



NEW MEXICO HIGH WATERS

A Publication of the New Mexico Floodplain Managers Association

SECOND QUARTER

MAY 2011

UP COMING EVENTS

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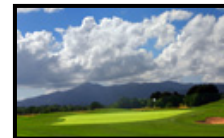
ASFPM - The Premier Flood Conference
May 15 - 20, 2011 - Louisville, Kentucky
See you at the race track !



June 20 - 23, 2011



FEMA Region VI will field deploy G273 *Managing Floodplain Development Through the NFIP*. The course will be held in Espanola, New Mexico on June 20-23, 2011. The Certified Floodplain Managers (CFM) Examination is offered Friday, June 24, 2011. Register for the class or CFM exam at www.nmfma.org. The course instructors will be Jack Graham, CFM, Senior Natural Hazard Program Specialist and Dale Hoff, CFM, Natural Hazards Program Specialist.



September 21 - 23, 2011

Fall 2011 Workshop will be at the Ruidoso Convention Center in Ruidoso, New Mexico. More details on hotel and registration will be posted on the NMFMA web site in the near future.

2010- 2011 NMFMA BOARD

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NEW MEXICO

CERTIFIED FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS



Grant Pinkerton, CFM

Chair, Certification Committee

575-937-1691

nmcfm@cableone.com

The CFM exam was proctored in Albuquerque on March 9, 2010, at the NMFMA Spring Workshop. Eight people passed the exam and joined the ranks of NM CFMs. Congratulations to the following new CFMs:

Junko Boat, CFM	URS Corporation
Brandi Butts, CFM	URS Corporation
Hoss Foster, CFM	Valencia County
Michael Garcia, CFM	San Miguel County
Bernadette Gonzales, CFM	Rio Arriba County
Steven Morrow, CFM	Brasher and Lorenz, Inc.
Paul Olson, CFM	City of Albuquerque
Jaime Rodriguez, CFM	City of Las Cruces

Also, Vincent Vigil, CFM has transferred to NM from Denver, CO and is currently working at USACOE in Albuquerque. Welcome to New Mexico, Vincent.

There are now 175 active CFMs certified by the NM certification program

The CFM exam is proctored several times each year. If you are interested in taking the exam, please remember that no matter what paperwork or on-line registration you submit for any specific workshop, class, or other function, **YOU MUST SUBMIT A CFM EXAM APPLICATION PACKET** to the Certification Board before you can be scheduled to take the exam. The packet is downloadable from the Certification page of the NMFMA website, www.nmfma.org. The Application Packet should be mailed to the Roswell address noted in the packet. Any questions should be directed to Grant Pinkerton, Certification Board Chair, at nmcfm@cableone.net.

In and Around New Mexico with the State NFIP Coordinator

Bill Borthwick, CFM

State NFIP Coordinator



505-476-9617 - william.borthwick@state.nm.us

Attention local New Mexico Floodplain Managers Association (NMFMA) Floodplain Managers. FEMA Region VI and the State of New Mexico would hope you could attend and support the following Countywide Workshops.

FEMA Region VI will field deploy G273 *Managing Floodplain Development Through the NFIP*. The course will be held in Espanola, New Mexico on June 20-23, 2011. The Certified Floodplain Managers (CFM) Examination is offered Friday, June 24, 2011. Register for the class or CFM exam at www.nmfma.org. The course instructors will be Jack Graham, CFM, Senior Natural Hazard Program Specialist and Dale Hoff, CFM, Natural Hazards Program Specialist.

We have several National Flood Insurance Rating Program (NFIP) Agent Lender Training Workshops around the State have been scheduled.

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| May 10, 2011 | Best Western Suites
1501 East Santa Fe Avenue, Grants, New Mexico 87020
8:30 a.m-12:00 p.m. (noon) |
| May 11, 2011 | Holiday Inn Express
100 Kerry Avenue, Alamogordo, New Mexico 88310
8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (noon) |

In addition we would like to thank Jennifer Smith, CFM, Taos County Floodplain Administrator for hosting an Insurance Agent Lender Training and Surveyor Workshop in Taos County, New Mexico.

The following Coordinating Consultation Officer (CCO) meeting's were held.

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| March 7, 2011 | Bernalillo County, New Mexico |
| Attendees: | Don Briggs, PE, CFM Bernalillo County
Curtis Cherne, PE, CFM, City of Albuquerque
Bradley Bingham, PE, CFM Albuquerque Metropolitan Flood Authority
Linda Seebach, CFM, Village of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque
Randall Carroll, PE, CFM, City of Rio Rancho
Adrian Anaya, CFM, Village of Tijeras |
| March 31, 2011 | Santa Fe, County, New Mexico |
| Attendees: | Shelley Cobau, CFM, Santa Fe County
Wendy Blackwell, CFM, City of Santa Fe
Larry Valdez, CFM City of Espanola |

Los Alamos County, New Mexico flood maps become effective July 18, 2011. The County can adopt a higher standard ordinance. The community must at least adopt floodplain management regulation 60.3(b).

SPONSORSHIP AND EXHIBITS

Mike Czosnek, CFM

Chair, Conference Committee

575-835-0240 - mczosnek@socorronm.gov

The 2011 Spring Workshop in Albuquerque was a huge success. As chair of the Conference Committee I would like to offer a big THANK YOU and pat on the back to Kelly Romero, Conference Director and Curtis Cherne, Program Director. Both of you did a super job!!!

NMFMA was happy to see four (4) exhibitor's this past workshop. I would like to thank them for their participation. The exhibitor's were Fugro Consultants from Walnut Creek, CA, Wilson & Co. from Albuquerque, Maccaferri, Inc. from Hagerstown, MD and URS from Albuquerque.

In addition to the exhibitor's we were privileged to have some cash sponsorships from, Smart Vent Products of Pitman, NJ, Wilson & Co., Albuquerque, The RAMPP-URS Corp. team, Albuquerque and Smith Eng., Albuquerque.

Special thanks to Wilson & Co and URS Corp. for helping NMFMA with both an exhibit and cash sponsorship.

Perhaps the biggest sponsorship comes from Michael Baker Corp. Michael Baker Corp. has been behind the scenes for a number of years with it's support of NMFMA. Their support comes in the form of allowing, what at least I think, is their number one employee to not only attend, but teach at each and every NMFMA workshop. In addition that same employee toils away every three months to produce the very newsletter you are reading, as our Editor. So a special thanks goes out to Michael Baker Corp and their number one employee, Diane Calhoun. Without Diane the NM High Waters would be the NM Low Waters.

The cash sponsorships help offset workshop break expenses and pick up the tab for drink tickets at the Wednesday evening social. So, again thanks to all of our sponsor's and exhibitor's.

Currently the Conference Committee has scheduled workshops through Spring 2013 as follows: Fall 2011 - Ruidoso, Curt Temple Conference Director, Spring 2012 Belen, Andrew Camillo, Conference Director, Fall 2012 Las Cruces, J.D. Padilla and Orlando Fiero (They haven't figured out who the conference director is, but rest assured it will be one of them) Spring 2013. This one will be somewhere north of Santa Fe, but not as far north as Red River or Farmington. The Conference Director for this one remains in negotiations so I cannot reveal his/her name at the time of this writing. For those of you that know me I will be "like a dog with a bone" until this negotiation is completed.

Last but not least I would like to thank my opponent during the past election. You put up a great campaign.

IN MEMORY OF LETICIA “TISH” P. SEGOVIA



Leticia “Tish” P. Segovia, P.E., age 44, passed away at Mesilla Valley Hospice on Wednesday, March 9, 2011, following a courageous battle with cancer. She was born April 21, 1966, in Torrance, California to Roman and Lucina Pacheco. She graduated from Las Cruces High School in 1984. In 1989, she received her Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of New Mexico and her Master of Science Civil Engineering from California State University-Long Beach in 1994. Tish married her high school sweetheart, Doña Ana County Assessor, Andy Segovia, in 1990. She was a registered Professional Engineer and during her career she had worked for California EPA, IT Corp., Bernalillo County, and the City of Albuquerque. She had been employed by the Doña Ana County Flood Commission for the last 9 years. While working at the Flood Commission, she took an active role in keeping

the residents of Doña Ana County safe from floods through the implementation of the National Flood Insurance Program and subdivision and building permit review process. She was an active member of the New Mexico Floodplain Managers Association and New Mexico Society of Professional Engineers.

Tish’s greatest love was being a wife and mother to her two beautiful children. Being with her family was her life’s joy and a great source of strength to her during her illness. Tish was also a dedicated community volunteer and was an advocate for causes that affected women and children. She volunteered countless hours of service as a member of the Junior League of Las Cruces, Zia Middle School PTO, LCHS Booster Club, The Whole Enchilada Fiesta Committee and as a Religious Education teacher for member. Tish had an amazing and her friendships lasted a lifetime and she will be missed by



St. Albert’s Parish of which she was a ability to make a friend and be a friend... time. The goodness of her heart touched all who knew her.

Floodplain Management A True Profession

Dale Hoff, CFM

FEMA Region 6

940-898-5225

Dale.Hoff@dhs.gov



When I was young, most boys my age wanted to be a fireman or a policeman. So here I am older (I'm not sure about the "wiser" part) and find myself working in the field of floodplain management. Although I didn't plan it that way, I look back and see that I pretty much followed a straight line to where I am today. Like the fireman or policeman, I have always been involved with the protection of people and property.

When I first became involved with floodplain management in 1996, the field held a back burner position to other disciplines. But then some very special people began to develop it into more of a well defined career field – a profession, if you will. The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) had been established as the national association. Here in New Mexico, the New Mexico Floodplain Management Association (NMFMA) was organized and almost immediately became an authorized chapter under ASFPM. Even today, there are only a handful of states that have done so.

During those growing years, floodplain management evolved from that back burner discipline into an established profession. It doesn't only include local government floodplain administrators but it also encompasses those who support floodplain management in any way: engineers, local officials, surveyors, contractors, academics, researchers, you name it.

Improved mapping technologies and GIS have rushed us into the 21st century. I have seen some of the impressive products coming out in the Map Mod and Risk Map Programs. They are tremendous advances to what we had only a few years ago. Maps are more accurate. They are now developed in digital format so they can be combined with emergency management and other infrastructure products through GIS. In the near future, the maps will show where the changes occurred between the current effective maps and the new preliminary maps .

The "profession" of floodplain management is still finding its identity. I don't know of any local floodplain administrator who does only floodplain management. On average, floodplain administrators have 3 additional jobs they are responsible for. In addition to managing floodplains, they are public works directors, city or county engineers, public health directors, roads and bridges directors, city or county secretaries, etc.

I believe the day is already here when floodplain management will be on the front burner during the calm times as well as when the floods come. Some communities are way ahead of others but we are collectively heading in the right direction. It's a wonderful feeling when a community mitigates a particular hazardous area that had flood damages in the past but survived the last flood intact? How about the successful protection of roads, bridges and even whole subdivisions when the proper development standards were followed? How about the lives you may have saved?

Floodplain management may not have the attraction of fire protection or law enforcement, but the results of our efforts are the same – the protection of people and property. I believe we all have the genuine right to be proud of what we have accomplished together. We can also sleep well at night knowing things are a little safer because of what we do.

Key Bulletins on Flood Insurance Program

From ASFPM News & Views

April 2011

On April 1 (no fooling!), the NFIP issued two important bulletins regarding changes in the flood insurance program. The first discusses the changes that will occur in the flood insurance program as of October 2, 2011. The second discusses a change in how the community's substantial damage percentage can be used to trigger an ICC claim if its ordinance has it set at a number less than 50%. These two bulletins can be found on the [ASFPM Flood Insurance Committee page](#). Here are some highlights:

Changes to the flood insurance program effective October 2, 2011 (#W-11020):

- Premiums go up on average just 4%
- Some new elevation rating requirements for AH, AO and unnumbered A zones
- New documentation requirements for applications for buildings in map panels where there are also CBRS and OPAs (to deter learning in claim that property is in a CBRS area and ineligible for flood insurance!!)

New NFIP Policy Issuance (01-2011) regarding ICCs and using the community's substantial damage value (#W-11021):

- Effective 4/1/2011, ICC claims can now be adjusted using a threshold contained in the community or State's Floodplain Management Ordinance that has been adopted and is uniformly enforced prior to the loss (by State or community) that may be lower than 50% of market value at time of loss. (ASFPM is especially pleased that FEMA issued this guidance that was in the 2004 Reform Act we supported.)

FEMA Flood Risk Studies - Levees

From ASFPM News & Views

April 2011

FEMA recently announced that they are changing their mapping approach of "without levee" analysis. This change is due to the political pressure from Congress asking that FEMA discontinue the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) use of "without levee" analysis when the levee structure does not meet the regulatory requirements for accreditation and an affected community objects to such analysis in favor of more precise methods of flood modeling.

FEMA has now included this topic as an important consideration in their ongoing NFIP Reform efforts, while exploring short-term resolutions. In addition, FEMA will replace the "without levee" modeling approach with a suite of methodologies that are technically sound, credible, and cost-effective.

FEMA recently produced two publications dealing with FEMA's approach and treatment of levees. These FEMA publications can be downloaded at [FEMA Publications](#) on the ASFPM web www.floods.org.

FROM THE CHAIR

Paul Dugie, CFM

NMFMA Chair

(505) 525-5558



Recently I was asked 'What/Who is NMFMA?'

My short answer was, 'We are a support organization for the floodplain managers in the State of New Mexico'.

I am asking every member, 'What does a support organization do and how can we make NMFMA a better support organization?'

We have our spring and fall workshops, we offer training opportunities, quarterly newsletters, lunchtime conference call, and a website with additional information.

What can we (NMFMA) be doing to help our membership be better floodplain managers? Would a mentoring program be of use? If so what kind of mentoring are you looking for? How about more training? What type of training do you want/need? Basic/refresher, advanced, technical? Have a who's who of NMFMA so you know who to call when you have a question?

I am asking you to get in contact with one of the board members if you have the answer to the above questions or if you have an idea of how we can help make your floodplain management job easier. If you have a topic you would like to teach to other members please get in contact with the training and Education Committee Chair or one of the Committee members. If there is an organization out there that is related to floodplain management that can bring new or different information to our members let a board member know and maybe we can have them at our next workshop.

Thanks for your time.

Hope to see some of you at the ASFPM Conference in Louisville, Kentucky May 15-20.

Paul T Dugie, CFM, PE

NMFMA Chair



With Spring Comes the Risk of Flooding

From ASFPM News & Views

April 2011

It's spring in the upper Midwest and that means only one thing...more snow. Yes, northern Wisconsin was hit with three to twelve inches of the white stuff recently, thereby boosting our chances for significant flooding and adding to the urgency of getting the word out about flood insurance.

Compared to the East Coast and the Gulf Coast, the Midwest has very low flood insurance penetration rates, but the floods of 2007, 2008 and 2010 are starting to make believers out of many floodplain residents. During the Midwest floods of 1993, people waited to buy flood insurance to see if the river or tributaries might be going over the banks. They could afford to wait because it was a 5-day waiting period then. Now it is 30 days and they shouldn't wait.

But it's not just the cheeseheads getting ready for a spring soaking. The west coast has gotten hammered with storms and high snowpack and places on the East Coast, like New Jersey, just had significant flooding. Although most current flood warnings are concentrated in the Dakotas and Minnesota, all floodplain managers should be getting the word out to their residents about spring flooding and how flood insurance can protect structures and possessions from its devastating effects.

While Flood Awareness Week has come and gone, the flood insurance program is on the minds of many in our nation's capitol and has been in the news lately because of the continuing debate over the federal budget and potential cuts to federal programs. The Government Accounting Office's recent report wasn't kind to the NFIP, stating that it is not actuarially sound, owes more than \$18 billion to the U.S. Treasury and doesn't have an effective system for managing data on flood insurance claims. The GAO pointed out that that the program is hamstrung by regulations that prevent it from building a capital surplus, buying reinsurance to cover catastrophic losses and raising rates to reflect the actual risk posed by some properties.

More - much more - will be written on this subject in the coming months as we close in on FEMA's goal of producing a workable NFIP reform draft by late summer. For floodplain managers, we will continue to stay focused on helping property owners and communities prepare for, respond to and mitigate the effects of flooding. We look forward to getting reacquainted this May on the "Bourbon Trail."

—*Your Humble Insurance Committee Co-Chairs*

Gary Heinrichs & Bruce Bender





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 _____

Nature of Duties

- Administration
- Engineering
- Planning
- Insurance
- Other _____

DUES ARE FOR ONE CALENDAR YEAR

- Individual Membership \$ 35.00
 - NEW MEMBER
 - RENEWAL

MAKE CHECK OUT TO NMFMA

Send to: NMFMA Executive Office
P.O. Box 3924
Roswell, New Mexico 88202

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: _____

I am interested in these Committees:

_____ Certification

_____ Conference

_____ Floodplain Management

_____ Legislative

_____ Membership

_____ Nominating

_____ Training/Education

_____ Technical



NMFMA
P. O. Box 3924
Roswell, New Mexico 88202
(575) 937-1691

WEB SITE:

WWW.NMFMA.ORG

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.**