



SOUTH DAKOTA  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Floodplain Management  
Newsletter

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Greetings Floodplain Administrators!

The holiday season is fast approaching and we have much to be thankful here in South Dakota. Even though the drought is ongoing in our state, the status quo is welcome compared to those that have been impacted by recent storms on the East Coast. This gives us a chance to put into place mitigation and preparation activities, so when bad weather comes our way we are better prepared to respond and recover.

Two new towns have joined the National Flood Insurance Program this quarter and a few more are in line to follow suit once paperwork is processed. The NFIP is really a great tool to have in your community, not only to be able to offer your citizens flood insurance, but also to have better development and usage of flood-prone areas.

I hope you all have a safe and happy holiday season. Remember to plan ahead for any travel you may be doing: monitor the weather, check road maps and travel reports, and pack a winter weather survival kit in your car. Little steps go a long way.

Sincerely,

*Sarah Land*

State NFIP Coordinator

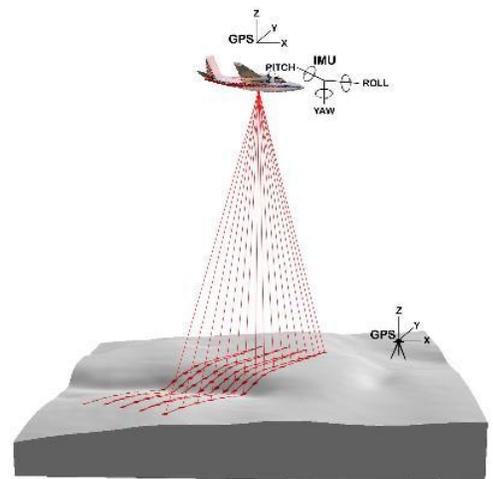
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### LiDAR Data is Now Available

Many of you have asked for additional data to help with floodplain management in your communities. Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) equipment was flown on the eastern portion of the state and the data is now available. LiDAR uses ultraviolet, visible, or near infrared light to measure distances, resulting in image objects that map physical features with very high resolution.

If you are interested in receiving this data, please contact Nicole Prince by email at [Nicole.Prince@state.sd.us](mailto:Nicole.Prince@state.sd.us) or by phone at (605) 773-3231.

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## Superstorm Sandy's Effect on FEMA Region 8

As most of you know, Superstorm Sandy has left the Northeast Coast with a long clean-up effort. Many resources have been deployed to New York and New Jersey, including many of our counterparts at FEMA. There may be some delays on projects and issues that arise, but please know that they are doing their best in these busy times.

Matt Buddie, who is the South Dakota NFIP Specialist with FEMA Region 8 is currently deployed to New Jersey. He is still available by email at [matthew.buddie@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:matthew.buddie@fema.dhs.gov), but may not be able to reply in a timely matter. We have been instructed that Michael Gease at FEMA is covering South Dakota for immediate assistance in the meantime of Matt's absence. His email address is [Michael.gease@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Michael.gease@fema.dhs.gov).

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## Follow OEM on Twitter



The South Dakota Office of Emergency Management is now on Twitter! Tweets are put out daily with good information covering all aspects of emergency management. Follow us @sdemergencymgmt

<http://twitter.com/@sdemergencymgmt>

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## ASFPM 2013 Conference

The Association of State Floodplain Managers is holding their 37th annual conference June 9-14, 2013 in Hartford, Connecticut with a theme of 'Remembering the Past – Insuring the Future. This is the largest and most comprehensive floodplain management conference and offers great information that can be brought back to South Dakota.

The Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) exam is offered during the conference, and for those of you that are already CFMs, 12 Continuing Education Credits (CECs) are offered for attending the conference. For more information and registration, visit [www.floods.org](http://www.floods.org).

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## EDUCATION & OUTREACH CONDUCTED LAST QUARTER

In October, the State along with FEMA Region 8 hosted a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) Process Webinar, taught by Tom Birney of Accenture, a FEMA contractor. It included information about the MT-1 and MT-EZ application forms, the different letter of map change types, and the required data for letter of map changes. The PowerPoint from this presentation was sent out by email and is still available if you did not receive it. Contact Jason Bauder to request this at [Jason.bauder@state.sd.us](mailto:Jason.bauder@state.sd.us).

This was the one of the first online seminar type training conducted by the State and as a money-saving tool to still educate local floodplain administrators about key tenets of their position. This topic stemmed from similar questions being asked from individuals around the state and topic suggestions are always welcome for future webinars.

## NEW COMMUNITY ENROLLMENT INTO THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

Congratulations to Central City and Tulare on joining the National Flood Insurance Program! These two communities have decided to adopt proactive floodplain management practices and as a result, their residents are now able to purchase flood insurance regardless of their location to flooding risks. Congratulations again and keep up the good work!

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is a federal program administered by FEMA. Participation is voluntary, but the benefits are considerable. To join, a community agrees to adopt, administer and enforce a floodplain management ordinance that meets or exceeds the minimum requirements as established in the Code of Federal Regulations. When communities participate in the NFIP, property owners and renters can buy flood insurance to help deal with losses from flooding. Coverage can be for structures and for contents of both residential and commercial properties regardless of whether they are located in the floodplain. If your community is not currently participating, please call my office to discuss enrolling your community in the National Flood Insurance Program.

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## 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 nearby 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 to attend training at the Emergency Management Institute in Maryland, and through the State too. Some travel expense reimbursement may be made available. Contact the South Dakota Office of Emergency Management for details.

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## HAS YOUR COMMUNITY CHANGED CONTACT INFORMATION? HAVE A NEW EMAIL ADDRESS? DID YOUR LOCAL POST OFFICE CLOSE, AND NOW YOU HAVE A NEW ZIP CODE?

Please let us know if any of your community's contact information such as phone, fax or email has changed so that we may update our records and keep your community informed of important program changes in the NFIP and floodplain management. If your community no longer has a floodplain administrator, or the position has been filled by someone new, we would like to hear from you too. Also, if you live in a community where a post office may have been closed or scheduled to be closed, please notify us if that changes your mailing address or zip code.