

# The BFE\*

\* BASE FLOOD ELEVATION

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## 2022 Spring Technical Workshop

**April 14, 2022**

**River Spirit Casino Resort  
8330 Riverside Parkway  
Tulsa, OK 74137**

Please go online to register using the registration link. All registrants will receive an invoice and there will be an option to pay by credit card. If your agency would prefer to pay by check, the invoices can be used to submit payment to OFMA as per instructions on the invoice.

The workshop fees will be \$50 for members and \$75 for non-members. CEU certificates will be emailed to the participants at the end of the workshop. Hope to see you on April 14th!





## Words from the Chair

Ellen Stevens PhD, PE, CFM | OFMA Chair

Greetings OFMA members and BFE readers,

As I write this, the snow is falling, and the local TV meteorologists are driving around on empty, snow-covered roads. I'm very grateful to be inside and warm, and happy that the days are getting longer. I am looking forward to spring and the end of winter weather. For those of you who have to be out in this weather and are keeping our communities safe and functioning, you have our sincere appreciation!

Our next major OFMA activity is the Legislative Reception, Wednesday, February 23, 2022, from 11:30-am to 1:30-pm, in room 4S.3 at the state capitol building. All OFMA members are welcome to attend. Even if you can't attend, you can help out. When we get closer to the date, please contact your representative and senator and encourage them to attend. OFMA will send out invitations and make contacts, but there is nothing like hearing from a constituent to get their attention. You can find their contact information by clicking on Find my Legislator at <https://www.okhouse.gov> or clicking on, Find My Senator at <https://oksenate.gov>.

A cautionary tale: Recently, an individual used information from the OFMA website and sent out emails, allegedly from me, trying to scam the recipients into buying gift cards for veterans. If you ever receive a communication that appears to be from me – or any other board member – asking you to donate to some cause or (worse yet) assist us personally, it is a scam. We would not use our positions in OFMA leadership to promote our favorite charities or causes or otherwise benefit ourselves financially. Please forward it to me if you do ever receive that type of communication.

Finally, mark your calendars for the Spring Workshop, April 14, 2022, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the River Spirit Casino in Tulsa. Registration and agenda details will be furnished when they are complete.

Don't forget OFMA exists to serve the membership. If you have any ideas or suggestions, I would love to hear from you.

## 2022 SAVE THE DATES

### 2022 Spring Technical Workshop

April 14, 2022

River Spirit Casino Resort  
8330 Riverside Parkway  
Tulsa, OK 74137

### 2022 Stormwater Quality Technical Workshop

July 20, 2022

NCED Conference Center & Hotel  
2801 E State Highway 9  
Norman, OK 73071

### 2022 OFMA Annual Conference

September 18-22, 2022

Choctaw Casino Resort,  
4216 South Highway 69/75  
Durant, OK 74701

## OWRB Training

OWRB is offering Floodplain Management 101. Sign up at [owrb.ok.gov](http://owrb.ok.gov) or contact [Miranda.Thomas@owrb.ok.gov](mailto:Miranda.Thomas@owrb.ok.gov) for more information.

Next class: Wednesday, March 9, 2022; 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM  
Where: Clinton, OK (6 CEC credits)

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## Floodplain Management

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### Training Calendar

The OWRB offers the following resources to educate and train floodplain management professionals on effective floodplain management practices and requirements. Floodplain administrators can earn credit toward Oklahoma's accreditation requirements by attending an approved conference or workshop, or completing [FEMA's online courses](#). Be sure to save completed course certificates for accreditation purposes and send a copy to [Miranda Thomas](#). **Sign up today! Space is limited. Courses, dates, and locations are subject to change or cancellation.**

#### OWRB Courses

January 31 - February 3, 2022	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	FEMA L273	OK Department of Public Safety 3600 N. Martin Luther King Ave. Oklahoma City, OK 73111	<a href="#">Register</a>
February 15, 2022	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	FPM 101	Broken Arrow, OK	<a href="#">Register</a>
March 9, 2022	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	FPM 101	Clinton, OK	<a href="#">Register</a>
April 14, 2022	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	FPM 101	Oklahoma City, OK	<a href="#">Register</a>
May 11, 2022	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	FPM 101	Chickasha, OK	<a href="#">Register</a>
June 14, 2022	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	FPM 101	Oklahoma City, OK	<a href="#">Register</a>

#### OFMA Courses

February 15, 2022	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	OFMA Advanced	Broken Arrow, OK	<a href="#">Register</a>
March 9, 2022	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	OFMA Advanced	Clinton, OK	<a href="#">Register</a>
April 20, 2022	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	OFMA Advanced	Langley, OK	<a href="#">Register</a>
May 11, 2022	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	OFMA Advanced	Chickasha, OK	<a href="#">Register</a>

#### Other Courses

[FEMA Emergency Management Institute Independent Study Courses](#)

[Past FEMA Region 6 Floodplain Monthly Trainings](#)

Scroll to the bottom and click next to view more listings. Check back for new additions.

Sign up for the latest news and updates from the OWRB.



## Calling Grade School Artists!

### Turn Around Don't Drown Flood Safety Poster Contest

Each year more deaths occur due to flooding than any other thunderstorm-related hazard. Why? The main reason is people underestimate the force and power of water. Many of the deaths occur in automobiles that are swept downstream. Many drownings are preventable, but too many people continue to drive around the barriers that warn you that the road is flooded and Turn Around Don't Drown. Participation in the Turn Around Don't Drown Flood Safety Poster Contest helps children learn and inform their parents about flooding

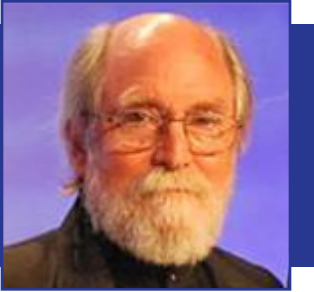
hazards. A particularly timely subject given last year's record flooding. Plus, students and their teachers could win cash prizes. If this is something your local school (third through fifth graders) would like to participate in, please contact your Region Representative (contact information on Page 8) to receive 2022 OFMA calendars, including this year's calendar contest guidelines.

Calendar requests deadline April 1, 2022.



## OFMA DRT Corner

Rev. W. B. "Bill" Smith, PE, CFM | OFMA DRT Coordinator



I am currently proctoring the CFM exam; I thought about the weeklong class, especially our Substantial Damage/ Substantial Improvement sections of the L-273. When we assist communities with SD evaluations after a flood, tornado, fire, earthquake, wind, etc., damage, it is the community's responsibility, not FEMA, or the State NFIP coordinator's responsibility for SD.

So, as we prepare to exit this winter "wonderland" and head towards springtime rains and potential flooding, do you know what to do to prepare?

Do you have a good relationship with the local Emergency Manager? You can assist with pre-planning evacuation routes and identify potential residences where evacuations may need to be performed. Have you looked at potential mitigation projects to reduce flooding – the easiest is to clean out the conveyance channels, bridges, and culverts so the floodwaters have a place to flow?

When disaster does strike, do you have the resources to respond? If you are the FPA and EM, do you return after completing your EM responsibilities and do your FPA responsibilities for SD? If you are a new FPA that has never been involved in a disaster, do you know who to reach out to for help? The OFMA DRT is always available to assist – pre-sign up your community and we will be on the road to help. The OWRB is also one of the first points of contact for assistance.

**Turning back to the Substantial Damage issue:** After a disaster strikes, the residents or businesses want to return to normal life ASAP. They are allowed to remove sheetrock and insulation, etc., to dry out, but until the SD is completed and a Floodplain Development Permit issued, they cannot re-build. So, the SD is critical to begin that process. Do not delay – a structure will either not be Substantially Damaged, so issue a permit; Be Substantially Damaged, but be compliant – so issue a permit, or is Substantially Damaged but not compliant – so don't issue a permit – have a meeting with the homeowner or business about mitigation and bringing the structure into compliance.

There are many critical parts of SD and SI – if you don't remember, get out your L-273 manual if you are a CFM, get a FEMA brochure on SD/SI, or come to an OWRB or OFMA class.

So, as Sergeant Phillip Esterhaus of Hill Street Blues always said as he dispatched the police – **be safe out there.**

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