



Plain Talk NEWSLETTER

**The Florida Floodplain Managers Association Newsletter
for Dedicated Floodplain Professionals**

Fall/Winter 2005

Word From The President

By contrast to last year, the 2005 Hurricane Season was, in most respects, kind to our vulnerable state. Floridians watched final fury of Katrina and Rita in awe while they continued rebuilding their own homes and communities. What lessons have we learned?

- Hurricanes are capricious, vindictive and difficult to accurately forecast.
- Our best predictive models are good for 48-hour predictions and generally fair but still helpful for longer term forecasts.
- Florida’s emergency response communications network needs improvements requiring technology improvements and bandwidth reallocations that are still years away
- Our best plans for responding to local emergencies need improvements
- FEMA has finite human assets and fiscal resources which are both seriously stretched by having to manage a series of emergencies in multiple states
- Our past investments in capital projects for flood control and surge protection are inadequate in the face of a Category Five Hurricane
- Catastrophic failure of local dikes, levees and reservoir impoundments could devastate portions of Florida

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The important question we, as the professional community of floodplain managers, must ask is “What should we be doing before the 2006 Hurricane Season?”

- Inspect local flood control, pumping and surge protection facilities
- Schedule and implement repairs and renovations
- Review and update your hurricane response plans
- Continue coordinating with other local, State and Federal agencies
- Stay on top of evolving FEMA programs – they are not static.

One easy and low cost way to get ready for the 2006 Hurricane Season is to attend the FFMA 2006 Annual Meeting in Gainesville on March 1-3, 2006. This meeting includes one and half days of training courses in basic floodplain management and FEMA programs as well as a one-day conference on integration of floodplain management into local planning and regulatory programs. This meeting will help you keep on top of current floodplain management issues and Federal/State programs, and CFMs can get up to 12 hours of continuing education credits.

Remember, when Mother Nature winks at our best efforts, we need to be prepared to wink back!

Upcoming Training

"Managing Floodplain Development Through The NFIP"

(EMI Course Code: E273)

When: January 23 – January 27, 2006

Where: Orange County Public Works, 4200 S. John Young Parkway, Orlando, FL 32839

Fee: \$50.00 payable to Florida Floodplain Managers Association

Please send fee along with EMI application form.

(downloadable from: <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/75-5anf.pdf>

to: Donna Bailey, CFM, Lake County Public Works, 123 N. Sinclair Avenue, Tavares, FL 32778

Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) exam will be given on Friday following the workshop. Pre-application MUST be obtained prior to exam by contacting Anita Larson, Association of State Floodplain Managers at 608.274.0123 or e-mail cfm@floods.org. Seating limited. Fee to take the CFM exam is **NOT included in class registration fee.

This Fall, Hillsborough County, Enters a New Era.

Contributed by: Eugene Henry, AICP, CFM, Past Chairman

A multi-year project to re-examine flood zones and develop detailed, digital flood hazard maps is nearing completion (also known to most of us by the term Flood Insurance Rate Maps). The new maps reflect current flood risks and areas of recent growth, replacing maps that are up to 25 years old. As a result, property owners throughout the county will have up-to-date, reliable, Internet-accessible information about their flood risk — on a property-by-property basis. And owners of more than 35,000 properties will learn that their risk is higher, or lower, than they thought and another 60,000 property owners currently within flood hazard areas will find out whether their base-flood elevation is greater, lesser, or unchanged.

Over time, water flow and drainage patterns have changed dramatically due to surface erosion, land use and natural forces. The likelihood of inland, riverine and coastal flooding in certain areas has changed along with these factors. New digital mapping techniques will provide more detailed, reliable and current data on county flood hazards. The result: a better picture of the areas most likely to be impacted by flooding and a better foundation from which to make key decisions. This flood map modernization project is a joint effort between Hillsborough County, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in cooperation with association and private sector partners, and cities of Plant City, Tampa, and Temple Terrace.

Newer maps will make it easier to show the extent to which areas of the county — and individual properties — are at risk for flooding and assist in aiding businesses and property owners make better decisions to protect their property. Additionally, these maps also allow the building community to make important determinations about *where* and *how* new structures and developments should be built, which includes identification of required design and minimum vertical elevations.

These modifications will have some property owners find they are required to carry flood insurance when the new maps take effect due to Flood insurance being required for most mortgage holders in flood hazard areas. Property owners who feel that they have been incorrectly placed in flood hazard areas have until the end of the Public Comment Period to protest their new designation, but they will need to have their property surveyed to prove that it is sufficiently above the base flood elevation.

Some properties may go from a high-risk area to a low- or moderate-risk area. While flood insurance is not required for properties in these areas, this new designation only means that the risk for flooding is **reduced** — **not removed**. Twenty to 25 percent of all flood claims occur in low- and moderate-risk areas. As we have seen in the past two years, flood insurance is still an important safeguard for those in areas of low or moderate risk, and lower cost options are available.

AS SOMEONE IN THE BUILDING INDUSTRY, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT:

Map changes will prompt residents and business owners to re-examine the status of their properties, so that they have proper insurance coverage and can save on costs.

The map changes will generate an increase in requests for new elevation certificates. Besides those requests that will occur in instances of new construction, requests may also be made by property owners seeking to fulfill the insurance “grandfathering” requirement or those planning to file an appeal or protest during the Public Comment Period.

New Base Flood Elevations (BFEs), where more restrictive*, will be used as best available data for building permits once the preliminary maps are released.

A new FEMA elevation certificate will need to be used starting in the summer of 2006. The new certificate will have additional data collection requirements, including two photographs.

The vertical datum is changing. Be sure to use new Hillsborough County benchmarks and measurements from vertical datum NAVD 88 — and not NGVD 29 — when making any subsidence adjustments or site improvements.

* less restrictive BFE's will not become effective until the maps are adopted

The schedule for having maps . . .

October 19, 2005 - Preliminary maps released

December 1, 2005 (approx.) - Start of 90-day Public Comment Period (for filing of appeals and protests)

March 2006 (approx.) - County and federal review begins

Fall 2006* - Maps adopted; new insurance requirements take effect

LOCAL CODE CHANGES AND FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT (COASTAL A-ZONES)

Nationally speaking, prior to the availability of the 2000 I-Codes, the model building codes included flood related provisions to varying degrees. With the 2003 I-Codes, it became easier to integrate building codes and floodplain management regulations into a single administrative process (in order to accomplish this approach, all of the I-Codes would require adoption including Appendix G of the IBC).

Within Hillsborough County, the floodplain management regulations have been integrated with the local construction code to create a single process in which floodplain management is implemented at the local level. This has been accomplished through including floodplain regulations in Chapter 3 of the Construction Code. This has assisted in meeting compliance with minimum standards of the National Flood Insurance Program and ensuring adherence through the ability to work floodplain management violations through the Floodplain Damage Control Board (also known as our Building Board).

Additionally, with the latest revision to Hillsborough County's local Construction Code includes a reference to the requirement for a registered professional to certify design and methods of construction. These standards affect elevation and foundation design and are referenced in the 2003 IRC, (R323.3.1 – 5). Although not new, the most recent revision to the local Construction Code identifies that Coastal A Zone construction is to be designed to meet wave (where applicable) and wind action. The new regulation is:

Coastal A Zones are those A and AE zones shown on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and within the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) that have been identified through standard engineering practices to have potential breaking waves less than three (3) feet in height. The waves in these areas have sufficient force to modify the landscape and damage or destroy the built environment if not properly designed and constructed to counter such forces. Pursuant to ASCE standards referenced within the Florida Building Code, new construction or substantial improvements must be designed to have considered, in addition to other requirements of this ordinance, effects from erosion and scour, and to have considered appropriate factors necessary to resist floatation, collapse, and lateral movement due to the effect of wind and water loads action simultaneously on all building components. Designs for meeting this requirement must be performed by design professionals, who are required to certify their work through sealing and signing drawings and any other documents (i.e., calculations, etc.) as is appropriate by regulations.

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY BUILDING SERVICES AND CODE ENFORCEMENT ASSIST THE STATE THROUGH ESF 6 IN MISSISSIPPI

Mission order 655; from the State was answered partially through Hillsborough County's Building Services and Code Enforcement agencies. The two agencies work closely during pre- and post-disaster periods and answering a call for assistance through the County's Emergency Management Office was nothing new; except, the scaled-down team would travel to Stennis, Mississippi. The team met up with others from the State of Florida to perform Human Service Needs. The group is used to assessing structures and assisting residents in finding relief and housing following a disaster; however, this time it was assigned specifically to assist ESF 6. Our tasks assigned included assisting in the distribution of goods to warehouses where various supplies were sent to shelters, checking with shelters to ensure needs for resources were being met, and assist at points of distribution and volunteer recover centers.

Additionally, various team members were contacted by local building officials requesting assistance by licensed inspectors to assist in their months ahead in assessing structures. However, this was outside of the scope in which we were working. From information given at the ICC conference, this is an area that the Council is assisting through sending about 100 ICC members. Assistance through the Association of State Floodplain Managers was also requested and received.

The damage from storm surge is horrendous. Many homes were literally reduced to debris, moved from foundations, or inundated from rising water.

Also, the Florida Floodplain Managers Association (FFMA), in-conjunction with the State and FEMA, will be providing training throughout Florida. Training will provide continuing education credits for Certified Floodplain Managers and will keep you abreast of floodplain management requirements. For training, please see the FFMA web site, which is FFMA.net.

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM

Contributed by: Gabe Gambrill, ISO Florida Coordinator

What's New with the CRS?

The following are some items of interest to those communities currently in the CRS and other interested parties.



15 Year Anniversary

This year marks the 15th year of the Community Rating System. The first applications were received in December 1990. Check out the Spring/Summer **Plain Talk** to see a list of the Florida communities who applied the first year.

The CRS program was recognized at this year's National Flood Conference in Marco Island and the ASFPM National Conference in Madison, WI.

2005 CRS Coordinator's Manual

The new CRS Coordinators Manual originally scheduled to be mailed to CRS Coordinators in July has been delayed. It is currently waiting approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The new estimated date for mailing is now November.

New Elevation Certificate

Schedule is for OMB approval in January 2006, have it in the May 2006 Agent's Manual and require all companies to use it for new book of business effective either September or October 2006. The current one expires on December 31, 2005. For a peek at what the new one will look like use the following link: http://www.floods.org/PDF/FF_8131_Elevation_Certificate_Instructions.pdf
Remember, it is only a draft and has not yet been approved.

The current form can be downloaded from the FEMA website using the following link: www.fema.gov/nfip/elvinst.shtm.

New Applications

We welcome the **City of Atlantic Beach** to the CRS. They entered as a Class 8 effective, October 1, 2005.

Class Improvements

We congratulate the following communities for improving their classifications effective, October 1, 2005:

From Class 7 to Class 6:

- **Town of Indian Shores**
- **Town of Longboat Key**
- **Manatee County**

- **City of Marco Island**
- **Okaloosa County**
- **City of Venice**

From Class 8 to Class 7:

- **City of Anna Maria**
- **Bay County**
- **City of Bradenton Beach**
- **Clay County**
- **Town of Davie**
- **Escambia County**
- **Hernando County**

From Class 9 to Class 8:

- **Columbia County**
- **City of Oakland Park**

We currently have 209 CRS Communities in Florida. The following is the breakdown by CRS Class:

Class	Number of Communities
5	5
6	13
7	57
8	99
9	35

Reminders:

FEMA/CRS Resource Center

If you are interested in learning more about the CRS, check out the FEMA/CRS Resource Center on the FEMA website. It describes each activity and provides samples of various CRS documents and publications for you to reference.

The resource center can be accessed using the following link:

www.training.fema.gov/emiweb/CRS.

Your ISO/CRS Specialist is also available to assist you.

2005 MEMBERSHIP REPORT...

- 2003-2005 Total memberships including FDCA Grant sponsorships - 351
- Members in good standing paid through 2005 – 173
- Non-renewals including sponsorships – 76
- Members belonging to both ASFPM and FFMA – 54
- Members that are CFMs – 59

ALL MEMBERSHIPS WILL BE DUE January 1 starting in 2006,
so that all members will become due at the same time.

Team Access is Available to FFMA Members!

Contributed by : Jack Hampson, CFM, PSB&J, Program Manager South Florida Project

The Do you know about FFMA's Member's Only Area?

If you are a regular user of the FFMA website (<http://www.ffma.net>) you already know about the great resources there, but you may not have clicked on *Members* and found the members area. Or if you have, you may not have actually gone through the portal to the members-only area (by clicking on *Go To FFMA Team Access*). Once you get there, you can save the path to this valuable resource as: <http://ta.ffma.net>. Once there for the first time, just click *Register* to get a password. You will have to already be a member to receive the password. That's it, no credit cards, no 3-day free trials, because you are ALREADY A MEMBER! So you get to use the MEMBER'S ONLY area free of any additional charge.

The FFMA MEMBER AREA uses Team Access™ for sharing, storing, and providing information to its members. Team Access is a secure web site providing a portal to information for members, along with meeting schedules and agendas, member contact information, exchange of information regarding project developments, resourceful floodplain management links, and an area for discussion forums to share questions and comments. Here is what you will see when you first log in:

You now have full access to the members area. The links at the top take you to the **Calendar** where you can view and add events; **Contacts** where you can update your information and see other member contact info; **Documents** where you can share and exchange documents such as meeting minutes; **Discussion** where you can start or join an online discussion thread on topics of interest; and **Email** where you can send e-mail out to registered members from the ffma.net account.

The Team Access Help Guide (.pdf) is available, under Links, to assist in using these features and obtaining optimal usage of Team Access.

This site is accessible from anywhere on the Internet, at home or work. Have fun!

So join in, the more members who participate, the better the site!

FFMA's Board and Committees:

Executive Director:
Dr. Krishna Krishnamurthy, Ph.D., P.E., CFM

Current Acting Board Officers are:

Chairman: Steve Lienhart, P.E.
Vice Chair: Michael Fay, CFM
Treasurer: Gordon McClung, P.E.
Secretary: Dawn Burkhart, CFM

Education Committee:

Eugene Henry, AICP, CFM
M. Krishnamurthy, Ph.D., P.E., CFM

Membership Committee:

Dawn Burkhart, CFM
Michael Finch, P.E.

Conference Committee:

Gordon McClung, P.E.
Steve Lienhart, P.E.

Communications:

Brian Mack, P.E.
Moris Cabezas, Ph.D., P.E., CFM

Regional Coordinators:

Region 1: Theresa Meyer, P.E., CBO, CFM
Nancy Witty, CFM
Region 2: Michael Griffin, CFM, CBO
Alice Rankeillai, CFM
Region 3: Rhonda Royals, CFM
Ron Bartel
Region 4: Debbie Love, CFM
Angela Prymas, P.E.
Region 5: Brian Mack, P.E.
Donna Bailey, CFM



FFMA Membership Application...I'm Involved, Are You?

NAME: Mr. Ms. TITLE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ FAX _____ EMAIL _____

CERTIFIED FLOOD PLAIN MANAGER: YES NO

RENEWAL OPTIONS: INDIVIDUAL (\$50/annually) CORPORATE (\$200 [five memberships] annually)

COMMITTEE INTERESTS: Membership, Communication, Education, Conference

Please make checks payable to: Florida Floodplain Managers Association, P.O. Box 2699, Bartow, FL 33831-2699
Federal EIN: 20-2768279

To join FFMA: www.ffma.net. Print membership application form and mail with fee or
Complete this application, fold the self-mailer, include fee and tape closed.

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Place
Stamp
Here

Florida Floodplain Managers Association
P.O. Box 2699
Bartow, FL 33831-2699