

THE FIRST STATE WATERMARK



Delaware's Floodplain Management Newsletter

July 2016

Volume 22, Number 1

FEMA ELEVATION CERTIFICATE

FEMA has just released the revised Elevation Certificate! Here is a link to the announcement: [Fillable 2015 Elevation Certificate Now Available](#). The link to the new fillable Form is in the letter. This new form is good until 11/30/2018. The Elevation Certificate and its instructions are intended to be printed on legal size paper. The Floodproofing Certificate was also updated and has the same expiration date. Previous versions of the Elevation Certificate are only acceptable through December 31, 2016, for insurance purposes.

DELAWARE BEACH PRESERVATION REGULATIONS

The following is an update on the Proposed Regulations Governing Beach Protection and the Use of Beaches. DNREC held a Public Hearing on November 7, 2015. The public comment period ended at close of business December 7, 2015. The Division of Watershed Stewardship submitted a Technical Response Memorandum to the Hearing Officer at her request on February 1, 2016. The Hearing Officer drafted the Hearing Officer's Report and submitted it to the Office of the Secretary in May 2016. To date, the Regulations have not yet been adopted.

UPCOMING TRAINING WORKSHOP

FEMA and DNREC will be conducting two half day training workshops for floodplain administrators in July. The workshop is entitled *Guidance and Best Practices for Meeting Day to Day Challenges*. The first workshop will be from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm on Tuesday, July 19, 2016, in Lewes. The second one will be from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm on July 27, 2016, in New Castle. Please register here: [registration page](#).

HOMEOWNER FLOOD INSURANCE AFFORDABILITY ACT APRIL 2015 CHANGES

President Obama signed the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 (HFIAA) on March 21, 2014. This law repeals and modifies certain provisions of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 and makes additional program changes. There were several significant changes that took effect April 1, 2015. An annual surcharge will be added to all policies. This will be \$25 for all primary residences and \$250 for all non-primary residences and non-residential structures. Rate increases will also be implemented. HFIAA limited increases for individual premiums to 18%. The new law requires gradual rate increases for primary residential structures that are now receiving a subsidized premium instead of an immediate increase to full risk rates. The 25% annual increases are still in effect for subsidized policies on Pre-FIRM non-primary

residential structures, non-residential structures, severe repetitive loss properties, and buildings that were substantially damaged or improved. These policies will increase 25% annually until they reach actuarial rates. See link for FEMA Fact Sheet <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/99601>

A video explaining the additional changes that took effect in April 2016 can be viewed here: <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/videos/115675>

FLOOD VENTS AS ENGINEERED OPENINGS

NFIP regulations require that all fully enclosed areas below the lowest floor that are usable solely for parking, building access, or storage shall be designed to allow for the entry and exit of floodwaters. In order to meet this requirement, design must be certified by a registered professional engineer OR have a total net opening of not less than one square inch for every square foot of enclosure. There are three products on the market, Flood Solutions, Smartvent and Flood Flaps, that have an Evaluation Report issued by the International Code Council (ICC) Evaluation Service, Inc. (ICC-ES). This is the documentation that is called for in Technical Bulletin #1 for engineered openings. Flood Solutions has a vent rated at 110 square inches. Smartvents are rated to provide 200 square inches of opening. Flood Flaps are rated to 220 square inches of opening. A copy of the individual certification or the Evaluation Report is required to be kept in the community's permanent permit files, along with inspection reports. Other openings can be used as non-engineered openings based on their net-area of open space.

Residential Hurricane Wind Retrofit Fact Sheet

In preparation for the opening of Hurricane Season 2016, FEMA has developed a new

Fact Sheet on wind retrofit projects. Wind retrofits are enhancements made to strengthen roofs, walls, doors and windows to minimize damage to homes from wind and wind-driven rain caused by high wind events such as hurricanes. FEMA offers two Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grants that provide funds for cost-effective wind retrofit projects: Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM).

The Wind Retrofits Fact Sheet provides an overview of wind retrofit projects and the streamlined process for determining the cost effectiveness of wind mitigation projects. The Fact Sheet compliments FEMA's guidance P-804: [Wind Retrofit Guide for Residential Buildings](#) (2010), which provides guidance for selecting and implementing wind retrofit projects for homes in all coastal regions, and FEMA's [Cost Effectiveness Determination for Residential Hurricane Wind Retrofit Measures Funded by FEMA](#) (2015), which provides a simplified pre-calculated benefits methodology for determining cost effectiveness that can be used instead of the traditional Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA).

The [Residential Hurricane Wind Retrofits Fact Sheet](#) is available from the FEMA website.

UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

FEMA – EMI COURSES

<http://training.fema.gov/EMI/>

TO APPLY Complete [FEMA Form 119-25-1](#), General Admissions Application, with student signature and signature of supervisor or sponsoring agency official. State and local participants must submit their application through the State Emergency Management Training office.

IS-1103 – Elevation Certificate for Surveyors –available free online!

<https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=is-1103>

IS-1105 – EC Made easy: Elevation Certificate Overview – free online
<https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-1105>

E273 - Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP – Sept 12-16, 2016 or Oct 31-Nov 4, 2016.

E278 - NFIP/Community Rating System -

E 194 - Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts –

E282 - Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts II –

E284 - Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts III – Aug 29-Sept 2, 2016.

E279 - Retrofitting Floodprone Residential Buildings –

E386 – Residential Coastal Construction –

New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management

http://www.njafm.org/annual_conference

Maryland Association of Floodplain and Stormwater Managers (MAFSM)

www.mafsm.org/index.php

Annual Conference: October 20, 2016, in Linthicum Heights, MD.

DNREC TRAINING

If you are interested in taking the Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) exam at a different time please contact Greg Williams at Gregory.Williams@state.de.us. We will schedule a time to proctor exam again once we have several people interested. The exam and a preparatory class can also be taken at either the NJ or MD conferences listed above.

CRS

For more info on the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System (CRS) go to: www.CRSresources.org.

Wendy Carey with the University of Delaware Sea Grant Program has been working with DNREC and FEMA to host a quarterly meeting of the Delaware CRS Users Group. It is for current CRS communities and those interested in finding out more about the program. If you are interested in attending future meetings please contact DNREC.

DNREC WEBSITE:

Please check out the Division of Watershed Stewardship's website to learn more about the National Flood Insurance Program, FEMA, and other important reference material: www.dnrec.delaware.gov/swc/Drainage/Pages/Flooding.aspx

FEMA LIBRARY REFERENCES

FEMA's guidance document -

Zone A Manual: Managing Floodplain Development in Approximate Zone A Areas
www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/dl_zonea.shtm

FEMA's guidance document - FEMA 348
Protecting Building Utilities from Flood Damage

www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=1750

FEMA's guidance document - P-738
Substantial Improvement/ Substantial Damage Desk Reference

www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=4160

FEMA's updated guidance document - P-936
Floodproofing Non-residential Buildings

www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/34270

FEMA's guidance document – FEMA P-993
Variations and the NFIP

www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1415994328968-8a331cb33b4b5aeb3ab26f9d382a7f68/FEMA_P_993_FPM_Bulletin_Variance.pdf

FEMA guidance document -
Reducing Flood Losses Through the International Codes (4th edition, 2014)

www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1411731781834-d0c7d7f9ff0d195ce3c33901ba73daac/ReducingFloodLosses_4thED_Final_508.pdf

FEMA Floodplain Maps Online

Go to FEMA's GeoPlatform website:
<http://fema.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=cbe088e7c8704464aa0fc34eb99e7f30> to view the current effective maps. This website is the National Flood Hazard Layer.

For those of you wishing to download the DIRM data of the new maps, go to FEMA's Map Service Center website:
<http://msc.fema.gov/portal>. The data can be downloaded by County or for the entire state.

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