

THE FIRST STATE WATERMARK



Delaware's Floodplain Management Newsletter

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FLOOD PLANNING TOOL

DNREC's Division of Watershed Stewardship now offers an interactive Flood Planning Tool with up-to-date information for helping to determine flood risk for homes and businesses and for designing development projects in accordance with floodplain codes.

The Flood Planning Tool website is designed to provide floodplain administrators, residents, businesses, insurance agents, developers, real estate agents, engineers, surveyors and local planners with an effective means to make informed decisions about the degree of flood risk for a specific area or property. Flood Planning Tool users have the ability to look at the current effective Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) layer as well as the preliminary FIRM layer.

The preliminary layer shows areas in Delaware that will be revised with more detailed information as a result of flood studies that have been conducted.

DNREC's new Flood Planning Tool website also displays FEMA's regulatory floodplain boundary over aerial photography. Another feature is DNREC's analysis of several special flood hazard areas that have not previously been studied in enough detail to establish a base flood elevation. The Flood Planning Tool can be found at <http://de.gov/floodplanning>.

Additional outreach will occur once flood studies are uploaded to the site.

PRELIMINARY FIRMS

All three counties in Delaware currently have preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). Portions of all three counties have been revised. Go to the Flood Planning Tool website (<http://de.gov/floodplanning>) to see the panels that have been revised and to review the preliminary data. The maps went preliminary on:

New Castle County: 12/28/2016

Kent County: 2/15/2016

Sussex County: 2/15/2016

Kent and Sussex County are currently in a 90 day appeal period. The Letter of Final Determination date will likely be the end of this year with those maps going effective around June 2018. New Castle County will likely be late 2018. Only those communities located on panels that are being revised will need to have their floodplain ordinances reviewed.

FEMA ELEVATION CERTIFICATE

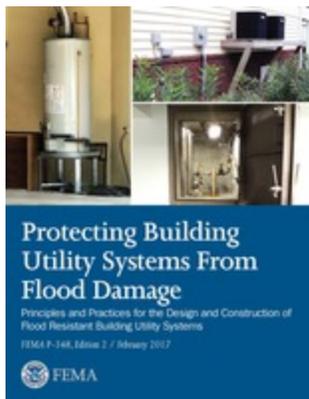
FEMA recently published an update to the newest Elevation Certificate. It corrects some minor issues with the fillable format. Here is a link to the fillable form: <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/160>. This new form is good until 11/30/2018. The Floodproofing Certificate was also updated and has the same expiration date.

SUBDIVISION DESIGN AND FLOOD HAZARD AREAS

The American Planning Association (APA) and Association of State Floodplain Managers teamed up to revise the 1997 Planning Advisory Service (PAS) Report 584 this year. This report demonstrates the intersection of sustainability, resilience, and climate change in light of changing flood hazards and how these concepts play out in subdivision design. The report includes many best practices as well as six planning and design principles; standards for review, inspection, and maintenance; and nine recommendations to keep subdivisions safe from flooding. Readers will get the tools they need to reduce risk and protect property. A copy of the report can be found here: <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/126942>

PROTECTING BUILDING UTILITIES

FEMA has updated the *Protecting Building Utility Systems from Flood Damage (FEMA P-348)* guidance document.



This publication is to assist in the construction of utility systems that must comply with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requirements for construction of new or substantially improved structures in flood-prone areas. A copy of the guidance document can be viewed at: <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/3729>

PERMITTING MINOR DEVELOPMENT

FEMA has established draft permit guidance. Through this guidance, a community can ensure compliance with FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) regulations and their local floodplain management regulations, while potentially reducing the administrative burden associated with the floodplain development permitting of certain types of low to no-impact development. **FEMA is asking for comments on the draft guidance.** To view the draft document go to <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/131010>

To comment on the draft guidance an email can be sent to FEMA-Floodplain-Management-Division@fema.dhs.gov Please comment by August 23, 2017.

NFIP REAUTHORIZATION

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), created as a result of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, offers a special flood insurance policy for homeowners, renters and businesses. The NFIP is a Federal program, managed by the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA). The NFIP has three main components, 1) provide flood insurance, 2) improve floodplain management, and 3) develop maps of flood hazard zones.

The Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (BW-12) reauthorized the NFIP through Sept. 30, 2017 and made a number of reforms aimed at making the program more financially and structurally sound.

In 2014, the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act was enacted, which repeals and modifies certain controversial BW-12 provisions and makes additional changes to the program. Specifically, the law lowers the rate increases on certain policies, prevents some future rate increases, and implements

a surcharge on all policyholders. It also repeals certain rate increases that had already gone into effect and provided for refunds to those policy holders.

The current NFIP reauthorization expires on September 30, 2017, and Congress will be considering potential changes and improvements to the program as part of the reauthorization process. Congress faces the challenge of trying to maintain a balance between improving the financial solvency of the program and reducing taxpayer exposure while also being mindful of affordability concerns.

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.

E273 - Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP – Aug. 21-24, 2017.

E278 - NFIP/Community Rating System – Sept. 11-14, 2017

E194 - Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts –

E282 - Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts II –

E284 - Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts III – July 24-27, 2017.

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>

FEMA Region III Mitigation Coffee Break Webinars

FEMA Region III is hosting a series of webinars for hazard mitigation planners and other partners interested in reducing risk in their communities. These “Coffee Breaks” are hour-long sessions hosted every other month to provide mitigation best practices and highlight the work happening at federal, regional, state, and community levels to reduce risk across the region. The Coffee Breaks are open to everyone involved in hazard mitigation, resiliency, or risk reduction planning in the public and private sector. This includes community planners, emergency managers, floodplain managers, GIS technicians, government officials, contractors, and anyone involved in the development and implementation of hazard mitigation and risk reduction strategies.

Improving your Risk Assessment: Successes and challenges of HAZUS, alternative methodologies, and how to get better results for your Hazard Mitigation Plan.

When: July 20, 2017

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Registration:

<https://femar3julycoffeebreak.eventbrite.com>

New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management

Annual Conference October 24-26, 2017, in Atlantic City, NJ. Registration now open.

www.njafm.org/annual_conference

Maryland Association of Floodplain and Stormwater Managers (MAFSM)

Annual Conference October 12, 2017, in Linthicum, MD.

www.mafsm.org/MAFSM

CRS

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

DNREC and FEMA 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.

Check out www.CRSresources.org/training for webinars on the topics listed below:

Preparing for a Verification Visit - 6/20/17

Developing Outreach Projects for Activity 330 – 6/21/17

Changes in the 2017 CRS Coordinators Manual – 7/18/17

Preparing an Annual Recertification – 8/15/17

Introduction to the CRS – 10/17/2017

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

FLOOD FLAPS

Flood Flaps recently completed an editorial revision to evaluation report, ESR-3560, which now includes documented compliance with the 2015 IBC and IRC. It can be accessed through the following link: http://www.icc-es.org/Reports/pdf_files/ESR-3560.pdf.

FEMA LIBRARY REFERENCES

FEMA's guidance document - ***Zone A Manual: Managing Floodplain Development in Approximate Zone A Areas*** www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/1911

FEMA's guidance document - FEMA 348 ***Protecting Building Utilities from Flood Damage*** www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/3729

FEMA's guidance document - P-758 ***Substantial Improvement/ Substantial Damage Desk Reference*** www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/18562

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 ***Variances and the NFIP*** - July 2014 www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/99703

FEMA guidance document - ***Reducing Flood Losses Through the International Codes (4th edition, 2014)*** www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/96634

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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