



# NEW MEXICO HIGH WATERS

*A Publication of the New Mexico Floodplain Managers Association*

**SECOND QUARTER**

**MAY 2009**

## Inside this issue:

Certified Floodplain Managers	2
In and Around New Mexico from the NFIP State Coordinator	3
From the Chair	4
New FEMA Elevation Certificate	5
Risk MAP Multi-Year Plan	7
Levee Protection? Yes or No	11
NMFMA Seeking Training Courses	12
NMFMA Membership Application	13

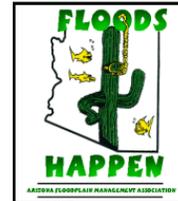


## UP-COMING EVENTS

### FALL WORKSHOP/CONFERENCE - October 14, 15, 16, 2009

The Fall Workshop/Conference will be a co-sponsor with the Arizona Floodplain Management Association. Mark your calendar for October 14, 15, and 16, 2009. The event will be held at the Hon-Dah, Resort-Casino, Conference Center near Pinetop, Arizona.

**MORE INFORMATION TO COME  
ON CONFERENCE REGISTRATION,  
ROOM RATES & AGENDA ITEMS.**



### FEMA E-273 - "Managing Floodplain Management Through the National Flood Insurance Program."

When: Monday, August 3, 2009 through Friday, August 7, 2009

Where: Los Lunas Transportation Center NM Highway 314 and Courthouse Road

To register for this event you must go to the NMFMA website [www.nmfma.org](http://www.nmfma.org). The CFM exam will be offered after the FEMA course is completed. To register for the CFM Exam, you must go to the NMFMA website and register prior to taking the exam. If you are not registered and approved prior to the exam, you will not be able to take the CFM Exam.

### ASFPM 33rd Annual National Conference



**ASFPM 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Conference**

**Green Works to Reduce Flood Losses**

**ASFPM 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Conference**

**June 7 – 12, 2009 – Rosen Centre, Orlando, Fla**

The New Mexico High Waters is published through the assistance provided by the Department of Home Land Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under the Community Assistance Program-State Support Services Element (CAP-SSSE) of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The contents of this Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Federal Government.

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NEW MEXICO

CERTIFIED FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS

Grant Pinkerton, CFM

Chair, Certification Committee

(575) 624-6562



The CFM exam was proctored at the Spring 2009 NMFMA Workshop in Albuquerque. Congratulations to the following new NM CFMs:

Vinay Achrekar	URS Corporation
Kyle Ness	URS Corporation
Christy Burton	URS Corporation
William Osborn	Otero County
Tobias Finke	URS Corporation
Richard Waters	Resource Technology, Inc
Ralph Montoya	SSCAFCA

Also welcome to Sarah Wozniak with URS Corporation. Sarah recently transferred from Maryland and the National CFM Program.

There are now 152 active CFMs certified by the NM certification program

NMFMA and NM DHSEM are sponsoring the FEMA 273 course, Managing Floodplain Development through the National Flood Insurance Program, August 3-6, in Los Lunas, NM. Anyone interested in taking this course should go to the NMFMA website, [www.nmfma.org](http://www.nmfma.org), click on Event Calendar, and scroll to the month of August. You can sign up to take the course on-line. If you want to take the CFM exam, which will be proctored on Friday, August 7, you can also register for that on-line. **BUT** you must also fill out and mail a CFM Exam Application to the Certification Board. The form can be found on the Certification page. Please remember to make a note about your payment (credit card on-line, PO number, or check number) when you fill out the form so we know that you have paid the required fee. There is a 9 page application for those taking the exam for the first time, and a one page application for those re-taking the exam within one year of original testing. The one page form can be found under Public on the Documents and Newsletters page. This is an excellent opportunity to take the exam. The percent of passing grades after the FEMA 273 course has always been much higher.

## In and Around New Mexico with the State NFIP Coordinator

**Bill Borthwick, CFM**

**State NFIP Coordinator**

**505-476-9617**

[william.borthwick@state.nm.us](mailto:william.borthwick@state.nm.us)

Good news for the State of New Mexico the under CRS Activity 630 (Dam Safety) a CRS community can receive up to 75 CRS credit points. The State of New Mexico was at 57 CRS points but we now qualify with 63 CRS Activity points. How did we compare with the States in Region VI?

	<u>1999</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>Change</u>
Arkansas	75	53.4	-21.6
Louisiana	74	67.6	-6.4
New Mexico	57	63.0	6.0
Oklahoma	56	52.1	-3.9
Texas	55	46.1	-8.9

We are currently working with the City of Aztec, New Mexico in completing an application to become a CRS community.

The Hazard Mitigation Assistance Technical Program (HMTAP) Lincoln County, New Mexico Flood Recovery Map is nearing completion. We would like to thank the following floodplain administrators for their hard work in getting this process accomplished. Steve Dunigan, CFM, Village of Ruidoso Downs, New Mexico; Shawn Fort, CFM Village of Ruidoso and Curt Temple, CFM, Lincoln County, New Mexico.

Source: ASFPM INSIDER - May 2009

FEMA will begin to distribute the NFIP 2009 Biennial Report forms during the week of April 20-24, 2009 for the calendar years 2007 and 2008. As in past years, the mailing contains a cover letter, addressed to the Chief Executive Officer or Floodplain Administrator of the community; a Biennial Report form; and an informational brochure that provides important information on how to complete the forms and keeps local communities up to date on the latest programs and initiatives in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

The completed NFIP Biennial Report needs to be submitted no later than September 30, 2009. As in past years, local community officials have several ways in which to provide their NFIP Biennial Report to FEMA:

Online at <http://www.floodmaps.net/br2009/default.asp>,

Mail the completed report to FEMA, Biennial Report Coordinator, 3601 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304,

Call the Biennial Report Coordinator toll free at 1-877-336-2114, or

Fax the completed report to 1-877-634-7271.

The NFIP Biennial Report is an important tool that gathers data that helps FEMA respond to the on-going changes that occur in each participating community's flood hazard area.

Communities should call the Biennial Report Coordinator at 1-877-336-2114 if they have any questions while gather, completing, or submitting their data.

## FROM THE CHAIR

**Paul Dugie, CFM**

**575-525-5558**



Dear Members,

Yes, I'm back. Thank you to all who participated in the past election. Your vote of confidence is greatly appreciated. I would like to give Kyle Zimmerman a big thanks for his past service and a smooth transition into the Chair position. I'm sure he will be tired of getting phone calls and emails from me very soon. Kyle, I promise to keep them to a minimum.

The new board is looking forward to new and exciting times. Some of the events in the near future include: ASFPM 33rd Annual National Conference June 7-12, Board Retreat July 18-19, FEMA E-273 Training August 3-7, and the Fall Workshop/Conference October 14-16. More information on these events and other information can be found at our website ([www.nmfma.clubexpress.com](http://www.nmfma.clubexpress.com)).

If there are any ideas or issues you would like the Board to discuss/consider at the retreat please get them to me or one of the other Board Members.

## CFM Activities at the ASFPM Conference – Orlando

Besides earning 12 core CECs for attending the conference, you don't want to miss this opportunity! Join us for the Certification Early Bird Session, Wednesday, June 6, 2009, from 7:00 am-8:15 am. Did you know that the CFM Certification Program is evaluated annually and compared to 23 different certification programs? Come and learn how we stack up. Your CFM is valuable, however you must maintain your certification. Attend this Session and share your experiences, frustrations and recommendations on how to improve the system. Diane Calhoun, CBOR Chair, and John Ivey, Chair of the PDC CFM Exam Committee will wear body armor and be ready to take your best shot!

Source: ASFPM INSIDER - MAY 2009



# New FEMA Elevation Certificate

Source: FEMA web site

FEMA's new Elevation Certificate (EC) was approved for use, effective March 16, 2009, through March 31, 2012. The new EC will be phased in on a voluntary basis until March 31, 2010. Although the old version of the form is no longer available for distribution, existing copies may be used until March 31, 2010. Elevations certified on or after April 1, 2010, must be submitted on the new form.

What's New?

- Section A adds items A8.d and A9.d to identify whether the enclosure, crawlspace, or garage has engineered flood openings.
- Section C now captures the lowest adjacent grade at lowest elevation of deck or stairs, including structural support. This information is required if the EC is being used to support a request for a LOMA or LOMR-F.
- Instructions for Section A for items A.8.b-c and A.9.b-c have been revised, in part, to allow the height of flood openings to be determined from the interior grade or floor.
- Instructions for other sections have been clarified and expanded, as needed.
- Two new Building Diagrams have been added:
  - The new Diagram 1B is for raised-slab-on-grade or slab-on-stem-wall-with-fill single- and multiple-floor buildings. (Diagram 1 from the old Elevation Certificate is Diagram 1A on the new Elevation Certificate.)
  - The new Diagram 9 is for all buildings (other than split-level) elevated on a subgrade crawlspace.
- Elevation Certificate (includes 8 building type diagrams for determining reference levels) ([PDF](#) 306 KB, [TXI](#) 52 KB)
- Elevation Certificate MS Word Template ([DOC](#) 174 KB)

The EC form and instruction packet are available from the FEMA Distribution Center at 800-480-2520 (ask for FEMA Form 81-31). It will also be reproduced in the May 1, 2009 [NFIP Flood Insurance Manual](#).



# FEMA

## SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

### THANK YOU TO OUR SPRING 2009 CONFERENCE SPONSORS---

AMEC Earth & Environmental

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Dennis Engineering

Michael Baker Corp.

Resource Technology, Inc.

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URS Corp.

We really appreciate your generosity!!



# Risk MAP Multi-Year Plan

From the ASFPM INSIDER

May 2009

FEMA has prepared a “Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk MAP) Multi-Year Plan: Fiscal Years 2010-2014” in response to reporting requirements set forth in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Appropriations Act (P.L. 110-329). The plan was approved by DHS and is available for you to download from the FEMA website at: [www.fema.gov/plan/ffmm.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/plan/ffmm.shtm). You will find it on the Flood Hazard Mapping home page and Flood Hazard Mapping “What’s New” pages. The plan was provided to members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security and Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security.

This Risk MAP Multi-Year Plan outlines FEMA’s plan for enhancing and maintaining quality flood hazard data and maps, building on the success of Flood Map Modernization, to enable the Risk MAP vision: Through collaboration with State, local, and Tribal entities, deliver quality data that increases public awareness and leads to action that reduces risk to life and property.

The Risk MAP Multi-Year Plan outlines five key goals to achieve the vision:

1. Address gaps in flood hazard data to form a solid foundation for risk assessment, floodplain management and actuarial soundness of the National Flood Insurance Program.
2. Ensure a measurable increase of public awareness and understanding of risk results in a measurable reduction of current and future vulnerability to flooding.
3. Lead and support States, local and Tribal communities to effectively engage in risk-based mitigation planning resulting in sustainable actions to reduce or eliminate risks to life and property from hazards.
4. Provide an enhanced digital platform that improves management of Risk MAP, stewards the information produced by Risk MAP and improves the communication and sharing of risk data and related products with all levels of government and the public.

Align Risk Analysis programs and develop synergies to enhance decision making capabilities through effective risk communication and management.

FEMA is initiating flood map update projects with Flood Hazard Mapping funding provided in FY09 to support transition from Map Mod to Risk MAP. Details regarding the plan for FY09 Risk MAP flood map update projects will be provided in a separate document.

If you have any questions regarding the Risk MAP Multi-Year Plan, contact [FEMA-RiskMaps@dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-RiskMaps@dhs.gov).

## SPOTLIGHT FEATURE



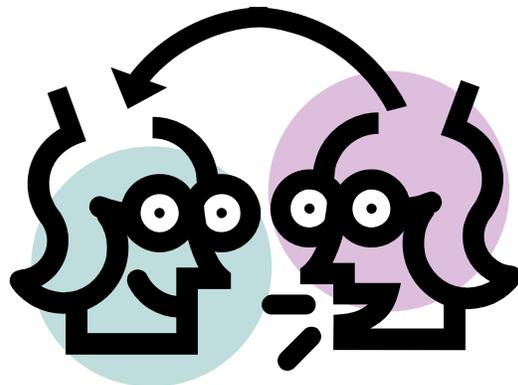
**Announcement:** Starting next newsletter, we will be Spotighting a NMFMA member. Each newsletter, a NMFMA Board Member will be assigned to interview a member from the Association and provide a short bio of that person, and a picture if possible, to the Editor, Diane Calhoun, CFM. The information will then be published in the newsletter. This will give us a chance to get to know each other and maybe find out some really fantastic things about someone we only see once or twice a year. So be prepared. You may be getting a phone call or visit from one of the Board Members.

## FROM THE EDITOR

Too many of us have not learned to listen. Poor listeners range all the way from the impatient type - "That's nothing! Wait'll you hear what I've done!" - to the person so absorbed in his own thoughts that he is not aware that someone has spoken. Learning to listen actively, and constructively, is as important as learning to speak, if communication is to be effective.

*Source: Wise Words and Quotes by Vern McLellan*

Diane Calhoun, CFM  
M. Baker Jr., Inc.  
Denton, Texas  
940-783-4123 Direct Line  
940-4537296 Cell Phone  
940-7834144 Fax



**Baker**

## An Opportunity to Advertise In the High Waters

Advertise Here  
For Only \$200  
for one year

Advertise Here  
For Only \$200  
for one year

Advertise Here  
For Only \$400  
for one year

Advertise Here for Only \$800 for 1 year

### Opportunity to Advertise in the New Mexico High Waters

By Diane Calhoun, CFM—Newsletter Editor

We are collecting advertisements to run in the High Waters beginning with the first issue in 2009. Your ad will run for the full year of 2009. The newsletter is published four times a year.

If your firm is interesting in advertising, please provide the following:

- Provide a full color graphic of the advertisement to Diane Calhoun either by email at
- [dcalhoun@mbakercorp.com](mailto:dcalhoun@mbakercorp.com), or ftp site or CD-ROM (M. Baker Inc. 101 S. Locust St., Denton Tx 76209)
- Make your check payable to NMFMA.

## Managing Floodplain Development Through the NFIP

NMFMA is pleased to offer the premier floodplain management course in the country. This course will be offered in Los Lunas August 3 – 6, 2009, with the examination for Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) offered on August 7. To register for the course and/or the CFM exam, please visit our website at [www.nmfma.org](http://www.nmfma.org). Click on “Events Calendar,” then page forward to August and click on the event.

This course is designed to provide an organized training opportunity for local officials responsible for administering their local floodplain ordinance. The course will focus on the NFIP and concepts of floodplain management, maps and studies, ordinance administration, and the relationship between floodplain management and flood insurance.

Who should take this course? Local officials responsible for administering local floodplain management ordinances, including but not limited to floodplain management administrators, building inspectors, code enforcement/zoning officers, planners, city/county managers, attorneys, engineers, and public works officials. The course is designed for those officials with limited floodplain management experience. Attendance will be limited to two participants from any community.

This course was developed by FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI). It will be presented by Dale Hoff of FEMA Region VI.

Attendees must complete the FEMA Form 75-5 and send it to the NM DHE/OEM if they want or need a certificate from EMI for completion of this course. On the NMFMA website, click on "Documents and Newsletters" on the left of the screen, then "Temporary." Download the form, complete it, and send it to:

Felecia Schreier, Training  
NM DHS/OEM  
Preparedness Bureau  
13 Bataan Blvd., P.O. Box 27111  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

E273 and Certification: This course is the best possible preparation for the examination for Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM), which is administered by NMFMA. Typically, about 70% of those who take the CFM exam pass the first time they take it. Those who take the exam immediately after taking E273 have a passing rate of 95% to 100%.

All training materials are provided. Break refreshments will be provided. Meals are on you.

# Levee Protection? Yes and No

**Leslie Bond, CFM**

**LA Bond Associates**

**575-682-1359**

The National Academy of Sciences recently released a brief report on the 2005 flooding of New Orleans. This report is on the NMFMA website at [www.nmfma.org](http://www.nmfma.org). Click on "Documents and Newsletters," then "View Documents" under "Public," then "The New Orleans Hurricane Protection System."

One statement stands out from this report: "...the risks of inundation and flooding never can be fully eliminated by protective structures, no matter how large or sturdy those structures may be."

This statement is equally true for any area that is "protected" by levees in New Mexico or anywhere else in the world.

FEMA has always recognized levees that provide 100-year protection by showing the "protected" areas as X Zones. In X Zones, the community is not required to implement floodplain management practices, and buildings in those areas are not generally required by lenders to carry flood insurance.

Since New Orleans was flooded in 2005, FEMA has gotten much more careful about requiring that levees be "certified" to provide protection from the 100-year flood and meet specific criteria for construction and maintenance. A number of communities have learned this when they received new Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) that show large areas behind levees as A zones. These areas were previously X zones. In response, communities and affected property owners have worked to delay adoption of these FIRMs until funds can be found to bring the levees up to "certifiable" standards.

However, when they succeed in getting the levees certified and the areas behind them changed back to X Zones, the underlying problem remains: the risks of inundation and flooding never can be fully eliminated by protective structures. In a way, they make the flood hazard far worse than that which exists in floodplains with no levees.

No matter how well a levee is built and maintained, it is designed for a particular level of flooding (generally the 100-year flood). No matter what the design standard, there will someday be a larger flood. The levee will be overtopped, and the buildings behind the levee will be flooded.

Well, so what? Any building in a floodplain which is built so that then lowest floor is at or above the BFE will also flood during a flood larger than the design flood. Consider this:

A building in a floodplain that is elevated above the 100-year flood will flood perhaps a foot or two when the design flood is exceeded. However, a building protected by a levee can flood to the elevation at which the levee overtops. That means that buildings right next to the levee could flood many feet deep in just a few minutes. In New Orleans, the velocity of water flowing through breaches in the levees was especially devastating.

If your community has, or will have, a certified levee, the floodplain manager should ensure that the elected officials and the public are aware of this hazard.

## NMFMA Seeking Training Courses

Les Bond, CFM  
Chair, Training Committee  
575-682-1359

NMFMA sponsors training courses for its members and other involved in floodplain management. We need members to develop courses and provide training. Within limits, we are able to pay for the development of these courses and for their presentation.

Courses may be on any subject related to floodplain managers, and for any audience that has an interest in floodplain management. Training we have provided before include:

- FEMA elevation certificate (for surveyors) (1/2 day)
- Floodplain management under the NFIP (for floodplain managers) (4 days)
- Geomorphology (general audience) (1 day)
- HEC-RAS (for engineers) (3 days)
- Hydrology for floodplain managers (1/2 day)
- Residential substantial damage estimator (RSDE) (for floodplain managers) (1 day)
- River restoration (for engineers) (1 day)
- Sediment transport (for engineers) (1 day)

We have also provided training for insurance agents, mortgage lenders and real estate lenders.

We would like to sponsor two 3- or 4-day courses for engineers each year. Possible course might include HEC-RAS, HEC-HMS, FLO2D, and other engineering topics related to floodplain management.

We would also like to have at least one full-day or half-day course associated with each conference. We can also offer these shorter courses separate from conferences.

We need to get these courses scheduled, so we request that you notify us of your interest in developing and/or providing training. If you have a course that you have developed or are willing to develop, let us know.

Please contact Les Bond, CFM, Chair of the NMFMA Training and Education Committee at [lbond@labond.com](mailto:lbond@labond.com) by June 15.



## New Mexico Floodplain Managers Association

### Application for Membership

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax** (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

- Affiliation:**
- Local Government
  - State Government
  - Federal Government
  - Private
  - Academic
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_

**I am interested in the following areas of concern:**

**Dam Safety** \_\_\_\_\_

**Flood Data** \_\_\_\_\_

**Structural Flood Control** \_\_\_\_\_

**Litigation/Legal Issues** \_\_\_\_\_

**Wetlands Issues** \_\_\_\_\_

**AO/AH Flooding** \_\_\_\_\_

**Crawl Spaces** \_\_\_\_\_

**Flood Warning & Response** \_\_\_\_\_

**Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nature of Duties**

- Administration
- Engineering
- Planning
- Insurance
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Class Applied for & Dues**

- Individual            \$ 35.00
- Agency                \$100.00
- Corporate            \$100.00
- NEW MEMBER
- RENEWAL

**DUES ARE FOR ONE CALENDAR YEAR.**

**MAKE CHECK OUT TO NMFMA**

**Send to:            NMFMA**  
**Executive Office**  
**P.O. Box 531**  
**High Rolls, New Mexico 88325**

**I am interested in these Committees:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Certification

\_\_\_\_\_ Conference

\_\_\_\_\_ Floodplain Management

\_\_\_\_\_ Legislative

\_\_\_\_\_ Membership

\_\_\_\_\_ Nominating

\_\_\_\_\_ Training/Education



Executive Office  
P. O. Box 531  
High Rolls, New Mexico 88325  
505-682-1359

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**WEB SITE:**

**[WWW.NMFMA.ORG](http://WWW.NMFMA.ORG)**

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## **Purpose of the New Mexico Floodplain Managers**

- 1. To promote public awareness of proper floodplain management;**
- 2. To promote the professional status of floodplain management and secure all benefits resulting there from;**
- 3. To promote a liaison between individuals concerned with proper floodplain management and to encourage the exchange of ideas;**
- 4. To keep individuals concerned with proper floodplain management well informed through educational and professional seminars and to provide a method for dissemination of information, both general and technical;**
- 5. To inform concerned individuals of pending floodplain legislation and other related management matters; and**
- 6. To study and support legislation pertinent and necessary to the effective implementation of floodplain management matters.**