all he could. He attended FEMA and State training classes, spoke often with the NFIP State Coordinator, held stakeholder meetings, completed an inventory of buildings, reviewed all floodplain records, required building permits, and updated tax records. Ordinance revisions were adopted, violation notices were posted, litigation pursued, and public information was broadcast. Mike red tagged buildings, coordinated buyout projects, and elevated buildings. A new GIS based inventory of structures including elevation certificates and property data was established. The County started the state's first tracking of cumulative substantial damage.

In just a few short years, scores of violations had been fully resolved and Jersey County had moved from being one of the worst, to one of the best. Mike built the County's floodplain program to last, and today Jersey County is a CRS class 5 community (under the direction of Cindy Cregmiles) and has established one of the nation's best floodplain management programs. The county has moved from nearly 1,000 repetitive loss properties to less than 25. No other community has a better risk reduction percentage. In 2007 and again in 2009 Mike won the Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management's Floodplain Manager of the Year Award. In 2007, Mike won the ASFPM National Floodplain Manager of the Year award. Mike will be missed by his friends and colleagues in the floodplain community. He has left a legacy.



Mike Prough doing damage assessments by boat after the 2008 Mississippi River flood.

CFM Corner: Celebrating New CFMs

By Louie Greenwell, GISP, CFM

The decision to become a Certified Floodplain Manager may be perhaps the easiest step in the process of obtaining the CFM[®] credential. The hours of study and on-the-job training needed to actually pass the CFM exam? That's not so easy. The CFM exam was created to measure a person's knowledge across a variety of topics and to serve as an industry benchmark for floodplain managers to demonstrate their competence through a professional certification. The closed book exam includes 120 multiple-choice questions, which candidates have three hours to complete. Topics include floodplain management, mapping, NFIP regulations, flood insurance, mitigation, natural and beneficial functions, and the overall context of floodplain management.



Unlike some standardized exams, there are no ASFPM-approved courses specifically developed to prepare candidates to pass the CFM exam. However, a curated list of technical references can be found in the [CFM Exam Resources](#) collection in the ASFPM Library. Exam candidates are strongly encouraged to study these reference materials as they were used to validate every question on the exam.

Passing the exam and earning the CFM credential is a significant professional accomplishment and one that should be celebrated. At the recommendation of the Certification Board of Regents (CBOR), we will now recognize new CFMs in News and Views on a regular basis. I'm happy to announce the newest members of the CFM community here. I encourage all readers to reach out to those you know and congratulate them on their achievement.

Congratulations to the following people who passed the CFM exam in November and December of 2021. Welcome to the community of Certified Floodplain Managers!

- | | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Richard Allen | Jacob Flansberg | Travis McStraw | Cassandra Tripard |
| Scott Allen | Clay Goodrich | Meredith Miller | Elizabeth Tucker |
| Michelle Alwine | Brandon Gray | Taryn Murray | Charles Turner |
| Amy Anderson | Carson Hauck | Brady Nahkala | Hanako Ueda |
| Leanne Bernstein | Bradley Hoefler | Joshua Newman | Matthew Voss |
| Robert Bidart | Stacy Hoschka | Jacob Olsen | Alexander Weiner |
| Elizabeth Britell | Bahareh Inanloo | Carl Osterberg | Brian Wells |
| Casi Callaway | Mark Jacobs | Stephanie Petruso | Charity Yonker |
| Scott Carraro | Nicholas Jayne | Matthew Phillips | |
| Matthew Chaney | Emily Johnson | Lacey Pierotti | |
| Cole Cloward | Jens Jorgensen | Michael Pniewski | |
| Mathew Cox | Hailey Kirlin | Matthew Poche | |
| Ian Crittenden | Kimberly Korzým | Aaron Pool | |
| Nolan Croy | Mathew Langley | Theresa Ring | |
| Thomas Dallaire | Tracey Ledder | Kristopher Roppe | |
| John De Leon | Elizabeth Marks | Travis Rounsaville | |
| Valerie Duhl | Luke Martinkosky | Robert Seleen | |
| Conner Dunteman | Kelli Matter | David Smith | |
| Kendra Fallon | Trevor McDonald | Mike Suntken | |
| Dexter Fisher | Andrew McLean | Janelle Thomas | |





FEMA NEWS

Updates from the Federal Emergency Management Agency

FEMA Publishes More Risk Rating 2.0 Data

FEMA has released additional data on the agency's new Risk Rating 2.0 flood insurance rate pricing methods, including data that compares rate changes from the new rating methodology to the legacy rating system in place since the 1970s. FEMA created Risk Rating 2.0 so flood insurance rates are actuarially sound, equitable, easier to understand, and better reflect an individual property's flood risk.

To view the comparison data, go to the [Risk Rating 2.0 state profiles page](#). For each state and territory, there's a spreadsheet and a PDF narrative that explains the new methodology vs. the old methodology.

"The comparison data debunks a huge myth held by many critics of the new methodology that under the old system, flood insurance rates were not subject to regular annual increases," said David Maurstad, senior executive of the National Flood Insurance Program. "The truth is rates have gone up every year for all policyholders and would continue to do so if no action is taken."

"The side-by-side comparisons show some policyholders now will experience decreases under year one of Risk Rating 2.0 while a majority of remaining policyholders will see premium increases mostly on par with what they already pay."

The new methodology now considers the cost to rebuild, a foundational aspect that ensures rates are equitable for all policyholders. Under the old system, policyholders with lower to moderate value homes with less flood risk subsidized the premiums of policyholders with higher valued homes and higher risk. Adding the cost to rebuild levels the playing field as all premiums now equitably reflect a single property's unique flood risk.

Another key change implemented with the new methodology is the fact that once a premium reaches its full risk rate, increases stop. Under the old system, increases would continue indefinitely year after year for all policyholders.

FEMA has taken a phased approach to the implementation of the NFIP's new pricing plan. Phase 1 began on Oct. 1, 2021 with existing policyholders allowed to take advantage of decreases on their policy renewal date and with the selling of new policies. For phase 2, all remaining policies renewing on April 1 and continuing through March 31, 2023 will be subject to the new rating methodology.

Resilient Nation Partnership Network Releases Audio Stories

The [Resilient Nation Partnership Network](#) (RNPN) recently released a series of [audio stories](#) on equity and resilience, featuring four diverse voices who contributed to the "[Building Alliances for Equitable Resilience](#)" resource that was published in April 2021.

Together the resource guide and corresponding audio stories offer insights, reflections, and resources that organizations can use to build and apply equitable practices in their day-to-day work.

The audio stories, with English and Spanish transcripts, are available on the [RNPN website](#). For more information, contact Bradley Dean at bradley.dean@fema.dhs.gov.



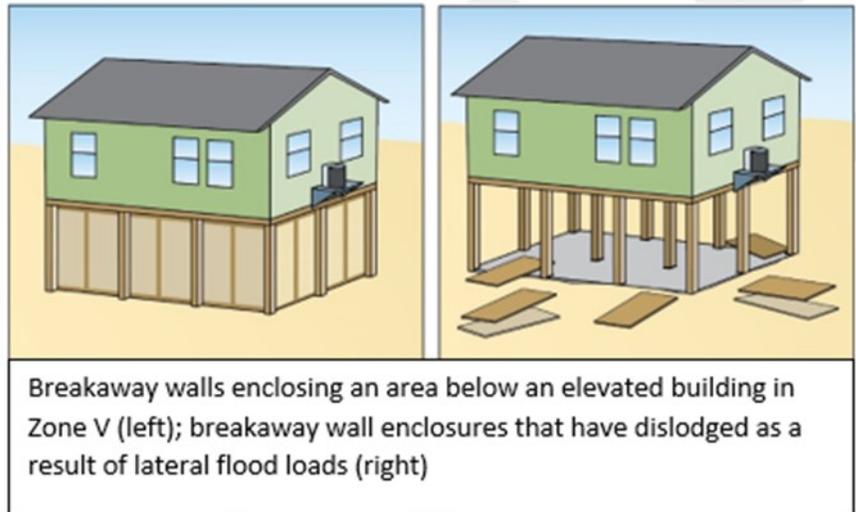
FEMA NEWS

Updates from the Federal Emergency Management Agency

Update to NFIP Technical Bulletin 9 Released

NFIP Technical Bulletins provide guidance for complying with the minimum NFIP floodplain management requirements for building performance. Technical Bulletin 9 provides guidance about the minimum NFIP requirements for designing and constructing breakaway walls beneath elevated buildings in Coastal High Hazard Areas (Zones V, VE, and V1-30).

FEMA has updated prescriptive, simplified, and performance-based design methods for breakaway walls; updated design values to align with the current state-of-the-practice in wind design based on the American Society of Civil Engineers' Standard 7 (ASCE 7), minimum design loads and associated criteria for buildings and other structures; and expanded guidance on partial height breakaway walls.



[Download NFIP Technical Bulletin 9: Design and Construction Guidance for Breakaway Walls](#)

FEMA Cancels \$870M in Community Disaster Loans

FEMA is cancelling the repayment of over \$870 million in outstanding community disaster loan balances. The Community Disaster Loan Program is available to local governments adversely affected by major disasters. The cancellation is a result of congressional legislation in the continuing budget resolution that began Oct. 1, 2021. The legislation cancelled any outstanding loan balance and will provide significant flexibility to communities recovering from disasters, as they can use the funds to cover expenses. FEMA recently sent notifications to the 158 loan holders notifying them of this cancellation.

As major loan holders, U.S. territories and territorial governments will especially benefit from this loan repayment cancellation. Canceled loans include:

- More than \$3.8 million cancelled for American Samoa.
- More than \$94 million cancelled for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
- More than \$371 million cancelled for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.
- More than \$322 million cancelled for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

This cancellation will also provide significant relief to states along the Gulf Coast, including:

- Over \$27 million cancelled for Florida.
- More than \$6 million cancelled for Louisiana.
- More than \$3.5 million cancelled for Mississippi.
- Over \$13 million cancelled for Texas.



FEMA NEWS

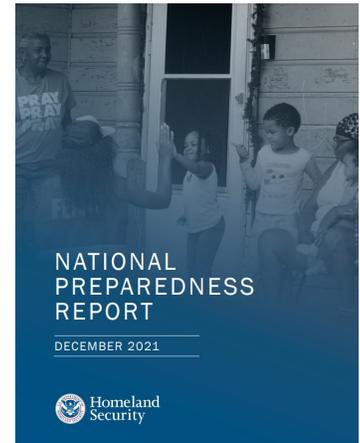
Updates from the Federal Emergency Management Agency

FEMA Releases 2021 National Preparedness Report

The **10th annual National Preparedness Report (NPR)** summarizes the state of national preparedness, discusses the risks the nation faces, and explores how those risks drive whole-community emergency management capability requirements. Emergency managers and whole community partners across the nation can look to this year's report to help support decisions about program priorities, resource allocations, and community actions.

The report includes the following findings and discussion topics:

- Climate change continues to impact the nation and worsen existing vulnerabilities, many of which were revealed by the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, ongoing racial, social, and financial inequalities may limit response and recovery during and after disasters.
- Overall, the nation is closer to achieving its preparedness goals identified through the National Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment; however, affected communities may not be fully prepared to respond to nationally catastrophic incidents.
- The COVID-19 pandemic shows that many gaps remain in the nation's preparedness; however, this provides an opportunity to identify strengths and shortfalls in capabilities, and apply lessons learned in a strategic way.



For the first time, the report outlines steps community leaders can take to address capability gaps. These include a justification for a preparedness investment strategy to help close capability gaps and improve capabilities, an explanation of what all levels of government are doing or can do to manage climate change, and how climate change worsens existing vulnerabilities.

[Download the National Preparedness Report.](#)

Reinsurance Placement for 2022 Completed

FEMA announced its 2022 placement of reinsurance to continue the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) support of resiliency and protection against flood losses.

The agency transferred \$1.06 billion of the program's financial risk to the private reinsurance market. This annual reinsurance agreement is effective throughout the calendar year with 28 private reinsurance companies. The 2022 reinsurance placement covers portions of NFIP losses above \$4 billion arising from a single flooding event. FEMA paid a total premium of \$171.9 million for the coverage.

To date, FEMA has transferred \$6.30 billion of the NFIP's flood risk to the private sector. For more information, visit the [NFIP Reinsurance Program webpage](#)

NEWS BRIEFS

News and resources for the floodplain management community

[White House and Congress Made Significant Strides in 2021 to Improve U.S. Flood Policies](#)

If fully implemented, recent federal actions and legislative developments—including some that still need to be passed and signed into law—can put the nation on a pathway to comprehensively breaking the costly cycle of damage and repair from flooding and other disasters.

[A flood of climate aid is coming from Washington. Will those who need it miss out?](#)

Advocates for communities seeking a piece of the hundreds of billions of dollars in new assistance worry that the process may be "too weighty, too heavy and too full of bureaucracy."

[Mere Nuisance or Growing Threat? The Physical and Economic Impact of High Tide Flooding on US Road Networks](#)

High tide flooding (HTF) already affects traffic in many US coastal areas, but the issue will worsen in the future. This study advances our understanding of the risks and impacts of HTF on vulnerable traffic corridors using hourly tide gauge water levels, sea level rise projections, and link-level spatial analysis.

['Everything is at risk': flood survivors urge Congress to change inadequate insurance](#)

With towns and cities across the US increasingly deluged by ferocious storms and rising sea levels, a group of disaster survivors has pleaded with the federal government to overhaul a flood insurance system they say is ill-equipped for an era of climate crisis.

[How coastal cities can build climate resilience as the clock ticks](#)

Business leaders and policymakers should promote adaptations now to mitigate climate effects to come, according to experts from the MIT Water Summit. Here are four places companies and communities should focus their efforts.

[Federal disaster relief programs don't help those in greatest need, FEMA report says](#)

A national advisory panel concluded that FEMA programs designed to help people suffering disaster impacts "often fail to deliver assistance to those with the greatest need," contributing to a wealth gap in the U.S.

[Stop blaming the climate for disasters](#)

Disasters occur when hazards meet vulnerability. We must acknowledge the human-made components of both vulnerability and hazard and emphasize human agency in order to proactively reduce disaster impacts.

[The Evolving Status of Emergency Management Organizations](#)

Until this past year, emergency managers have sometimes been referred to as the hurricane people who were there when something bad happened. Today emergency managers are those who officials trust to lead response and recovery to a growing list of emergencies and disasters. They facilitate multi-agency responses to complex incidents, often serving in silence while providing critical backbone services.

STATE NEWS

FLORIDA

[Flooding will get worse in Tampa Bay. Tropical Storm Eta showed how.](#)

Using Eta as a lesson, the Tampa Bay Times partnered with the National Hurricane Center to model the same storm with potential sea level rise from climate change. The modeling shows that if Eta struck again in three decades: thousands more properties would be underwater; hundreds would face life-threatening levels of flooding; entire neighborhoods that went unscathed in 2020 would be hit.

NEWS BRIEFS

News and resources for the floodplain management community

[Flood resilience plan channeling funds to Miami Beach](#)

As part of the Florida Statewide Flooding Resilience Plan, Miami Beach is recommended to receive more than \$28 million for two underfunded projects. The First Street neighborhood will receive \$20,110,259 for flood mitigation and sea level rise adaptation and Fire Station 1 would get \$8,413,860.

HAWAII

[How wetlands can keep us dry](#)

Climate change has arrived in Hawai'i. While nature might leave us feeling helpless in the face of her fury, she has also generously provided us with the solution. It might seem counterintuitive to use water to prevent flooding, but wetlands can do just that.

INDIANA

[New Online Floodplain Tool Available](#)

A new Indiana Floodplain Information Portal (INFIP) lets users download a Floodplain Analysis and Regulatory Assessment (FARA) directly from the app – reducing the wait times from 30-60 days to a matter of minutes. INFIP is designed to show flood risk associated with bodies of water in the state and provide information specifically for local and state floodplain permitting.

MASSACHUSETTS

[Local governments staff up, team up to confront climate change](#)

Massachusetts municipalities are taking a regional approach to address climate change. More than a dozen municipalities worked together to create the flooding model through the Charles River Watershed Association to assess their collective needs.

NEW YORK

[NYC's Waterfront Plan Maps Out Next Decade for City's Coastlines](#)

New York City has released its once-a-decade Comprehensive Waterfront Plan, outlining opportunities for the city to improve its coastline while boosting jobs, enhancing climate resilience and promoting environmental justice.

PENNSYLVANIA

[Flood Risk in Pennsylvania](#)

Pennsylvania has many regions of high flood risk. They are primarily located along rivers and their tributaries, but floods in Pennsylvania can also occur in lower elevation areas—even far from rivers and streams—as the result of heavy rainfall. This Wharton Issue Brief offers an overview of the National Flood Insurance Program in the state.

SOUTH CAROLINA

[Flood mitigation, transportation planning among top Horry County priorities in 2022](#)

In 2021, the rapidly growing Horry County finished work on a \$450,000 stormwater improvement project in a flood-prone area, adapted a revised flood ordinance, and launched a \$13 million property buyout program.

TENNESSEE

[US Army Corps of Engineers conducting study of Tenn. creek following fatal Waverly flood](#)

The Army of Engineers is conducting a Floodplain Management Services Study of Trace Creek, looking at site-specific data on obstructions to flood flows, flood formation and timing, flood depths and stages, floodwater velocities, floodplain resources and flood loss potentials before and after the use of floodplain management measures.

NEWS BRIEFS

News and resources for the floodplain management community

TEXAS

[Texas enacts nation's strongest flood disclosure law](#)

A new state law requires landlords in Texas to disclose flood risk to renters, including whether the property is in a 100-year floodplain or if it has flooded in the past five years. Only five other states require flood disclosure for rental units.

VERMONT

[Vermont flood costs could exceed \\$5.2 billion](#)

Property damage from flooding in Vermont is calculated to exceed \$5.2 billion over the next 100 years, new University of Vermont research finds. The team hopes the findings will help prepare Vermonters for greater flooding, show the urgent need for floodplain investments, and help those impacted most by flood events.

VIRGINIA

[Norfolk, Va., Offers Real-Time Flood Data to Drivers](#)

Waze, a navigation app owned by Google, has partnered with the City of Norfolk to pilot an app that will allow drivers to get real-time information about flooded roads.

[County receives \\$8.5M grant for floodplain restoration work along the Lower Skykomish River](#)

Snohomish County's Community Floodplain Solutions program received a second grant of \$8.5 million from the Washington State Department of Ecology's Floodplains by Design program. The 2021 grant furthers the integrated floodplain management work that was funded in 2019 for the Skykomish River.

WISCONSIN

[\\$42M EPA loan to reduce flooding in Milwaukee underserved communities](#)

The Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District received a \$42 million Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act loan from the EPA. The investment will help fund the Waterway Flood Management and Restoration Project and will expand stormwater management capacity and reduce flood risk in historically underserved communities.

Upcoming Webinars and On-Demand Trainings

Bridging the Equity Gap Webinar Series - Coming Feb. 9, "No Resilience Without Representation – Building a Diverse and Inclusive Flood Risk Management Workforce," will explain why a diverse environmental, water resources, and military workforce is essential to delivering equitable outcomes and environmental justice. Presenters will discuss barriers to representation and what some organizations are doing to increase diversity of under-represented groups in the field. This program is approved for 1 CEC. [Register here.](#)



Investing in Our Future: Planning Now - As the number and intensity of disaster events continue to grow, it is important to account for future conditions and climate change in your hazard mitigation plan. This recorded webinar from FEMA provides ideas, resources and examples of how to integrate future conditions information into your hazard mitigation planning process to increase overall resilience. [Visit FEMA's YouTube channel.](#)



Welcome New Members



Al Bostwick
Alexander Albores
Alexei Belov
Aminah L. McNulty
Andrea E. Henry
Brian Fryhover
Camille E. Pauley
Carlee R. Smith
Caroline Yeakel
Christopher M. Robulock
Connor R. Sexton
Corey H. Wills
Daniel F. Speigel
Daniel Stroud
Debrah A. Rose, CTM, CZA, CBMO
Deven Price
Dimple Acharya
Eliwallis Cortes
Emily Campbell, P.E.
Frank J. Antinelli
Galovale Galovale
Gregory B. Erwin
Henry D. Plachcinski

James Martin Davis, IV, CFM
Jason R. Van Gilder, P.E.
Javier A. Parodi
Jennifer M. McKibben
Jose E. Lopez, Jr.
Joseph D. Babore
Joshua C. Greene
Kacy R. Hensley
Kayla Weller
Kenneth Castronovo
Lawrence L. Moise, III, J.D.
Lazaro Remond
Leann G. Sato
Luke Andreasen, P.E., CFM
Marcus R. Stiltner, II, P.E.
Margarita Hernandez
Mark A. Wilson
Matthew J. Hoyt
Michael B. Cole
Michael Larisch, CFM
Muhammed A. Chowdhury, MS,
E.I.T., CFM
Nathaniel S. McClung

Nourhan Ibrahim
Otoniel M. Palacios
Rachel A. Pence
Rachel E. Gaines
Saffron S. Livaccari
Sam Koutsouris, P.E.
Saritha Pandyat
Sean Flanagan
Stacey H. Farinholt, CFM
Stephen R. Richardson
Timothy G. de Carion
Timothy M. O'Brien, P.E.
Tommy L. Jackson
Wilka R Bondurant
William C. Borkman, MCP, MPA
Yaima Gonzalez

For more information about joining ASFPM, visit our [membership benefits](#) page or contact Cate Secora at memberhelp@floods.org.

Do You Need to Renew Your ASFPM Membership?

Membership renewal season is upon us! By now you've already received notification that you can renew your membership for 2022 online through the member portal to ensure there's no interruption in member benefits.

When you renew, please be sure to also check that your contact information and email preferences are up-to-date so that you can continue receiving our emails with important association and committee information!

If you have any questions or comments, our membership engagement coordinator is only an email away. You can reach Cate Secora at memberhelp@floods.org.



ASFPM Editorial Guidelines

ASFPM accepts and welcomes articles from our members and partners. "The Insider" and "News & Views" have a style format, and if necessary, we reserve the right to edit submitted articles for space, grammar, punctuation, spelling, potential libel and clarity. If we make substantive changes, we will email the article back to you for your approval before using. We encourage you to include artwork with your article in the form of photos, illustrations, charts, and graphs. Please include a description of the art, along with the full name of who created the art. If the art is not yours originally, you must include expressed, written consent granting ASFPM permission to use the art in our publications.

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