



SOUTH DAKOTA
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Floodplain Management Newsletter

William Arwood, william.arwood@state.sd.us
NFIP Coordinator

118 W. Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD. 57501
(605)773-3231 Phone
(605)773-3580 Fax

Greetings Floodplain Administrators,

Spring time is finally here! The temperatures are warming up and the sun is starting to shine inviting residents to get out and about after a long cold winter. But for many residents living in flood prone areas, this can be a devastating time of year. Rivers and lakes have seen a serious increase in water gauges rising to dangerous levels well into the "major" flood stage. Emergency Operations Staff and first responders have geared up for spring flooding, preparing for the worst and hoping for the best.

As this newsletter is aimed at local floodplain officials, this is the time of year where you see the results of whether or not your community is operating an effective floodplain management program. How did your community survive flooding season? Were homes affected by flood waters in or out of the Special Flood Hazard Area? More importantly, were your residents adequately prepared with sand bags, emergency kits, and evacuation plans. Finally, were your residents able to provide financial protection in the form of a National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Flood Policy for their residential structures, non-residential structures, or their lifetime worth of acquired home furnishings and contents? These are a few thoughts to consider when examining your own floodplain management program.

Congratulations to the City of Lake Norden for recently joining the National Flood Insurance Program and making flood insurance available to their residents. As the South Dakota NFIP Coordinator, I welcome all floodplain administrators, local officials, and inquisitive South Dakota residents to contact my office with any questions regarding the National Flood Insurance Program, floodplain management, and FEMA flood maps.

Sincerely,

William Arwood

SD NFIP Coordinator



April 2, 2011. Aerial photo from Lake Thompson

FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT PERMITS

This is a topic in which there seems to be some confusion among Floodplain Administrators throughout South Dakota. Let's get to the bottom of the issue. Every community that participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) has a local community floodplain administrator designated which is responsible for administering

effective floodplain management within the community's jurisdiction. This is achieved through a thorough knowledge of their Floodplain Development Ordinance which was adopted either when the community initially joined the program, or revised when the community adopted updated new FEMA flood maps. This ordinance sets the minimum parameters for which floodplain management should be executed in the community. A permit is required for all development in the SFHA shown on your community's FIRM. As the floodplain administrator, it is your responsibility to issue these floodplain development permits for any "development" that occurs in any FEMA identified Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) also sometimes referred to as 100-year floodplain. Ultimately, recording these permits establishes a record of projects that may have a long term impact on floodplains.

- This applies to all projects proposed that are located within a FEMA designated floodplain within your community's jurisdiction.
- The community must issue themselves permits for work initiated by the community to be conducted in the floodplain. This includes counties, and city municipalities. Issue yourselves your permit. This seems to be a common violation among communities.
- Communities should also work with State and Federal entities as well on completing floodplain development permits, including but not limited to: DOT, US Army Corp of Engineers, DENR etc. The community is responsible for working with these entities to obtain and complete floodplain permits for any projects in the SFHA.

What is the definition of development as it pertains to NFIP and Floodplain Management?

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS Title 44 Section 59.1 ..."Development" means any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to buildings or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation, or drilling operations or storage of equipment or materials.

This includes but is not limited to:

- Construction of new structures
- Modification or improvements to existing structures
- Excavation, filling, paving, drilling, driving of piles, mining, dredging, Land clearing, grading and permanent storage of materials and or equipment.

What about Emergency Situations or actions taken to prevent flooding?

Emergency levees or temporary levees constructed in identified SFHA's (any zone beginning with an "A") on your community's FIRM still require a floodplain development permit. Now understanding that these are usually constructed in an urgent manner, an after-the-fact permit may be issued when the construction of the temporary levee or protective measure in the floodplain is completed. This permit should also address who is responsible for removal of the levee and the extent of the actions.

Again, communities are responsible for issuing themselves permits too! Furthermore, any temporary levee or protective measure that must be permitted for being located in the floodplain must also be removed within 30 days after the imminent threat has subsided.

Remember that these levees are temporary; they are not permanent, nor meant to be considered permanent structure for protection. They are to be removed when



March 23, 2011 Temporary Levee at lift station near Lake Kampeska.

the initiating threat has subsided. A temporary levee is constructed urgently, with no extensive studies on the long term effectiveness as a protective measure. Temporary levees provide a false sense of security if not removed after the intended use is finished. If your community continues to have flooding issues, consider building a permanent levee with proper research, effectiveness analysis, studies of how this new measure will change and affect what is currently identified as the Special Flood Hazard Area on FEMA's FIRM. The residents of your community could benefit if the flood risk were adjusted due to having an accredited levee reducing the risk of flooding.

2011 ASFPM CONFERENCE



The Association of State Floodplain Managers 35th Annual Conference is just around the corner. This year's conference themed "Flood Risk Management: The Winning Ticket" will be held in Louisville, KY, May 15th-May 20th, 2011. This conference is an excellent opportunity for floodplain management officials from all experience levels to get six full days of training on mapping, floodplain management, best practices, current floodplain industry products, as well as an opportunity to take advantages of a variety of specific topic workshops all related to running an effective floodplain management program in your community. Attendance is also a great opportunity to network with other professionals from public and private sector organizations. To register for the conference,

for membership or for more information, please visit www.floods.org or contact the ASFPM at (608)274-0123. You do not have to be a member to attend the event.

ASFPM CERTIFIED FLOODPLAIN MANAGER (CFM®) EXAM



You asked for it and now it is here! The South Dakota Office of Emergency Management will be hosting the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM®) Exam. This event does not occur often in South Dakota so any floodplain administrator or local official interested in taking the exam, should take advantage of the opportunity. The exam will be held either June 6th, 7th, or 8th, depending on the approval date by the ASFPM. Based upon the amount of participants, a date will be selected and forwarded to interested parties. The fee is \$100.00 for ASFPM members or \$340.00 for non-members. Any person interested in registering should email me at william.arwood@state.sd.us . Registration deadline is April 30th 2011. For more

information on the CFM® Program, please visit the ASFPM's website, www.floods.org .

ARE YOU NEW TO THE POSITION OR ROLE OF "LOCAL FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR"?

If you are new to the profession, or simply picked up the responsibility as a multi-tasking official in your community, here are some helpful hints towards getting started.

- Let us know who you are. The State NFIP Coordinator is a great resource to provide technical assistance regarding issues your community may face.
- Become familiar with the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map's (FIRM) for your community. Learn where your floodplain is located. It will be easier to identify when a proposed project may need a floodplain development permit when you know where your floodplain is located.
- Become familiar with the insurance agencies in town that offer NFIP flood policies to residents.
- Also, request a copy of FEMA 480 Study Guide "Floodplain Management Requirements: A Study Guide and Desk Reference for Local Officials". This can be requested from my office or from the FEMA Distribution Center at (800)480-2520. This book will answer nearly any floodplain question you may have. They are available in book or on disc form. Another great handbook to have near by is "Answers to Questions about the NFIP" FEMA F-084, March 2010. This too is a great resource, and can be ordered

from FEMA, but it also can be viewed online or requested from my office.

- Attend as much training opportunities on floodplain management as possible. There are opportunities through FEMA and through the State too.

FEMA FLOOD RISK STUDIES- LEVEES

In a recent April newsletter from the Association of State Floodplain Managers, the ASFPM provided insight that FEMA has recently announced that they will be changing their mapping approach of “without levee” due to a formal demand by Congress to re-evaluate the method and its effectiveness. Congress asked that FEMA discontinue using the National Flood Insurance Program’s “without levee” approach when mapping areas that contain levee structures that no longer meet the regulatory requirements for accreditation. Essentially, this “de-accredited levee” is in place, but because it doesn’t meet the requirements for accreditation, the risks were being rated as if the structure never existed. As a result, most communities and Congress asked that the method be changed to accurately reflect what the level of protection from the levee is through a more precise method of flood modeling. FEMA will be including new modeling methodologies that are technically sound, credible and cost effective. This is just one important aspect that FEMA has been discussing on their ongoing NFIP reform efforts to improve the sustainability and effectiveness of the program. More information can be found by visiting www.floods.org and searching for newsletters.

OUTREACH CONDUCTED LAST QUARTER

Beginning at the end of January, The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) conducted Spring Flood Outreach meetings in conjunction with representatives from the South Dakota Office of Emergency Management throughout the state in various locations. Meetings were held from January 31st through February 9th, 2011 in Sioux Falls, Yankton, Watertown, Aberdeen, Mitchell, Rapid City, Ft. Pierre, and Brookings. The intention of the meetings was to make available to the public a forum for discussion on topics such as the forecasted flood outlook, as well as the importance of preparedness along with examining NFIP flood policies and how they may benefit the residents of the community. The information was well received by concerned citizens looking to prepare for the flood season.

Additionally, webinars on basic floodplain management 101 were conducted. Our office makes attempts to gain email addresses from community officials to make them aware of opportunities to participate in our webinars of various topics related to floodplain management. Webinars are an excellent alternative for busy professionals because they allow you to access our presentation through a web link and call into our conversation through a conference telephone line, rather than the time and expense of travel.

If you have questions about a specific topic related to floodplain management or would like some in depth clarification on a particular aspect of floodplain management, please bring it to our attention. We would be happy to create a webinar or facilitate a discussion on various topics as they related to floodplain management. I am sure if you have a question, there is another floodplain administrator who probably has a similar question or could benefit from an in depth discussion of a particular topic. Bring them to my attention!

HAS YOUR COMMUNITY CHANGED CONTACT INFORMATION? HAVE A NEW EMAIL ADDRESS?

Part of effective floodplain management is having the ability to communicate information quickly and effectively to counterparts such as our office. When it comes to providing your community with valuable assistance, it helps for us to have the most up to date contact information. If the floodplain administrator position is now vacant or has been filled by a new person, please contact us and provide us with their contact information. If addresses, phone numbers, email, or fax numbers change, we would like to hear about it. If your community has any news they would like to share regarding flooding, mapping, mitigation success stories, we want to hear about them too. We can even include them in our next newsletter if you prepare a relevant article.