



Florida CRS Initiative

August 2015

Education:

Mark your calendars!

September 21st -24th, 2015

CRS L278 Class

2000 E. Edgewood Drive, Ste 215

Lakeland, Florida 33803

PH: (863) 667-2345

Registration details coming soon to the FFMA Website

Course Schedule:

7/16/2015	Leon Co./Tallahassee
7/21/2015	Santa Rosa Co./Milton
8/12/2015	Marion Co./Ocala
11/02/2015	Venice
11/12/2015	Alachua Co./Gainesville
1/12/2016	Ft. Lauderdale
1/13/2016	Doral
1/14/2016	Keys (~Islamorada)

Outreach:

New CRS Outreach cards covering five (5) of the six (6) credited outreach topics have been developed and printed by Florida Division Of Emergency Management External Affairs Staff and are available now. If you have not received a packet of cards and would like them, contact any Florida CRS Team member.

Ask the Expert:

The FEMA Elevation Certificate form can be confusing, and questions about it are frequent.

One of the most common is the use of “n/a” versus “0” to fill in blank entries. According to subject matter expert Del Schwalls, the rule of thumb is if the item does not apply to the building, then ‘N/A’ in blank spaces is more technically accurate. It is also more in line with the EC instructions.

However, if a building has a crawl space/enclosure or attached garage, but there are no openings, ‘0’ should be entered in b) and c) of A8 or A9, respectively.

No matter which you use, it is important to verify that “n/a” or “0” is appropriate and not just a skip over entry.

Another frequent question is if a Professional Engineer (PE) is able to sign and seal Elevation Certificates (EC). In the state of Florida, a PE may sign and seal an EC if three conditions are met: the survey data set used is signed and sealed by a Professional Land Surveyor, the PE has the knowledge and experience necessary to interpret the survey correctly, and the survey used is referenced in the comments section of the form.

The form requires the completing PE to be authorized by law to certify elevation. In Florida, only a surveyor can sign and seal survey data. However, Florida law allows a PE to use data signed and sealed by other persons, provided the engineer assesses the acceptability of the material and has the background necessary to assess the data. In this case, the PE would need to evaluate the general accuracy of the survey data, and have a background in using and understanding elevation data.

Information provided by:

Del Schwalls, P.E., CFM

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www.schwallsconsulting.com

Did you Know?

The Florida CRS Initiative staff are a resource at your fingertips. Atlantic Beach had this to say, after receiving assistance in acquiring Activity 610 points:

“Thank you.

We were all new, here, to the CRS process. It’s like walking around in a dark room and you came in with a flashlight.

We’ll do better, the next time around. We’ll have the lights on...”

Dan Arlington
Atlantic Beach, FL

Contact Us

The Florida CRS Initiative provides services to Florida Communities such as education, one on one assistance, User Group participation or technical assistance with navigating the CRS Cycle visit.

Have questions?

Contact us, we are at your service!

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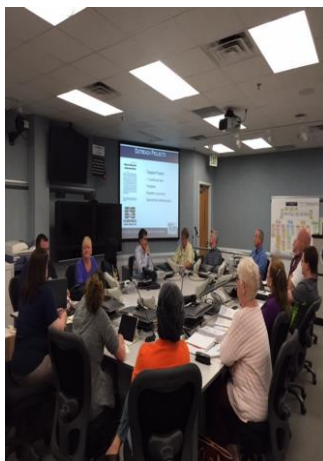
Activity 610

For Activity 610, the details are the most important. CRS takes a community effort, and to take advantage of the significant points within this activity you must partner with your local Emergency Management Office.

To claim any Activity 610 credits, the following must be accomplished:

- Must have an annual exercise, and test of alert notification system.
- Must have an adopted flood response plan
- Must have a at least one out creditable outreach project that reaches all residents
- **Must get at least one point in all four elements of Activity 610 to receive any credit at all in Activity 610.**
- To receive Storm Ready points you must receive at least one point in FTR, EWD, FRO, CFP 1.

Florida User Groups



Heidi Liles, CFM from ISO presenting to a CRS User Group in Orlando, FL

Heidi Liles, CFM, a CRS Specialist from The Insurance Services Office, had the opportunity to join the Orlando User Group for a great exchange of information and clarification to some interesting questions.

Florida User Groups are a great resource for exchanging ideas and best practices.

Want to find a User’s Group near you or start one in your area?

The complete list of Florida User’s groups can be found at: <http://crsresources.org/crs-users-groups/> or Email Liz Todak at: Elizabeth.Todak@em.myflorida.com

2013 CRS Manual Changes

Subscribe to the next NFIP/CRS Newsletter today. Next issue will cover new information on navigating the 2013 manual changes.

Info can be found at:

<http://crsresources.org/100-2/>