FLOODPLAIN MANAGER BOOTCAMP

STRENGTHENING NFIP SKILLS

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What IS the Floodplain Manager BOOTCAMP???

- A training that is modeled after a fitness-style “BOOTCAMP” that paces students through a series of courses designed to create a strong core understanding & foundation of the 10 most critical elements of the NFIP
Why develop a “BOOT CAMP”?

After years of teaching Floodplain Managers – we (State Office) wanted to:

- Establish an approach that explains the NFIP requirements in an efficient & concise way
- Develop a very practical & straightforward method to learning the NFIP
- Focus on building the basic skills a Floodplain Manager will need to run an effective floodplain management program
- Focus on delivering information that is actually necessary for job performance (i.e. NO FRILLS or CLUTTER)
- Fit as much USEFUL information in a short amount of time as we could…
Why develop a “BOOT CAMP”? cont...

Try to address typical complaints about NFIP trainings:

- Too much information delivered at one time
- Too technical  *(Unfortunately, there’s only so much we can do about that one…)*
- Have to sit through an entire workshop to get to the specific topic that they need more training on…
- Training includes information that is not really relevant to their job…

Basically, we’re continually looking for ways to make understanding the NFIP easier & effective!
History

1) Flood Loss Reduction Workshop
   • Long continuous workshop

2) Modules
   • Individual sessions developed to cover specific NFIP topics

3) BOOTCAMP
   • “BOOTCAMP” is a concept that students can identify with
   • Establishes students’ expectations for the course
   • Sets the “tone” for the training (i.e. know that the training will be intensive)
   • Students know how they will be receiving the information
BOOTCAMP Sessions

1. Floodplain Mapping
2. Flood Insurance
3. Floodplain Regulations
4. The Basics of Hydrology & Hydraulics
5. Floodplain Development Permitting
6. Elevation/Floodproofing Certification
7. Approximate A Zones
8. Enforcement, Variances, & Violation Remedy
9. Substantial Damage/Improvement
10. Letters of Map Change
Why is this BOOTCAMP different than OTHER Floodplain Management trainings???

The Bootcamp delivers:

- Intensive training in a brief period of time
- NFIP information most relevant to performing the work duties of Floodplain Manager
- Method that will increase the student’s understanding & retention of the NFIP concepts & standards
- Summarized information that “connects the dots” for students
3 Part Format

1) Warm Up
2) Workout
3) Cool Down
WARM UP

- Students learn background information & fundamental concepts to create a strong foundation for understanding the subject

Includes:

- Defining terms
- Roles
- Key concepts
- Tools
- Critical information
WORKOUT

- Students use fundamental concepts established during the WARM UP to comprehend & apply information

- Includes:
  - Systematic approach to learning specific elements of the NFIP
  - Class exercise(s) to utilize the new information
COOL DOWN

Instructor will:

- Summarize the material learned & practiced in the WARM UP & WORKOUT to confirm the student's understanding of the material
- Answer questions from the class
Benefits

- Makes trainings more consistent
- For a BUSY ODNR staff, it gives us stock presentations to “grab & go” if a community requests presentation on short notice
- Gives communities a framework to understand the NFIP & targeted topics that they can request
- Helps staff follow a systematic & comprehensive process of delivering information
  - Strengthens presentation skills
- Standardizes the appropriate amount of time to deliver the material
Overcoming Obstacles

- The NFIP is a COMPLEX program
  - It’s hard to remember ALL THIS STUFF!!
- As students are learning about the NFIP, it takes time for concepts to make sense
- We do Floodplain Management EVERYDAY, but not all Floodplain Managers do…
  - Floodplain Managers often have many roles within the community
- Class of students of with different backgrounds, knowledge, skills, & agenda
Considerations…

➢ The concept of this “BOOT CAMP” may be very basic or common sense, but we often forget that FPMs may not be performing floodplain management everyday
  • We need to deliver the information in a way that is easiest for them to comprehend

➢ Proficiency
  • Students may learn information in a course, but being able to practice & communicate the information on the job is the goal

➢ Sometimes… there are situations when FAMILIARIZING a Floodplain Manager with the NFIP & it’s components is enough
Strategies for Success

- Try to keep sessions “small” (35-40 students max)
- Provide reference materials
- Postpone questions until the end of the session to help keep training on time & prevent students from derailing session
  - Limits confusion of other students
  - Empowers the student to answer their own questions as the session progresses & all the info has been delivered (i.e. the “aha” moment)
QUESTIONS?