



The B.F.E.*

* Base Flood Elevation

OKLAHOMA FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 7

April 2005

Number 3



Governor Brad Henry has Proclaimed May Flood Awareness Month

Because spring marks the unofficial beginning of the state's flood season and to make citizens aware of flooding problems and solutions, Governor Brad Henry has designated May as "Flood Awareness Month" in Oklahoma. As an integral part of Oklahoma's spring flood awareness campaign, the OWRB, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management are sponsoring five one-day workshops throughout the state to update city and county floodplain administrators on NFIP compliance requirements and provide assistance in the development, administration and enforcement of

local flood damage prevention ordinances that guide floodplain development.

These workshops have been redesigned to provide training from basic floodplain management to more advanced material on federal programs and floodplain management issues. Look forward to experienced and dedicated professional instructors along with updated materials and textbooks to provide you with the best workshops to date. At the completion of each workshop, each attendee will be accredited 6 Continuing Education Credits (CEC's) to be put toward maintaining your CFM status. If you are not a CFM, become eligible now by submitting the proper materials to become a Certified Floodplain Manager and take the exam that will be offered at the conclusion of each workshop! There is no registration fee for the workshops. Sign up today!

OWRB Region 1 Floodplain Management Workshop	OWRB Region 2 Floodplain Management Workshop	OWRB Region 3 Floodplain Management Workshop	OWRB Region 4 Floodplain Management Workshop	OWRB Region 5 Floodplain Management Workshop
May 17 2005 Midwest City Titan Room-Midwest City Community Center NE Corner of Midwest & Reno 405-530-8800	May 3 2005 Bartlesville Cherokee-Delaware Room Tri County Technology Center 6101 SE Nowata Road 405-530-8800	May 12 2005 McAlester Eastern Oklahoma College 405-530-8800	May 10 2005 Lawton Public Library 110 SW 4th 580-355-6371	May 5 2005 Woodward High Plains Technology Center 3921 34th Street 580-256-6618

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OFMA Award Nominations

It is time to begin considering nominations for this year's OFMA awards. These awards are an exciting way to publicly recognize the achievements of those involved with exceptional floodplain management activities within the last year. Each year, OFMA presents awards at the Annual Fall Conference to honor those who have made exemplary contributions to floodplain management in Oklahoma. If you are aware of someone exhibiting distinctive actions in promoting floodplain awareness, reducing flood losses, or advancing the goals of OFMA, please make this the year they are formally recognized for their contributions to our State. Awards to be offered include the Floodplain Manager of the Year, the Public Official of the Year, the Special Recognition Award, the W. Kenneth Morris Honorary Lifetime Member Award, the Charles Don Ellison Memorial Award, the Ben Frizzell Media Award, the Scholarship Award, and the Silver Scoop Project Award. Nomination forms and information on qualifications for each award can be found at the OFMA website, www.okflood.org and should be submitted to the OFMA Awards Committee.

IS YOUR FLOODPLAIN MANAGER CERTIFIED?

What follows is an announcement that will help your community make the most of YOUR participation in the National Flood Insurance Program...

In the early 1990's, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, was facing probation (by FEMA) for failing to comply with their obligations under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). City staff attended courses sponsored by the State and FEMA and became knowledgeable about floodplain management and their community's responsibilities as a participant of the NFIP. Mount Pleasant is now not only in good standing with the NFIP, but it is an active participant in the Community Rating System, thus reducing flood insurance premiums by policy holders in town.



Mount Pleasant is only one of hundreds of cases that have demonstrated how well trained staff pays off. As a result, floodplain development is closely regulated; flood losses reduced, property owners better protected, State & Federal program compliance achieved and residents enjoy lower insurance premiums.

How do you know if your staff is adequately prepared for the job?

The best way to know your staff is competent is to encourage them to become Certified Floodplain Managers (**CFMs**[®]). Only with adequate training and education in reading flood maps, NFIP requirements, how to develop wisely in flood hazard areas, how to administer & enforce floodplain management regulations, & map revisions, can a person pass the rigorous, three hour, certification exam.

In order to maintain their certification, they must attend classes, workshops or home study courses to keep **CFMs**[®] up to date on new approaches, standards and programs for their community.

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) established the Certified Floodplain Manager Program in 1999. The emphasis of the Program is on knowing the fundamentals of flood mapping, managing floodplain development, national and state standards, and how to apply them to a locally administered program. **CFMs**[®] have been defined as people "*who know their stuff.*" Later in 1999, the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association applied to ASFPM to become accredited by them for OFMA members. OFMA was the first state association in the nation to become accredited by ASFPM and now has 192 CFMs.

To become a **CFM**[®], a person should study the basics of floodplain management. These are found in courses conducted by FEMA, ASFPM, state associations, and state NFIP coordinating agencies. The best single reference is the material used for FEMA's course Managing Floodplain Development Through the National Flood Insurance Program (IS-9), which can be downloaded through a link on the ASFPM website (www.floods.org).



When a person is ready, he or she applies to take the exam, which is offered many times throughout the year at locations around the country, often in conjunction with a state training program or conference, which prepares the person for the exam. The exam covers the gamut of topics that a local administrator needs to know. Application forms are available on the OFMA website (www.okflood.org).

Continuing education is necessary to maintain **CFM**[®] status and to continue to effectively serve his or her community. Credits for this continuing education can be obtained by attending training, workshops/technical conferences or by completing graded home study courses. CECs can also be obtained through web based training courses offered by our Partner, RedVector.com[®]. ASFPM Members receive a discount when they link to RedVector.com[®] through the ASFPM website and use the ASFPM reference code. **CFMs**[®] must provide verification for completing continuing education

(Continued on page 4)

2005 OFMA Spring Technical Training Wrap-Up

Flood Insurance Month has concluded with another successful year of OFMA Spring Technical Conferences. 2005 OFMA Chair Jim Coffey welcomed attendees at both Lawton and Tulsa. A collection of guest speakers from all government levels and the private sector covered basic and advanced topics in floodplain management as well as more progressive material regarding State and Federal Programs that floodplain administrator's regularly oversee. During the lunch break, attendees were provided a meal and delighted to special guest speakers, District 64 State Representative Mr. Roy Hooper of Lawton and Mr. Charles Hardt, Public Works Director from the City of Tulsa.



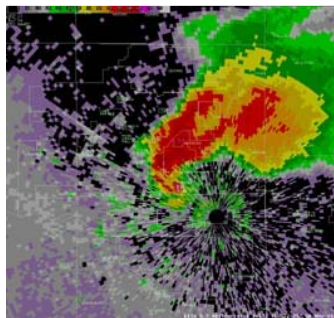
Attendees present had their choice of two Track Sessions to choose from at each conference location. Jack Graham of FEMA and Ken Morris presented Floodplain 101 in Track 1. Track 2, entitled Floodplain 202, included an array of speakers including RSDE training by Lonnie Ward of FEMA, 404 Permitting by Andy Commer of the Army Corps of Engineers, DEQ Drainage Regulations by Joe Don Willingham of the ODEQ, Map Modernization by James Orwat of FEMA and GIS Floodplain Structure Inventorying by Chris Hill of Meshek & Associates, Inc.

OFMA would like to thank those members, presenters and guest who have contributed to the success of each Spring Technical Training event.

Good News for HMGP Recipients: On April 14th, Congress passed and sent to the President a bill stating that disaster mitigation funds are not taxable as income. The measure (H.R. 1134) is fully retroactive. The president indicated that he would sign the bill on April 15th, the federal tax filing date. ASFPM has been actively informing members of Congress about the negative impact the IRS ruling has had on the nation's ability to reduce disaster costs and flood damages. Help get the word out!

Preparing for bad weather can keep your family safe

Each year, the United States sees about 1,000 tornadoes on average. The peak time for them is April and May, but they can occur the rest of the year. Last year, a record number of tornadoes swept through the country, surpassing the previous record by almost 300, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Storm Prediction Center in Norman. NOAA counted 1,717. That topped the 1998 record of 1,424 and 1,368 in 2003. Despite that record, storm-related fatalities were limited to 35.



You are most at risk during tornadoes if you are in a car or in a mobile home. But you're also not safe if you live in a home on a concrete foundation, unless you know where to go once a funnel touches down. "Everyone in your family has to know where to go and how to get there quickly", said Bob Roberts, senior coordinator for planning and preparedness at the American Red Cross' Tulsa chapter. That safe place should be the interior of your house on the lowest floor and away from windows.

Roberts said a family must prepare a home tornado plan and assemble a disaster supplies kit, complete with first-aid supplies, food, water, battery-powered radio and written instructions on how to turn off electricity, gas and water. Roberts said families also need to help neighbors who may not understand tornado warnings due to a language barrier and those

who have physical or mental impairments. On www.tulsaredcross.org, storm information is available in Spanish, Vietnamese and Russian.

More and more families are installing safe rooms in their new homes or during renovations to their existing homes, Roberts said. Safe rooms cost about \$4,000. He's also seen more families buying NOAA weather radios, which cost \$49 and up. "We wouldn't think of having a house without a smoke alarm," he said. "A weather radio will help with warning information. A lot of people rely on the storm sirens, but the sirens weren't made to be heard inside the house with kids. You need to have a way to warn yourself in your house. Even the best plan in the world doesn't matter if you don't know a tornado is coming." Roberts said his office still receives calls about community storm shelters. "For the most part, if you are in the home that is where you need to stay," he said. He also suggested that people should know the emergency plans for their children's schools, as well as their work place. "Tornados are very unfriendly creatures and don't always happen when everyone is together," he said.

The American Red Cross has branch offices in Ponca City, Muskogee, Claremore, Okmulgee, Drumright and Sapulpa. Each has disaster safety information and first-aid classes available. For more information, call 831-1100 or go to www.tulsaredcross.org.

Web Sites

OFMA www.okflood.org
ASFP www.floods.org
OWRB www.owrb.state.ok.us
FEMA www.fema.gov
OEMA www.angelfire.com/ok2/oema
OEM www.odcem.state.ok.us
Corps of Engineers (USACE)
www.swt.usace.army.mil
U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
ok.water.usgs.gov
Advanced Study Institute
web.uccs.edu/geogenvs/natoasi
CLOMR/LOMR Forms:
www.fema.gov/forms/forms.htm
EPA NPDES Phase II site:
www.epa.gov/npdes/
SMRC Stormwater Mgr Resource Center:
www.stormwatercenter.net
FEMA Official NFIP Site:
www.floodsmart.gov
Link to: 44 CFR Ch. I (10-1-02 Edition)
http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/fr/waisidx_02/44cfrv1_02.html
Webmaster: Tinna Song-Wallis
stsong@cox.net

Calendar of Educational Opportunities

- **OWRB Floodplain Management 101 and 202 Workshops**
 May 3 – Tri County Technology Center, Bartlesville, OK
 May 5 – High Plains Technology Center, Woodward, OK
 May 10 – Lawton Public Library, Lawton, OK
 May 12 – Eastern Oklahoma College, McAlester, OK
 May 17 – Midwest City Public Library, Midwest City, OK
 Each workshop begins at 8:30 and ends at 4:00
- **NFIP National Flood Conference**; May 23-27, 2005, Marco Island, Florida. Contact: *Dorothy Martinez, Program Specialist, 158635 Park Ten Place, Suite 108, Houston, TX 77084*; for more information, call 281-829-6880; website: www.nfipregion6.com.
- **Twenty-Eighth Annual Conference of the Association of State Floodplain Managers**; June 12-17, Madison, Wisconsin. Contact: *ASFP Executive Office, 2809 Fish Hatchery Road, Ste. 204, Madison, WI 53713-3120*; (608) 274-0123; fax: (608) 274-0696; e-mail: asfpm@floods.org; website: www.floods.org.
- **EWRI 2005 Watershed Management Conference**; July 19-22, Williamsburg, Virginia. Contact: *ASCE/2005 Watershed Management P.O. Box 79668, Baltimore, MD; 21279-0668* (703)-295-6300
- **3rd National Floodproofing Conference**; September 12-16, 2005, Charleston, WV. Contact: *Wallace A. Wilson email: wallaceawilson@earthlink.net*; website: www.floods.org.
- **OFMA 15th Annual Conference**; September 19-21, 2005, Quartz Mountain State Park, Lone Wolf, OK. Contact: *OFMA, P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101*; website: www.okflood.org.
- **OFMA 16th Annual Conference**; September 18-20, 2006, University of Oklahoma Conference Center, Norman, OK. Contact: *OFMA, P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101*; website: www.okflood.org.

(Continued from page 2)

for the one - year renewal period, thus demonstrating their continuing competency in handling their community's floodplain program.

Today the **CFM**[®] Program boasts over 2,300 certified professionals nationwide. Employers of these **CFMs**[®] are now reaping the rewards of having staff that "know their stuff". Some communities have received additional credit under the NFIP Community Rating System. Other communities report they have less trouble with the construction industry because the staff is able to clearly explain the process and requirements of the local floodplain regulations.

The **CFM**[®] Program has become an integral part of floodplain management around the country. In the state of New Mexico, it is a state law that a **CFM**[®] administers a community's floodplain regulations, which are adopted to meet community obligations under the NFIP. Also, in Arkansas & Oklahoma, state law requires local floodplain administrators to become accredited by obtaining continuing education credits.

For more information, contact:

Joe Remondini, CFM, P.E.

Chairman of the Professional Development Certification Committee

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Publication of NAI Real World Case Studies Released

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) has recently released a new publication highlighting model floodplain management programs applying *No Adverse Impact (NAI)* approaches in communities around the nation. The publication, entitled *No Adverse Impact Floodplain Management: Community Case Studies*, illustrates how real local governments have used NAI principles in designing their floodplain management programs. Each case study discusses specific adverse impacts targeted by the community, activities supporting the NAI, methods used in generating public support and contact information. For each case study, a specific NAI technique utilized by each community is highlighted. The case studies include:

Building Block (or other technique)	Community
Hazard Identification & Mapping	Charlotte/ Mecklenburg County, North Carolina
Education & Outreach	Orange County, Florida
Planning	Maricopa County, Arizona
Regulations & Development Standards	Fort Collins, Colorado
Mitigation	Tulsa, Oklahoma
Infrastructure	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Emergency Services	Austin, Texas
Integrated Management Techniques	Portland, Oregon
A Small Town's Approach	South Holland, Illinois
Coastal Management	Southern Shores, North Carolina
Habitat-based Watershed Planning	Thurston County, Washington

The new publication can be viewed and downloaded from the Association of State Floodplain Managers website at: http://www.floods.org/PDF/NAI_Case_Studies.pdf or purchased as a printed copy for \$10 each. Contact the ASFPM Executive Office at (608) 274-0123.

Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association

Vision

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association advocates the protection of the natural functions of the floodplain through education, training, and service to Oklahomans.

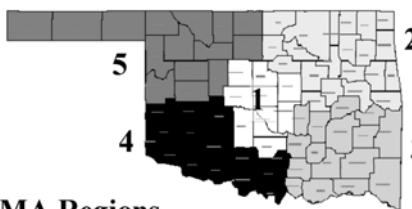
Mission

We encourage and support, with our partners, flood-safe development and flood mitigation. We promote sound floodplain management practices and the natural and cultural benefits of the floodplain. We support the floodplain management profession through education and certification.

Saving lives from floods and reducing property loss from floods are paramount to us.

An Invitation to Join OFMA

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association is a non-profit organization primarily dedicated to providing information and education to the public about reduction of loss of life and property due to flooding.



OFMA Regions

The best investment that \$30.00 can buy in the future of your state is a membership in the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association.

OFMA Membership Application

Name: _____

Company/Organization: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Work Phone: _____

City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____

Detach and Mail to:

OFMA

P.O. Box 8101

Tulsa, OK 74101-8101

New Member: ☐

Renewal: ☐

Region (see map): 1 2 3 4 5

Committees:

___ Mitigation

___ Mapping and Engineering

___ Education/Legislative

___ Certification

___ Conference

Dues Schedule:

First-Year dues are probated depending on the quarter during which you join. The fiscal year starts October 1st and ends September 30th.

	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep
Full Membership	\$ 30.00	\$ 22.50	\$ 15.00	\$ 7.50
Student Membership	15.00	11.25	7.50	3.75
Associate Membership	20.00	15.00	10.00	5.00
Agency Membership	50.00	37.50	25.00	12.50
(Plus \$10.00 per employee designated by the Agency)				
Corporate Sponsor	100.00	75.00	50.00	25.00



Notes from the State NFIP Coordinator

Mike Mathis, Oklahoma Water Resources Board, NFIP State Coordinator

To assist in publicizing and promoting the benefits of flood insurance, Governor Brad Henry proclaimed March 2005 as Flood Insurance Month in Oklahoma where only 12 percent of the homes in the floodplain have a flood insurance policy. If flooded, these homes will not be covered by a standard homeowner's policy and thus will receive no insurance benefits. Because most flood disasters in Oklahoma occur 11 days either side of Mother's Day on the second Sunday in May and it requires 30 days before most flood insurance policies go into effect, now is the time to seek protection through purchase of a flood policy.

As Oklahoma's most frequent month for flooding disasters, The Honorable Brad Henry has proclaimed May Flood Awareness Month. Please begin a flood awareness campaign in your community and Proclaim May as Flood Awareness Month in your City, Town, Tribe or County. By "*Getting The Word Out*" you can help us achieve our mutual goals of flood loss reduction. The Governor's May Proclamation is available on the OFMA web site at www.okflood.org. As an integral part of the OWRB's flood awareness campaign, we are hosting 10 daylong workshops throughout the state to update city and county floodplain administrators on NFIP compliance requirements as well as provide assistance in the development, administration and enforcement of local floodplain management regulations that guide floodplain development.

New training textbooks will be provided to workshop participants and the certified floodplain manager (CFM) exam will be offered to pre-approved candidates at the close of each training day. There is no registration fee for the workshops, which will feature speakers from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and RD Flanagan and Associates. Workshop dates and locations are May 3, Bartlesville; May 5, Woodward; May 10, Lawton; May 12, McAlester; and May 17, Midwest City.

In addition to our standard introductory *Floodplain Management 101* classes, including administration and enforcement of the basic NFIP program, for the first time we will offer *Floodplain Management 202* workshops to serve the professional development and continuing education credit (CEC) needs of Oklahoma's floodplain officials. These workshops, developed as a result of past years' class evaluations and requests for more advanced training, include training on No Adverse Impact, Map Modernization, Hazard Mitigation, Cooperating Technical Partners, Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, Stormwater Management and Floodproofing. I want to thank Joe Remondini for agreeing to host these 202 Workshops as well as guest instructors, consultant Ron Flanagan, Connie Dill, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Andy Commer, and DEQ staff. Also, it is my pleasure to inform you, OWRB has partnered with the Corps of Engineers Floodplain Management Program to assist FEMA and OWRB with Oklahoma's MAP MOD program. Please watch for more information on this in future articles.

Please keep an eye out for your workshop invitation and registration. Also, you can register on line at www.owrb.state.ok.us for the May workshops. I strongly encourage all floodplain officials in Oklahoma to attend a session held in your region. Attending one of these workshops will enable you to become accredited by OWRB in accordance to State Law. This is one important way in which we can, both individually and together, work to improve floodplain management in Oklahoma. See you there.

OFMA General Store

Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association gifts are now available. The attractive OFMA articles are of the highest quality. You will be proud to wear and display them.

To Order: OFMA
P.O. Box 8101
Tulsa, OK 74101

Or call Carolyn Schultz (918) 669-4919



OFMA Golf Shirt (S, M, L, X-L)	35.00
Briefcase	25.00
Baseball Cap (One size fits all)	15.00
Insulated Mug	10.00
Umbrella	20.00
Portfolio	25.00
Lapel Pin	3.00
CFM Lapel Pin	5.00
Shipping and handling \$4.95 per order.	



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Change Service Requested

April 2005

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Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association 2004-2005

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