

**ASSOCIATION OF
STATE FLOODPLAIN
MANAGERS**

*Dedicated to reducing flood
losses and protecting
floodplain resources . . .*

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NEWS & VIEWS

Vol. 26, No. 2

April 2013

Climate Change and the 100 Year Storm: A novel method for forecasting storms in a changing climate

Stephen F. Bourne and Kelly Brumbelow

In the last decade, there has been a 5% increase in the average annual rainfall in North America (Karl, et al., 2009). Long-term predictions indicate that the southern portions of the continent will get drier, while northern portions get wetter. Bigger storms and longer droughts are occurring. Floodplain managers across the country are seeking practical approaches to planning under these emerging climate changes.

[Continued on page 10](#)

Flood Mapping for the Nation – ASFPM Report

The need for accurate, updated flood mapping couldn't be greater considering the trends of larger and more numerous disasters as well as the unsustainable cost of flooding to the nation. Congress recognized this and the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (BW-12) authorized a comprehensive flood mapping program as part of the NFIP.

ASFPM has developed an estimate, based on a careful analysis, of the total cost to provide floodplain mapping for every community in the nation based on the parameters specified in the BW-12.

[Continued on page 8](#)

Early Bird Registration Discount!

May 4, 2013

Will you be attending the 2013 ASFPM Conference?
Don't miss the opportunity to save! Registering attendees must register by May 4th to benefit from the early bird discount.

[Learn more](#) and don't delay!

Visit <http://asfpmconference.org/> and register today!

Not yet an ASFPM member? [JOIN NOW](#) for access to numerous member benefits!
Questions? Contact your Member Services Coordinator at kevin@floods.org or 608-828-3000.



From the Chair

Sally McConkey, P.E., D.WRE, CFM

This is my last letter “from the chair”, as my second and final term as Chair of ASFPM ends in June 2013. Serving as Chair of ASFPM for nearly the past two years and as Vice Chair during the two preceding years has been an immense educational experience. I believe anyone who has had the opportunity to serve as an ASFPM officer, on the ASFPM Board of Directors, or as a Policy Committee Co-Chair would agree that the experience, professional growth, and knowledge building benefits far outweigh the time and effort given. My expertise is in engineering and mapping, but I have been exposed to and learned about mitigation, levees, NFIP compliance, the intricacies of flood insurance; natural and beneficial functions of floodplains, law, national policy, national programs, social studies, marketing, and more. When studying to become a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) you begin to see the wide array of issues related to floodplain management, and involvement with ASFPM is much like graduate school. I strongly encourage everyone to get involved, either with your state chapter or ASFPM.

Earlier this month, active ASFPM members received a Member Alert announcing that FEMA was “Seeking Ideas to Improve Risk MAP Program” and members were encouraged to weigh in with their expertise. Risk MAP in many ways is a bold experiment to educate public officials and the general public about flood risk, to alter perceptions that floodplain mapping that shows “in or out of the 1% floodplain” is the same as “in or out of flood risk.” Flood Risk = the likelihood of flooding X the consequences. As Risk MAP enters its fourth year, greater emphasis is on achieving actions that actually reduce risk by reducing consequences. It is a tall order to blend risk identification with mitigation, it has to happen at all levels, and it will take time.

While reducing flood risk is keenly important, first and foremost, that risk must be accurately identified. There remain hundreds of counties and communities that do not have updated Flood Insurance Rate Maps. ASFPM has focused attention on this glaring gap by publishing the report [*Flood Mapping for the Nation*](#). This report quantifies the costs of completing the job of Map Modernization; keep the flood risk map inventory up to date, and provide additional products that help to communicate flood risk. This will be a key document going forward as ASFPM staff and members meet with elected officials to work for reducing flood losses through flood risk management.

It is going to be an interesting time in the world of flood risk management. This fall the reality of flood insurance rate increases under the [NFIP Reform Act of 2012](#) will become apparent as premium bills arrive. Early in 2014 we hope to be hearing how FEMA plans to implement SEC. 100207 PREMIUM ADJUSTMENT of the Reform Act (grandfathering). There are going to be pilot projects testing the long awaited roll out of Levee Analyses and Mapping Procedures (LAMP) guidance. I recommend reading the National Research Council, Committee on Levees and the National Flood Insurance Program: Improving Policies and Practices report, Levees and the National Flood Insurance Program: Improving Policies and Practices. The report can be downloaded as a free [PDF HERE](#); a press release highlighting the report can be found [HERE](#). Many more communities will be receiving Flood Insurance Rate Maps and Flood Insurance Studies and databases following the 2011 FEMA Guidelines and Specifications (see [Appendices K and L](#)) and 2012 Procedure Memorandum 65 Guidance for Additional Enhanced Dataset Definitions and Flood Risk Database Standards (available [HERE](#)). The look and organization are very different from the Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) to which we have become accustomed. Never a dull moment!

The ASFPM Annual Conference is just around the corner and it will be another great event, this year in Hartford, Connecticut (<http://asfpmconference.org/>). I hope that you plan to attend!

Thank you for electing me Chair of ASFPM. It truly has been an honor to serve.

Sincerely,
Sally

From the **Director's Desk**

Chad Berginnis, CFM
Executive Director, ASFPM



Hartford, Here We Come!

Where can you totally geek out on floodplain management issues and celebrate (or share war stories) with over 1,000 of your floodplain friends? This year, it is Hartford Connecticut from June 9th through June 14th. As Executive Director, I take delight in hearing from our members on what ASFPM does well, and I think that the ASFPM conference is one of our strengths. Over the past decade I have had many members and former staff approach me to share the following about the ASFPM conference:

- “I go to other technical conferences throughout the year and ASFPM is by far the best technical conference.”
- “If I have to choose among conferences, I choose ASFPM. I get more out of it.”
- “The ASFPM conference gives me a chance to connect with old friends and colleagues.”
- “I get so much floodplain management information at the conference my head hurts at the end of the week.”

The fact is the ASFPM annual conference is the nation's largest technical conference on all things flood. Recently, the ASFPM Board of Directors had their retreat in Hartford, where we had the opportunity to check out the conference site with the date drawing nearer. It is located in a beautiful convention center and there are some neat and historical buildings throughout downtown Hartford. Because we are in New England this year, some folks I have talked to plan on extending their trip a few days to explore the area. If you have never been and even if you have been to your state conference, you absolutely have to make it to an ASFPM conference. You will not be disappointed!

Of course floodplain managers come from a variety of backgrounds and professions, but I can say that there is something at ASFPM for all practicing floodplain managers. Here is a quick rundown of what you can expect if you are a:

Local Emergency Manager – There is a hazard mitigation track and part of the conference is a large exhibition of floodplain management related services and products. You can talk to engineers, mapping firms, manufacturers of floodproofing products, and geospatial technology providers - to name a few. Want an alternative to sandbagging? See some of the new products offered by vendors. There are tracks on education and outreach to help improve risk communications. Also, learn about innovations in risk assessment and mitigation planning.

Coastal Manager – Early in the week ASFPM's Coastal Committee kicks off the discussion (all ASFPM committee meetings are open to all attendees). There will be coastal presentations throughout the conference and a plenary discussing Superstorm Sandy and impacts.

State Floodplain Manager and Hazard Mitigation Officers – You might be interested in ASFPM's policy committee meetings on Monday where issues related to implementing federal programs are discussed. ASFPM's Mitigation and Regulations Committees may be of interest as will the Mapping Committees. Also, you will meet some of your colleagues as you pick their brains on how they do mitigation or floodplain management in their states.

Mapping Industry Professional – Learn about some of the latest and greatest projects related to mapping and how that mapping can be used to mitigate flood risk. Keep abreast of the latest innovations by your colleagues and gain knowledge about other processes related to flood mapping and floodplain management.

Local Floodplain Manager – This is definitely a not to miss event! The concurrent sessions focus on real projects and real issues at the local level. See how your fellow floodplain managers are solving their flood risk problems and also talk to the various exhibitors that will be showing their products and services. Also, the field tours and workshops can help you improve your knowledge and skills. A further benefit is that you can obtain all of your required Continuing Education Credits (CECs) for the year if you are a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM).

At the end of the day, there is a little something at the [ASFPM conference](#) for everybody! I promise that you will come back with some new knowledge gained and new friends.

See you in Hartford,

Chad



Policy Matters!

Larry Larson, P.E., CFM
Director Emeritus – Senior Policy Advisor, ASFPM

Have Hurricane Sandy and BW-12 created another perfect storm? Or is this a great opportunity?

BW-12 is shorthand for Biggert-Waters 2012, which is shorthand for the 2012 National Flood Insurance Program Reform Act that was passed and signed in early summer 2012. As you know, most of the publicity about BW-12 is about the increase in flood insurance premiums. The main focus of Congress in BW-12 was to reduce the debt of the program, which owed the taxpayers \$17 billion in the summer of 2012. Since the program was not charging enough to cover the flood risk for policies, and because 20% of the policies were discounted, Congress felt more of the policies needed to move toward full risk rates. That started with moving second homes and businesses to full risk rates, and will eventually require policies on other structures, such as repetitive losses, substantially damaged and resold homes move to full risk rates over 4 or 5 years. Congress recognized these policies have been discounted for 45 years, and such discounts mask the true risk for property owners and communities.

A few months after BW-12 was enacted, Sandy hit the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast coast damaging hundreds of thousands of structures. It now seems there may be 30,000 to 40,000 structures substantially damaged (at more than 50% of their value). The owners of these substantially damaged structures face: (1) Rebuilding requirements where if the owners decide they want their structures rebuilt, they must be built to the current regulations and must be elevated to at least the Advisory Base Flood Elevations (ABFEs) or higher in New Jersey, and in much of New York and other areas. The Federal recovery Task Force headed by HUD Secretary Shawn Donovan has issued guidance that requires elevating to one foot above those ABFEs if federal money is used in rebuilding; and (2) Increased flood insurance premiums because BW-12 moves the premiums for these structures toward actuarial rates at 25% increase per year.

This combination of a major storm event causing major damage, combined with increasing flood insurance premiums can be seen as a problem or an opportunity. For those who cannot afford the new insurance premiums, they may need some assistance through this transition. BW-12 did not have provisions to assist on the affordability issue, but we continue to push consideration of that. On the other hand, these true flood risk rates accomplish two important things: (1) The rates show the property owner what their true flood risk is---and that risk has been masked for over 40 years by low rates that ended up putting the NFIP in debt to the nation's taxpayers for \$25 billion; and (2) This shows the property owner they can save money over the long haul by investing in mitigation to elevate or otherwise mitigate their structure against flooding. Often, the cost of elevating the structure can be recovered in a few years through savings in flood insurance premiums.

Mitigation is the ultimate solution for at risk structures. While initial assistance with premiums will help low income property owners, mitigation will not only save money, but also serve to increase the safety of the people involved and give them peace of mind. We as floodplain managers at every level of government and the private sector - and the home builders and lenders and insurance agents - play a key role in making people and communities safer and more sustainable in the future.



ASFPM 2013 Annual Conference Event Website is Now Live!

SAVE THESE IMPORTANT DATES: June 9 -14, 2013, for ASFPM's 37th Annual National Conference, "Remembering the Past - Insuring the Future", at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford, CT.

The conference website, including hotel information, the full conference program, and registration information, is now live! For full conference details, please visit:

www.asfpmconference.org

We will be continually adding new content to this site as events are solidified and details are confirmed, so please check back often!

Thank you! Please let us know if you have any questions and we look forward to seeing you in Hartford this June.

Association of State Floodplain Managers

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Madison, Wisconsin 53719
[608-828-3000](tel:608-828-3000)

Flood Mapping for the Nation – ASFPM Report..... [continued from page 1](#)

The report explaining the study and cost estimates is posted [here](#) and [directly available here](#).

For years ASFPM has been asked by decision makers and others: "When will we be done mapping the entire nation's flood risk areas?; How far have we gotten and what needs to yet be done?; What would it cost and how long would it take to provide accurate flood mapping for every community in the nation?; Once this round of mapping for all communities is done, what is the annual cost of maintaining and updating those maps in the future?" This report addresses those questions. We believe this information will be useful to communities, states, federal agencies, and national policy and other decision makers, including Congress and the Administration.

We trust you will find this report of interest and urge you to share it with your colleagues. Comments and feedback on the report should be directed to Larry Larson, ASFPM Director Emeritus & Senior Policy Advisor, larry@floods.org, 608-828-3000

American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) 2013 Report Card for America's Infrastructure

The new [ASCE 2013 Report Card for America's Infrastructure](#) is now available. This report is also available as a tablet and phone app on the iTunes and Google Play stores!

Every four years, ASCE issues the Report Card which evaluates conditions and investment needs for major sectors of infrastructure -- including roads, bridges, drinking water systems, ports, mass transit, and the electric grid. This year's Report Card covers 16 infrastructure categories, and it's being released as a digital application (or "app") that includes videos, interactive maps, and other multimedia tools. For the first time, the 2013 Report Card provides information for all 50 states, including examples of initiatives and innovations that are making a difference. For example, Oklahoma created a plan to replace or rehabilitate over 950 structurally deficient bridges between 2013 and 2020. Philadelphia implemented a program to improve resiliency and address combined sewer overflows using green infrastructure, capable of capturing water from all but the most severe storms.

FEMA FY 2014 Budget

The President budget request for all agencies and programs for FY 2014 has been submitted to Congress for their action. See [FEMA FY 2014 Budget—President's Request Highlights](#) for the summary of the FEMA programs that most significantly impact floodplain management for FY 14. More details on other agency budgets will be in the Washington Legislative Report in the May Insider.

ASFPM 2013 Legislative and Policy Priorities

The Association has posted an [abbreviated version](#) of the Legislative Priorities for 2013. The full version will be available under ASFPM Legislative and Policy Priorities on the ASFPM [Working with Congress page](#).

ASFPM 2013 Legislative and Policy Priorities

- **Promote importance of hazard mitigation to public safety, reduction of losses and reduction of disaster costs.**
This includes the integration of hazard mitigation into federal programs, legislation and regulations; promote proper incentives and eliminate perverse disincentives for incorporating flood loss reduction, mitigation, and sustainable measures in all federal, state and local programs. Train state and local officials on No Adverse Impact (NAI), legal and Policy issues and their role in mitigation. Educate decision makers, media and public on the need for public policy that supports the basic concepts of “those who live at risk should pay for the cost of living at risk” and not externalize that cost to others, especially the federal taxpayers. Promote delegation of mitigation programs to qualified states.
- **Continue to improve the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) including the National Flood Mapping Program**
With passage of the 2012 National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) reform, which starts to move flood insurance premiums to full risk rates, we will promote discussion and development of ways to address affordability of flood insurance and group flood insurance policies. ASFPM will also work with FEMA on implementation of the National Flood Mapping Program including funding, delegation of mapping to qualified states, standing up Technical Mapping Advisory Council (TMAC), and a robust implementation of all mapping requirements as outlined in the ASFPM’s [“Mapping the Nation”](#) report. Push for FEMA rulemaking needed to implement all Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC) enhancements and raise the cap to \$50,000. Continue to build state floodplain management capability through Community Assistance Program State Support Services Element (CAP-SSSE) and mentoring, and local floodplain management through improved “base” floodplain management standards. Work with FEMA and USACE on levees, including mapping, levee database, accreditation and managing residual risk lands
- **Work to Improve the Stafford Act and Hazard Mitigation**
Support Stafford revisions that promote effective mitigation both pre and post disaster, including planning, in a shared responsibility with all levels of government and property owners. Seek modifications to speed the approval of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) projects post-disaster, including program delegation and advancing 25% of funding to states as already authorized. Promote legislation and policies that require mitigation in reconstruction post disaster, and that provide for mutual aid for post-disaster damage determinations and permitting to build capacity for state and local mitigation efforts. Work to elevate the importance of hazard mitigation at DHS and at FEMA.
- **Support Legislation, Policy and Federal Funding in 2013 that Encourage Effective Flood Risk Management**
Evaluate bills that impact coastal and riverine flood risk management, including coastal management, levee and dam risk management, farm bill, insurance and re-insurance, integration of water quantity and quality programs, federal technical assistance to communities and states and support those that are effective. Review Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) provisions for levee or dam risk management programs, USACE technical assistance, cost sharing, other flood policy and authorizations. Suggest ways to make WRDA more effective in supporting long term flood risk reduction, with a balanced approach to the economy, society and the environment, while ensuring wise use of taxpayer funding that will all result in sustainable communities and water resource ecosystems. Support adequate funding for the range of federal programs that provide communities and states the data, technical assistance and programs to assist locals and states reduce their flood risk and create sustainable development and ecosystems. Support incentivized federal cost sharing that rewards locals and states that are doing more to become sustainable.
- **Support Comprehensive Flood Risk Management, including Managing Catastrophic Losses**
Encourage the President’s office to support improved agency implantation of existing Executive Orders and policy that impact flood risk and community sustainability, support the Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force initiatives and collaboration. Support legislation and initiatives to address catastrophic disaster losses with appropriate incentives and disincentives to help communities, states, citizens and businesses manage catastrophic losses through land use, development approaches, reinsurance and innovative approaches.

The full version will be made available on the ASFPM [Working with Congress](#) page.

Climate change challenges the traditional assumption of stationarity in the engineering approach to estimating storm volumes, and subsequently flood levels. Stationarity implies that there is no appreciable trend in storm volumes over time. Therefore, a 100-year storm in Tampa, Florida, today is the same as a 100-year storm was 50 years ago, and the same as the 100-year storm will be 50 years from now. Given the trend, is the stationarity assumption still valid? If not, then how can floodplain managers effectively develop plans for floods?

One answer is to build climate change aware forecasts of storms at the local scale — towns, cities and counties — a methodology that researchers from Atkins North America and Texas A&M (TAMU) are currently developing (Bourne et al., 2012). The method utilizes a suite of general circulation models (GCMs) to estimate the possible range of future rainfall and historic weather pattern data to produce a realistic forecast at a sufficiently detailed time step. Detailed in time, these forecasts include individual storms. The forecasts are particularly useful to floodplain managers for estimating future floods and forecasting storms under climate change.

The first step in the methodology begins with GCMs. GCMs simulate the globe under several greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) regulation policy scenarios ranging from an economically-driven global society that is environmentally insensitive to a more regionally sensitive world that is far more green. The scenarios, set by the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), are realistic estimates of how global governments might control pollution in the future. The GCM ensemble effectively shows the range of climate responses to GHG control, and provides a good picture of what trends in climate to expect over the next century.

However, GCMs are not enough for a storm forecast. The problem is a matter of scale. GCMs comprise grids that cover the earth, each cell 200-300 km on a side. GCM outputs have been shown to reflect biases relative to specific local conditions. Moreover, GCMs are typically most accurate at monthly time steps—far too long of a period to capture individual storms.

To forecast weather at a specific location, the Atkins/TAMU researchers downscaled the process by integrating the general trends in the GCM projection with historic knowledge of the weather patterns normally experienced at a location (historic knowledge is provided in the form of precipitation records taken at 15-minute time steps over decades).

Using Tampa, Florida as an example, the development of a climate change aware forecast begins with a “delta analysis” of GCM projections. In this analysis, the monthly 2001-2100 GCM rainfall is subtracted from a GCM control run, which simulates the globe under pre-industrial Revolution conditions. The deltas are then added to an expected local climate time series, which is generated by finding the average monthly rainfall for each month in the year from historic rainfall data and then repeating the monthly values year after year over the 2001- 2100 timeframe.

The GCM projection combined with the climate time series creates a forecast with a local climatic signature and reflects any trends in rainfall magnitude and variability present in the GCM results. The GCM/time series process is repeated for each of four GCM models and three scenarios to produce an ensemble forecast of 12 time-series of projected rainfall.

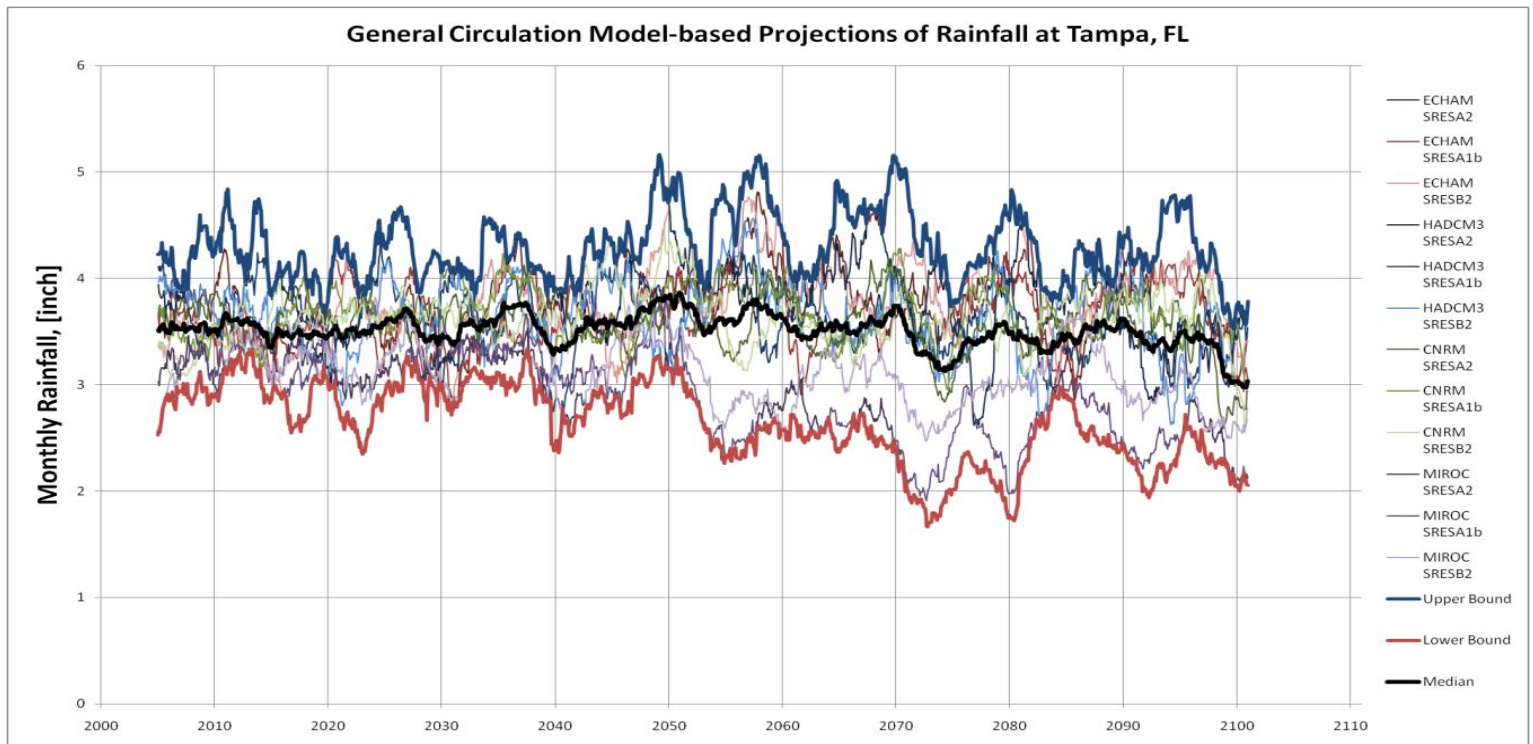


Figure 1: Monthly Ensemble Forecast for Tampa, FL based on 12 GCM model-scenarios.

The second step of the method focuses on converting the monthly ensemble forecast created in step 1 to a 15- or 60-min forecast. A library of historic storms at these time steps is generated from the historic record for each month. Also, the probability of storms occurring on any given day is evaluated for each two-week period of the year.

The third step synthesizes a 2001-2100 detailed storm forecast. The synthesis process relies on a random number generator and the probability of rain (established in step 2) through each day in the month to determine if it rains. If it does rain, a storm is extracted from the storm library for the month in question and added to the forecast. Because the GCM ensemble incorporates non-stationarity, it is possible to have more rain in a given month than has ever been recorded in history. In these cases, the storms are scaled up both in their size and in how frequently they occur during the month, so that the total rain for the month matches the GCM forecast.

The final step in the process is to evaluate the forecast to establish how the 100-year storm changes over time. One-hundred-year storm amounts are estimated for each decade to produce a trend line that shows how the iconic storm is predicted to change.

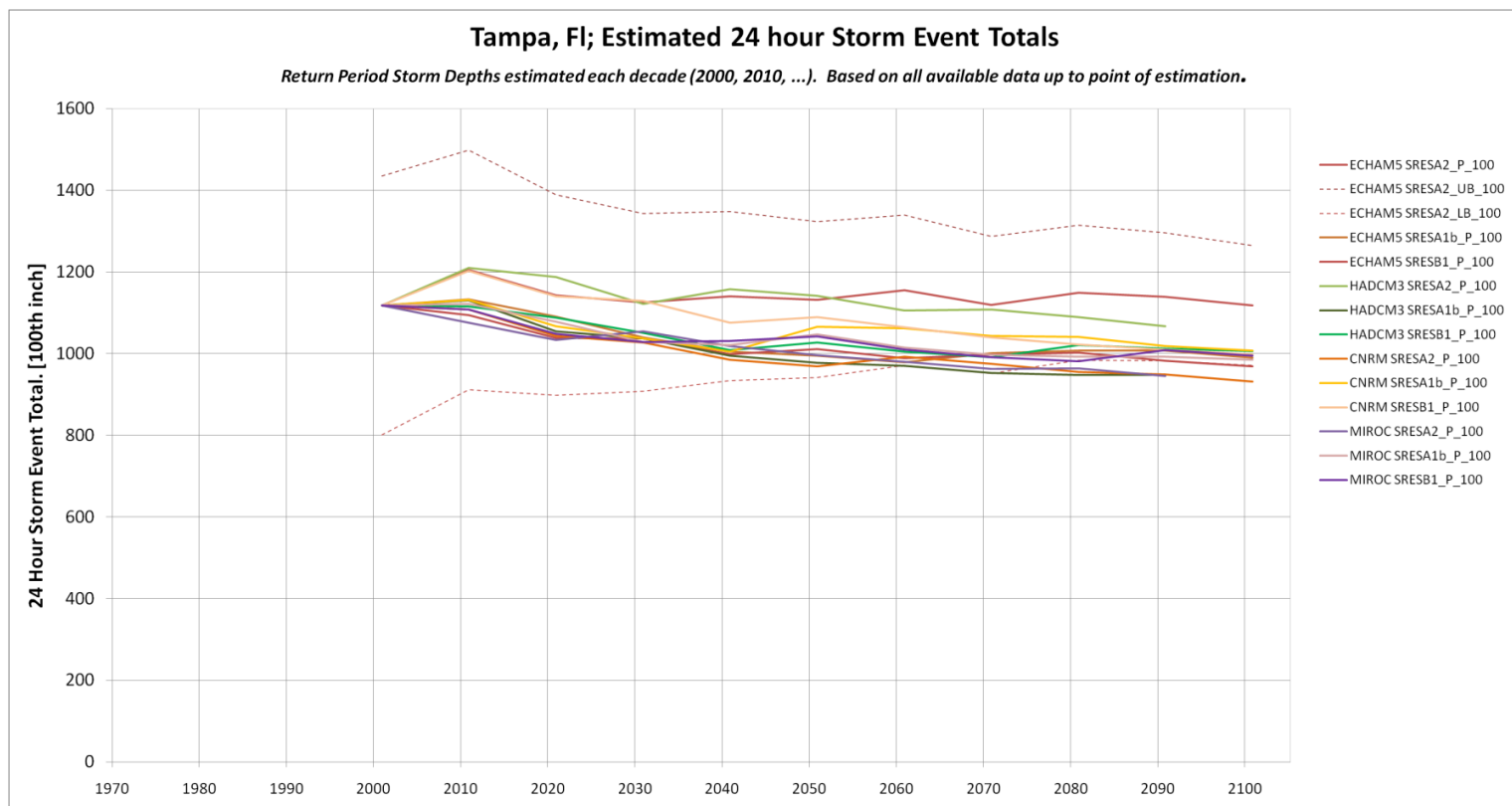


Figure 2: Ensemble Forecast of 100 year storm in Tampa, FL. Based on 12 GCM model-scenarios.

So what did we find? Our first study, which focused on Tampa rainfall, showed that stationarity might indeed be a fair assumption in the Tampa area. Figure 2 shows that the majority of GCM models predict a slight decreasing trend, but that the uncertainty bounds for the estimates (dashed lines) are wide enough to include a stationary, or flat, trend line. We did observe large changes in summer standard deviation, however, which indicate that while the total amount of rain received each month might stay the same on average, the size and frequency of the storms may shift.

It is important to note that the ensemble of forecasts (Figure 1) was very wide, indicating there is considerable uncertainty in our forecast. The uncertainty emanates from 1) the choice of GCM model, 2) the range of GHG control policy that is likely to be used, and 3) the relatively little data we have to make statistically significant conclusions. Future flood preparedness efforts should consider this uncertainty as a probable range, rather than a fixed forecast.

It is also important to note that our result is location-specific. While Tampa appears to have little trend in storm volumes into the future, GCMs predict significant upward and downward trends in rainfall in some parts of the country. Work is continuing at Atkins to produce forecasts for locations across the country.

Further research work is also required to understand how best to use regional weather pattern knowledge in producing GCM-based storm forecasts. Superimposed on the statistical analysis of historic rainfall data, dominant frontal systems, convective thunderstorm activity, and tropical storm activity all influence the balance of storm size, duration, and intensity. These phenomena are regional in nature, and our ability to leverage knowledge about geographic and seasonal influences will help improve forecasting accuracy.

To help with outreach and transfer of this new methodology to practitioners, the Atkins/TAMU team is developing a tool called StormCaster. By leveraging databases of GCM and historic rainfall data, the StormCaster will allow users to create a forecast anywhere in the country.

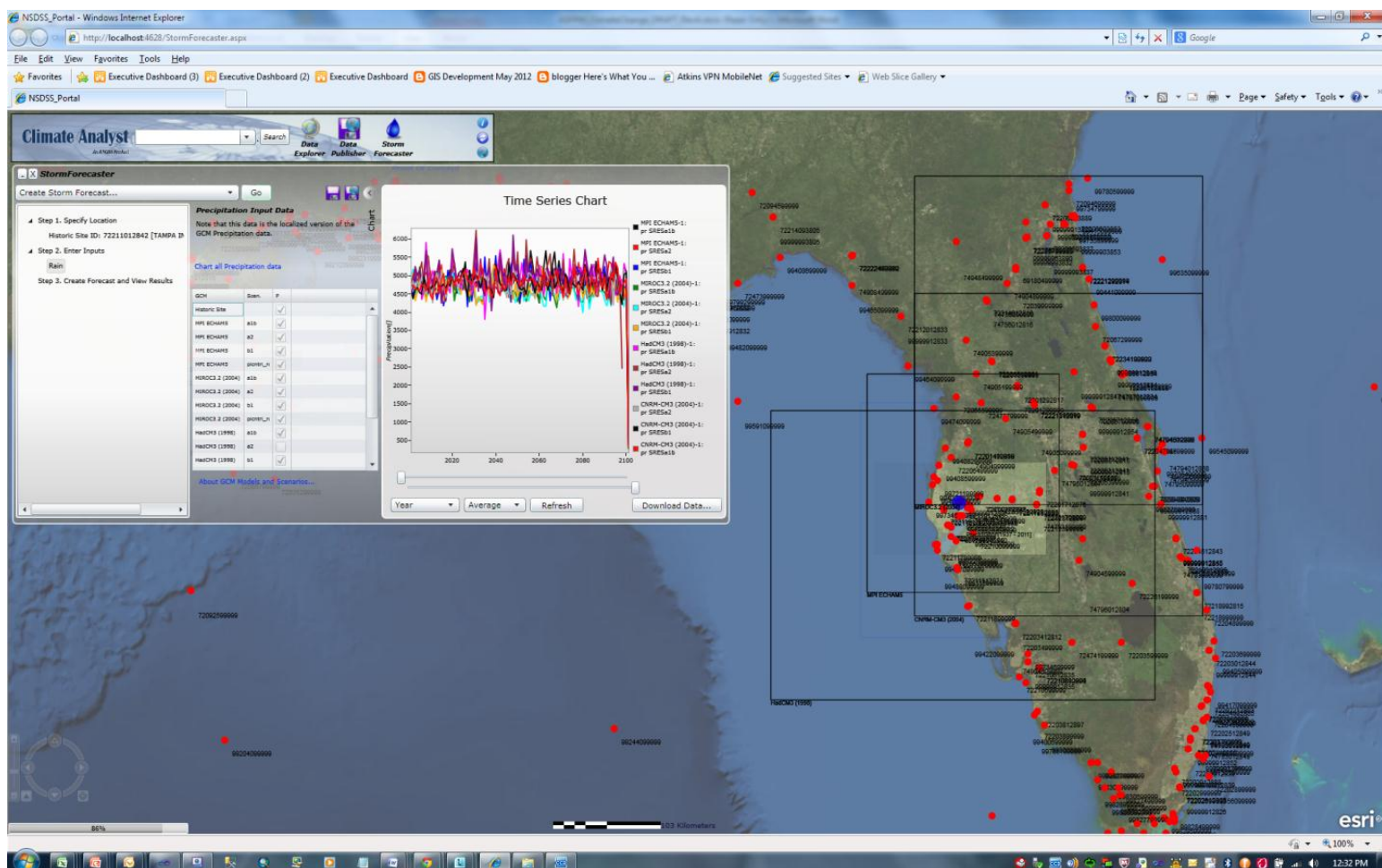


Figure 3: The StormCaster tool is a part of the Atkins Climate Analyst suite of tools. It will be rolled out in the coming months. The map shows Tampa, FL (blue dot), and the GCM grid cells that overly it from the various models.

Please contact the authors for more information on StormCaster.

Stephen F. Bourne, P.E., is a Sr. Project Manager at Atkins. He can be reached at stephen.bourne@atkinsglobal.com. Kelly Brumbelow, PhD. P.E. is an associate professor at Texas A&M University. She can be reached at kbrumbelow@civil.tamu.edu.

References:

Global Climate Change Impacts in the United States, Thomas R. Karl, Jerry M. Melillo, and Thomas C. Peterson, (eds.). Cambridge University Press, 2009.

Forecasting Climate Change-induced Shifts in Storm Frequency and Intensity in Florida, Stephen F. Bourne, Kelly Brumbelow, John C. Hampson, and Leslie Gowdich. *Florida Watershed Journal*, Winter 2012.

Deployment of Mitigation Assessment Teams: Investigating Building Practices of Areas Affected by Hurricane Isaac and Sandy

*John Ingargiola, Senior Engineer, EI, CBO, CFM, Team Leader, Building Science Branch Risk Reduction
Division - Federal Insurance & Mitigation Administration*

Amit Mahadevia, CFM, Infrastructure Protection and Risk Assessment Team, URS Corporation

What is a Mitigation Assessment Team (MAT)?

Disasters of national significance provide opportunities for research on how hazards affect the built environment and to research the performance of current building codes and practices. For over 30 years, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has studied the performance of buildings affected by disasters of national significance through its Mitigation Assessment Teams (MATs). Recommendations from the MATs are often adopted in model building codes or as guidance for better and stronger construction practices.

Hurricane Isaac, a Category 1 storm, made landfall at Port Fourchon, LA, on August 28, 2012. At landfall, Hurricane Isaac had sustained winds of 80 miles per hour (mph) and a broad wind field encompassing nearly 200 miles and impacting many of the same areas hit by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. On October 8, 2012, the FEMA Building Science Branch deployed a mitigation assessment team (MAT) to Louisiana in response to the storm. This was the first time a MAT was able to visit affected areas for a second time—in this case, the first time following Hurricane Katrina and the second time following Hurricane Isaac.

The Hurricane Isaac MAT was charged with evaluating damage, especially for buildings constructed or reconstructed after Hurricane Katrina, assessing the performance of Emergency Operations Centers and other critical facilities affected by the storm, evaluating the performance of electrical distribution and communication facilities, and investigating possible claims of wind damage in newly constructed buildings.

Another MAT was deployed on December 6 in response to the October 30, 2012, Hurricane Sandy, which made landfall just south of Atlantic City, NJ, and had sustained winds of 80 mph. The MAT investigated heavily damaged coastal areas of New Jersey and New York. The Hurricane Sandy MAT investigations focused on damage to residential coastal buildings, mid- and high-rise buildings, critical facilities, historic structures, hospitals, and other critical facilities, such as schools, police stations, and fire stations.

MAT field investigations have resulted in the development of recovery advisories (RAs). Hurricane Isaac RAs cover mitigation strategies to minimize wind and water intrusion around the underside of elevated buildings and minimize flood damage to electrical service components. The Hurricane Isaac RAs can be [downloaded from the FEMA Library](#).

Hurricane Sandy RAs are currently under development with anticipated release in April. They offer mitigation measures that could be taken to minimize future damage to buildings, including:

- Sandy RA 1: *Improving Connections in Elevated Coastal Residential Buildings*
- Sandy RA 2: *Reducing Flood Effects in Critical Facilities*
- Sandy RA 3: *Restoring Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing Systems in Non-Substantially Damaged Residential Buildings*
- Sandy RA 4: *Reducing Operational Interruptions to Mid- and High-Rise Buildings During Floods*
- Sandy RA 5: *Designing for Flood Levels Above the Base Flood Elevation After Hurricane Sandy*
- Sandy RA 6: *Protecting Building Fuel Supplies from Flood Damage*
- Sandy RA 7: *Reducing Flood Risk and Flood Insurance Premiums for Existing Buildings*

The Hurricane Isaac MAT report is scheduled for a spring 2013 completion. The Hurricane Sandy MAT report is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2013. Both MAT reports will present the teams' observations and subsequent recommendations based on the post-disaster damage assessments conducted in Louisiana, New Jersey, and New York. They will include sections related to residential and non-residential buildings as well as critical facilities and infrastructure. Figure 1 shows a timeline of 2013 MAT related activities.



Figure 1: Timeline of Sandy MAT activities

For additional multi-hazard mitigation information and resources, please visit [Building Science Branch](#).



Top Reasons Why You Need to Attend the 2013 ASFPM Conference!

BIGGERT - WATERS 2012 FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM ACT

What does BW12 mean for my community? Which properties will move to actuarial rates and how fast? Come and find out.

FLOOD MAPPING UPDATES

Check out the new mapping standards and metrics that FEMA plans to roll out at Hartford.

NETWORKING WITH EXPERTS IN THE INDUSTRY

The conference provides a unique opportunity to connect with others in your field and provides access to leading experts and panelists in floodplain management.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In addition to the conference program, workshops and technical field tours are offered throughout the week for continuing education and professional development.

FLOOD PRODUCTS & SOLUTIONS

Conference exhibitors attend to showcase products and solutions that address your community's flood-related needs.

CERTIFICATION

Certified Floodplain Managers (CFMs) save their communities money through application of sound floodplain management knowledge and principles. ASFPM offers two opportunities to sit for the CFM Exam at the conference. Current CFMs who attend the full conference receive 12 Core CECs.

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MAY 4, 2013

Register now to lock in our lowest registration rate available.

Rates will go up after May 4th!

<http://asfpmconference.org/>

2013 ASFPM Conference Social Media – Twitter and Facebook

As we gear up for our 37th annual gathering, the ASFPM Conference Twitter account is once again up and running to relay conference updates and information as it becomes available.

Follow us to stay connected! <https://twitter.com/ASFPMConf> and [#ASFPM2013](https://twitter.com/ASFPM2013)

Not on Twitter but a follower of ASFPM on Facebook? See the [ASFPM 37th Annual National Conference Event](#) page



First Annual “Running of the Chapters” 5K Sunday June 9, 2013



This year's ASFPM national conference will showcase a new event, a 5K road race, designed for either a seasoned runner or casual walker.

The scenic 3.2 mile route along the Connecticut River, only steps from the Connecticut Convention Center, will provide a charming backdrop for this inaugural race.

The Rhode Island Flood Mitigation Association (RIFMA) is seeking your chapter's assistance in making this race a completely chapter sponsored event.

For more information [click here](#) or contact [Jess Stimson](#).



ASFPM Foundation

The ASFPM Foundation mission is to promote public policy through select strategic initiatives and serve as an incubator for long-term policy development that promotes sustainable floodplain and watershed management.
Visit ASFPM Foundation for more information.

Texas and Georgia State Symposiums

The March 2010 Gilbert F. White National Flood Policy Forum was conducted at George Washington University, with the topic “Managing Flood Risks and Floodplain Resources”. The Forum Action Agenda that arose from this Forum reflected the participants’ recommendation that there is a need to capture flood risk indicators at the state, regional, and local levels of government to complement the national level indicators developed at the Forum. In response, the ASFPM Foundation, in cooperation with ASFPM, solicited proposals from the 30 State Chapters to co-sponsor this event with the Foundation. Four Chapters responded to a detailed request for proposals. The first two State Symposia were held in Indianapolis, Indiana and Boulder, Colorado in April 2011, sponsored by the Colorado Association of Stormwater & Floodplain Managers and the Indiana Association for Floodplain and Stormwater management, respectively. Most recently, the Texas Floodplain Management Association and Georgia Association of Floodplain Management hosted State Symposia in March 2013.

Following the national forum model, the selected chapters prepared an invitational list of about 80 individuals from a variety of disciplines including floodplain and stormwater managers, transportation and development planners, elected officials, natural resource specialists, researchers, social science and public engagement specialists, and professionals from the insurance, real estate and other industries. Invitees were both from public and private sectors, NGOs, academia, “in-state” state and local officials, and federal officials with state or regional responsibilities.

Each symposium included approximately 85 participants that met in plenary and then in 3 pre-assigned breakout groups. For each symposium the following itinerary was followed:

- Welcome by local host and local issues presentation
- Summary of findings from National Forum
- Video replay of risk communication by Dr. Dennis Mileti from Forum
- Setting the Stage on Risk Management, including Natural and Beneficial Functions
- Group discussion on topics of interest in flood risk management

ASFPM and participating Chapter leaders agreed that the initiative to bring the National Forum policy dialogues to state and local audiences succeeded in its objectives to: 1) engage Chapter members, 2) explore differences in scope and focus, and 3) discuss issues state and local levels of implementation. In many respects, the Symposia exceeded expectations by additionally providing a much-needed venue for spontaneous and organic networking, relationship-building, and exploration of new approaches among participants.

Other State Chapters are interested in hosting additional Symposia to focus the dialogue, issues, and actions at the state, regional, and local levels. ASFPM Foundation leaders share this interest and are seeking funding to continue the State Flood Risk Symposia.

The Texas and Georgia chapters will review the preliminary data, findings, and recommendations of their respective symposia and produce short reports in the coming months. For more information on the state symposia, please visit asfpmfoundation.org.

2013 Foundation Forum Update

The 4th triennial assembly of the ASFPM Foundation Gilbert F. White National Flood Policy Forum was held February 19-20, 2013, at George Mason University's Arlington, Virginia Campus. This Forum addressed "Human Adjustments in Coasts - Adaptive Management in Response to Changing Hazards, Risks, and Ecosystems." One hundred invited experts - the brightest minds on flood policy, law, governance, engineering practice, biological sciences, transecting disciplines, sectors, landscapes, and US regions - spent a day and a half developing recommendations on approaches the nation can use to adjust human occupancies and management of the coasts. These suggestions should prove instructive to decision makers at all levels of government as we prepare the nation for increased coastal population, diminishing resources, and increased storms and risk.

Although the Forum focus on coastal issues was identified long before Hurricane Sandy, Forum planners recognized that the storm and its aftermath would be topics of significant discussion at the Forum. The nation's coastal floodplains face ever increasing and changing pressures. Population growth in the coastal zone; escalating demands on fisheries and other resources unique to the coast; discovery of resources that can fuel a nation; and ecosystems under stress from land use and river management strategies are not new challenges. However, what is new is the unprecedented growth of the United States population, coupled with a climate that has drastically changed in a handful of generations.

Current demands on constrained coastal resources are not sustainable. Even if human population, resource consumption, and climate trends stabilized at today's levels, evidence indicates that critical coastal functions could not be sustained. However, the mainstream science community acknowledges that populations in coastal regions are growing at a rapid clip, against the backdrop of a changing climate, and that the impacts of these trends are and will continue to be disruptive to lives, ecosystems, and economies.

To facilitate national policy discussions on important floodplain management issues, the ASFPM Foundation sponsors The Gilbert F. White Flood Policy Forum. The Forum is a gathering of leading experts in the field of flood policy and floodplain management. These Forums develop policy recommendations and establish an ongoing record of flood policy issues and directions for the future. The Forums have been named in honor of Gilbert F. White, the most influential floodplain management policy expert of the 20th century. The Forums are not only a tribute to his work, but also recognition of the success of his deliberative approach to policy analysis and research.

The goal of each Forum is to convene the top technical and policy strategists to examine a particular flood challenge, and to develop recommendations for policies that will reduce the human casualties, environmental impacts, and economic losses associated with flooding, as well as policies to protect and enhance the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains.

The Coastal Forum, by design, was linked to Gilbert F. White's 1942 dissertation Human Adjustment to Floods. In this groundbreaking work, Dr. White dramatically expanded the options available to deal with flooding from being that of purely controlling floods to that of also modifying practice or financial exposures in a manner that would allow humans to adjust to flooding impacts. Forum 2013 provided the opportunity to explore the management principles that should underlay a sound coastal flood risk management and coastal resource management strategy while at the same time begin to enumerate the policy, technology, data, and essential research necessary to implement such a strategy.

A short report of the Forum will be available summer 2013, with the full report anticipated in late 2013.

2013 ASFPM Foundation Gilbert F. White National Flood Policy Forum Sponsors



Forum sponsors pictured left to right: Matt Koch, AECOM; Grant Smith, Dewberry; Neal Gruber, Black & Veatch; David Key, ESP Associates; Firas Makarem, CDM Smith; David Greenwood, Michael Baker, Jr., Inc.; JoAnn Howard, H2O Associates; Vince DiCamillo, Stantec; Bel Marquez, URS

Donations needed for ASFPM Foundation's 2013 Silent Auction!

ASFPM Foundation Silent Auction

Hartford, CT

Monday, June 10, 3:30 pm ---- Wednesday, June 12, 4:00 pm



The [ASFPM Foundation](#) holds a [Silent Auction](#) each year to raise funds to support their activities and research. They are now accepting donations for their 2013 Annual Silent Auction in Hartford, CT. Please consider making a donation on behalf of your chapter, state, agency or corporation. Donations need to be made now in order to be included in this year's Silent Auction. A list of items already donated for this year can be found on the Foundation website.

How & Where to Donate

To make a tax-deductible donation to the Silent Auction please email the following information to the Silent Auction Coordinator, Luci Sherwood at dasherwood@q.com:

- Description of Item (and number of each unit donated if applicable)
- Fair Market Value (include any shipping costs)
- Company/Affiliation
- Your phone and email
- Your address
- When and how the item will be available for table placement (shipping ahead, bringing with you, etc.)
- Name/address for acknowledgement letter if applicable

You can either bring your donation with you to the conference or ship it in advance. Contact Luci Sherwood, at dasherwood@q.com, to coordinate.

Information on where to ship your donations (if not bringing them with you to the conference) will be provided at a later date.

2013 Building Safety Month: *Code Officials Keep You Safe*

Jennifer E. Lynette, Building Science Branch Technology Transfer COTR, FEMA

Building Safety Month (BSM) is a public awareness campaign held each year in May. Founded by the International Code Council, 2013 marks the 33rd annual BSM. The campaign focuses on public outreach and education to increase the overall safety and sustainability of buildings through the adoption of modern building codes and promotion of code enforcement.

Adhering to modern building codes and safety standards is the best way to sustain disaster resilient communities. BSM strives to help communities negate the impacts of natural disasters by promoting the importance of high building standards, protecting the environment, and saving energy.

An array of theme-related community events, safety demonstrations, and educational outreach activities take place during BSM. The overarching theme of BSM is *Code Officials Keep You Safe*. This overarching theme is supported by weekly building safety sub-themes.

- [May 6-12, 2013](#): Fire Safety and Awareness theme
- [May 13-19, 2013](#): Disaster Safety and Mitigation theme
- [May 20-26, 2013](#): Backyard and Pool Safety theme
- [May 27-31, 2013](#): Energy and Green Building theme

Part of FEMA's overall mission is to help the nation prepare for and protect against all man-made and natural hazards that pose a threat to life and property. FEMA is supportive of BSM initiatives because promoting building safety is a key integrated aspect of FEMA's mission.

FEMA's [Building Science Branch](#) (BSB) collaborates with subject matter experts including building officials, design professionals, scientists, and engineers from federal, state, territorial, local, non-profit, tribal, and private sector organizations to develop disaster-resistant guidance and tools. These publications are utilized by the public to [protect homes and businesses](#) from [earthquakes](#), [fires](#), [floods](#), [tornados](#), [winds](#), and other [hazards](#). Technical guidance focuses on new construction and retrofitting existing buildings to design stronger and safer buildings. Also developed by the BSB, the [Building Codes Toolkit](#) clearly defines the value of building codes and proper construction practices for occupant safety, community resilience, and recovery from disasters (Figure 1).

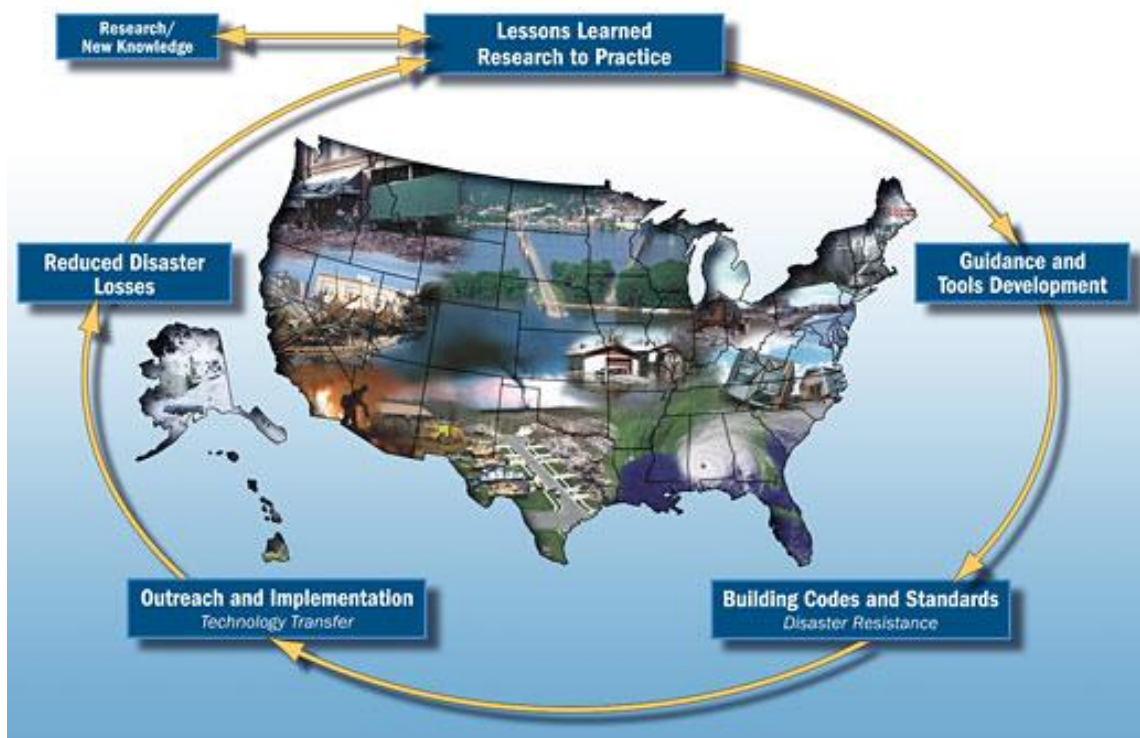


Figure 1: Building Science Branch activities and product development process ([source](#)).

For additional information on multi-hazard mitigation guidance, visit FEMA's [Building Science Branch](#). For additional information on how *Code Officials Keep You Safe*, visit [Building Safety Month](#).

Publications, Video, the Web

United Nations (UN) Panel Discussion – Water and Disasters

The Special Thematic Session on Water and Disasters convened for the first ever high-level event at the UN dedicated to addressing the issue of water and disasters. ASFPM Foundation President, Scott Edelman, was in attendance and contributed to the conversation. A recording is [available here](#).

Mitigation Ideas: A Resource for Reducing Risk to Natural Hazards

Through Risk MAP, FEMA has developed and released a new resource for helping communities identify actions to improve their disaster resiliency! [Mitigation Ideas: A Resource for Reducing Risk from Natural Hazards](#) presents ideas for how to mitigate the impacts of different natural hazards, from drought and sea level rise, to severe winter weather and wildfire. The document also includes ideas for actions that communities can take to reduce risk to multiple hazards, such as incorporating a hazard risk assessment into the local development review process. This resource targets an audience with a wide range of expertise and capabilities. For each hazard, mitigation ideas are summarized into four types:

- Local Planning and Regulations
- Structure and Infrastructure Projects
- Natural Systems Protection
- Education and Awareness Programs

This resource also links mitigation actions to the specific FEMA publications that can help support their implementation, such as technical publications produced by the Building Science Branch. FEMA's Risk Analysis Division funded this project, which updates and enhances *Mitigation Ideas: Possible Mitigation Measures by Hazards Type* created by FEMA Region V in 2002. The following FEMA program areas contributed to this project: Hazard Mitigation Planning, Building Science, Environmental and Historic Preservation, Flood Mitigation and Insurance, and Hazard Mitigation Assistance. [Read more here](#).

2012 NFDA survey of FZD Firms

[NFDA Releases 2012 Survey Results](#) The National Flood Determination Association (NFDA) recently released its [2012 survey results](#). Nine flood zone determination (FZD) companies participated in the survey. A total of 18,257,332 new orders were completed for lenders, up from 15,217,287 in 2011. The number of new orders completed for insurance (Write Your Own (WYO), insurance agents, insurers, WYO flood vendors) went down from 3,919,231 in 2011 to 2,300,672 in 2012.

The number of Life of Loan Certificates tracked throughout 2012 was 154,510,460. The number of Life of Loan Certificates that experienced status changes as a result of map revisions was 15,646,475. Within this number, the number of revisions changing from "out to in Standard Flood Hazard FHA" and "in to out SFHA" is as follows with the remainder staying out of the SFHA or in the SFHA:

Life of Loan Certificate revisions with a status change from OUT to IN SFHA was 336,232

Life of Loan Certificate revisions with a status change from IN to OUT SFHA was 222,179

The National Academies Press - Emergency Preparedness/Disaster Management Collection

The tornado in Joplin, Missouri, the H1N1 pandemic, the tsunami in Japan, and the earthquake in New Zealand have proved that even prepared communities can be overwhelmed in a state of emergency. This collection of reports provides guidelines and targeted resources for all stakeholders in a disaster response, including state and local governments, emergency medical services and health care centers. These reports also examine the improvement of emergency services in rural communities and recommends post-disaster public engagement practices. [See the collection of publications here](#).

Nice Collection of Articles on Green Infrastructure Available from the Environmental Law Institute
Volume 30, Number 2 – March/April 2013 – [The Environmental Forum](#) – [Environmental Law Institute](#)
Access the following articles [here](#).

Overcoming Barriers to Resilience

Chuck Barlow, Vice President, Environmental Policy & Strategy, Entergy
Jeff Williams, Director, Climate Consulting, Entergy

Sandy Shows We Must Use Holistic Approach

James Dalton, Chief, Construction and Engineering, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

A Varied Response Builds in Resiliency

*Margaret A. Davidson, Director (acting), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management,
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*

Low-Hanging Fruit Ready for Harvest

Samantha A. Medlock, Policy Counsel, Association of State Floodplain Managers

The First Wave of Change

Erik J. Meyers, Vice President, The Conservation Fund

Our Experience Implementing Resiliency

Kevin Shafer, Executive Director, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District

Free Print Versions of EPA's Climate Change Indicators in the United States 2012

The Earth's climate is changing. Temperatures are rising, snow and rainfall patterns are shifting, and more extreme climate events—such as heavy rainstorms and record high temperatures—are taking place. These types of changes can bring about fundamental disruptions in ecosystems, affecting plant and animal populations, communities, and biodiversity. Such shifts can also affect society, including where people can live, what kinds of crops farmers can grow, and what kinds of businesses can thrive in certain areas. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's [Climate Change Indicators in the United States, 2012](#) report presents a set of 26 [indicators](#) tracking observed signs of climate change in the United States. EPA has worked in partnership with other agencies, organizations, and individuals to collect and communicate useful data about five categories of climate indicators: [greenhouse gases](#), [weather and climate](#), [oceans, snow and ice](#), and [society and ecosystems](#).

The report, [Climate Change Indicators in the United States, 2012](#) is designed to be useful for scientists, analysts, decision-makers, educators, and others who can use climate change indicators as a tool for:

- Assessing trends in environmental quality, factors that influence the environment, and effects on ecosystems and society.
- Effectively supporting science-based decision making and communication.
- Evaluating existing and future climate-related policies and programs.

If you are interested in ordering some print copies of [Climate Change Indicators in the United States, 2012](#), please write to climateindicators@epa.gov. There is no charge for these reports, but we would love to hear how you'll be using the report to support your own climate change work on a state or local level. State and local officials interested in additional information about developing and implementing cost-effective climate and energy strategies that help further environmental goals and achieve public health and economic benefits may visit EPA's [State and Local Climate and Energy Program](#).

EPA Releases Report on Green Infrastructure Operation and Maintenance Practices

EPA is releasing a report that examines the operation and maintenance practices of several green infrastructure projects funded by the Clean Water State Revolving Fund under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and identifies trends and common elements shared by the various projects. The report provides information to communities and operators on funding programs to help ensure that green infrastructure projects are operated and maintained to optimize long-term performance and effectiveness. To view a copy of the report, please visit:

http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/cwsrf/upload/Green-Infrastructure-OM-Report.pdf

EPA Survey Finds More than Half of the Nation's River and Stream Miles in Poor Condition

March 26 - EPA released the results of the first comprehensive survey looking at the health of thousands of stream and river miles across the country, finding that more than half - 55 percent - are in poor condition for aquatic life. The 2008-2009 National Rivers and Stream Assessment reflects the most recent data available, and is part of EPA's expanded effort to monitor waterways in the U.S. and gather scientific data on the condition of the Nation's water resources. [Access the report here.](#)

EPA National Water Program Publishes 2012 Highlights of Progress: Responses to Climate Change

EPA has released a 2012 Highlights of Progress report, which provides a summary of the major climate change-related accomplishments of EPA's national and regional water programs in 2012. This is the fourth climate change progress report for the National Water Program and the first progress report organized around the five long-term programmatic vision areas described in the National Water Program 2012 Strategy: Response to Climate Change, which are water infrastructure; watersheds and wetlands; coastal and ocean waters; water quality; and, working with Tribes. The National Water Program 2012 Strategy: Response to Climate Change released in December 2012 was an update to the initial climate change and water strategy from 2008. The 2012 Strategy describes long-term goals for the management of sustainable water resources for future generations in light of climate change and is intended to be a road map to guide programmatic planning. To learn more, visit: <http://epa.gov/water/climatechange>

Tools for Coastal Climate Adaptation Planning

March 2013 - According to Ecosystem-Based Management Tools Network and NatureServe, the purpose of [Tools for Coastal Climate Adaptation Planning](#) is to provide the information necessary for coastal natural resource managers and community planners to select appropriate tools for their projects. The guide focuses on spatially explicit solutions for climate-related planning. It provides detailed information on a set of key tools that either alone or used in conjunction with other tools can facilitate multi-sector climate adaptation planning. The tools are intended to be used by practitioners and decision-makers involved in coastal zone management, natural resource management, protected area and habitat management, watershed management, conservation, and local planning in the coastal United States, including the Great Lakes. Many of the tools are from the Digital Coast website, and the document provides a nice summary of the process communities can use for climate adaptation planning with a focus on natural capital. The case studies presented are also very helpful. [Check it out.](#)

Senate Hearing – Hurricane Sandy: Getting the Recovery Right and the Value of Mitigation

March 20, 2013 - Senators asked many good questions not only about Sandy, but also regarding the nation's policy on all disasters and smarter more sustainable recovery with emphasis on mitigation. Mitigation was a prominent theme throughout the Hearing, and Senator Carper's closing statement did a fine job of summarizing it. Watch the [video here](#) and be sure to look over the FEMA and HUD testimony.

Member Statements

Chairman Thomas R. Carper D (DE)

[Download Statement \(54.9 KB\)](#)

Senator Tom Coburn R (OK)

[Download Statement \(36 KB\)](#)

Witnesses

The Honorable W. Craig Fugate

Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

[Download Testimony \(37.8 KB\)](#)

The Honorable Shaun L. S. Donovan

Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

[Download Testimony \(150.4 KB\)](#)

The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy

Assistant Secretary for Civil Works, U.S. Department of the Army

[Download Testimony \(39.9 KB\)](#)

Hurricane Sandy Page Updates

Associated Press, 03/17/2013

[Dunes Vs. Property Rights in Storm-Battered NJ](#)

Newsday, 03/17/2013

[Advice for the Sandy-slammed from Llers with raised homes](#)

Times Union, 03/11/2013

[Anticipating the next superstorm](#)

WNYC News, 03/06/2013

[After Sandy, Government Lends to Rebuild in Flood Zones](#)

To access previously posted articles, please visit ASFPM's [Hurricane Sandy Page](#)

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Disaster Recovery Funds in Response to Sandy
[Allocations, Common Application, Waivers, and Alternative Requirements for Grantees Receiving CDBG Disaster Recovery Funds in Response to Hurricane Sandy](#)

For Immediate Release - State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
[Christie Administration Files Rule Package Establishing New Elevation Standard for New Jersey : Action Uses Latest FEMA Elevation Standards to Ensure Resiliency in Future Storms and Protect Residents from Rising Flood Insurance Costs](#)

Recently Added Resources

[Uniform Flood Risk Reduction Standard for Sandy Rebuilding Projects](#)

[FEMA - Mitigation Success Story in Sea Bright](#)

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) BW-12 Page Updates

Recently posted to ASFPM's [NFIP Reform Act Implementation Webpage](#)

[ASFPM Recommendations on 2012 NFIP Reform flood insurance affordability issues](#)

[ASFPM Report: "Flood Mapping for the Nation"](#)

[FEMA Website on Biggert-Waters](#)

[EMForum.org presentation on BW12](#)

[FEMA WYO Bulletin - Lender Exception](#)

[FEMA WYO Bulletin](#)

[PowerPoint: FEMA on Sec 205 Impacts](#)

[Fact Sheet: Section 205 and 207 Subsidy Phaseout](#)

ASFPM Recommendations: Flood Insurance Affordability under the 2012 NFIP Reform Act (BW-12)

ASFPM supports many of the provisions of the 2012 NFIP Reform bill, otherwise known as Biggert-Waters 2012, usually shortened to BW-12. A centerpiece of this reform bill was to make the NFIP more financially sound. At the time the bill passed (May 2012) and was signed (7-6-12), the NFIP was over \$17 billion in debt to the US Treasury (taxpayer), with little chance the program could ever repay that debt (now, the program is \$23 billion in debt to the Treasury, [expected to go to \$25 billion as a result of Sandy]). As such, Congress looked closely at why the program was in debt and what could be changed to improve it. The changes include many provisions for significant increases in flood insurance premiums to move them toward full risk rates and other measures to improve the financial soundness of the NFIP. ASFPM supports fiscal soundness for the NFIP.

What the legislation did not address is the effects of the changes on policyholders and the affordability of flood insurance policies for those that truly cannot afford the increases. While there was a study included in BW-12 to examine affordability issues; it had no implementation mechanism. There are now a number of bills being proposed that would roll back the premiums or lengthen the time policyholders would have to move to full risk premium rates. This paper discusses BW-12, the need for a financially sound NFIP, and the options to address the affordability issue for lower income people who may not be able to afford the rate increases or for those who may need time to adjust to the premium increases.

[ASFPM's recommendations to address the NFIP Reform BW-12 flood insurance affordability issue](#) can be found in the full paper posted [here](#) on the [NFIP page of the ASFPM website](#).

We trust you will find this paper of interest, urge you to share it with your members, staff and elected officials. Questions and feedback on the recommendations should be directed to Larry Larson, Director Emeritus & Sr. Policy Advisor, ASFPM at larry@floods.org or by calling 608-828-3000

ASFPM Report: "Flood Mapping for the Nation"

The Association of State Floodplain Managers has developed an estimate, based on a careful analysis, of the total cost to provide floodplain mapping for all communities in the nation based on the parameters specified in the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012. The Nation has invested \$4.3 billion in flood mapping to date, and has enjoyed multiple benefits from that investment, including providing the basis for guiding development that saves over \$1 billion/year in flood damages. ASFPM has identified criteria of what constitutes adequate flood mapping for the country, and has produced an estimate showing the initial cost to provide flood mapping for the nation ranging from \$4.5 billion to \$7.5 billion. The steady-state cost to then maintain accurate and up-to-date flood maps ranges from \$116 million to \$275 million annually [1] This national investment in a comprehensive, updated flood map inventory for every community in the nation will drive down costs and suffering of flooding on our nation and its citizens, as well as providing the best tool for managing flood risk and building sustainable communities. [ASFPM Report: "Flood Mapping for the Nation"](#)

[1] These estimates do not include revenue from the Federal policy fee which is primarily used to support administrative cost including the issuance of letter of map change, program management, and data dissemination.

Grant and Project Opportunities

[Call for Papers](#)

Nonpoint Source Monitoring Workshop

Deadline: May 3, 2013.

This event will bring together NPS monitoring and management personnel from state, federal, Tribal and municipal governments, the private sector, academia, environmental groups, and local watershed organizations to provide examples of lessons learned from completed NPS projects, demonstrations of new technologies and monitoring approaches, and documentation of successful application of NPS control practices, measures, programs, and policies. Technical workshops and interactive learning sessions will be offered to build knowledge and skills, transfer technology, and promote innovative monitoring and evaluation techniques. Field tours will be offered in both agricultural and urban settings. Details on the conference agenda and registration information will be posted on this Web site. For more information, please see <http://npsmonitoring.tetrattech-ffx.com/>

[ASBPA 2013 National Coastal Conference - Call for Abstracts](#)

The American Shore & Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA)

Deadline: May 17, 2013

ASBPA has announced the Call for Abstracts for their 2013 national coastal conference, which is being held October 23-26 at the Isla Grand Resort in South Padre Island, TX. The theme of the 2013 conference is "Responding to Waves of Change." Technical and policy-oriented PowerPoint presentations or posters are invited for a broad range of coastal issues related to changes in coastal ecology, erosion, engineering, and economics. Presentations may be PowerPoint or poster format. One page abstracts are due **May 17, 2013**. Submit abstracts as a PDF or Word document with a maximum file size of 1 MB to abstracts@asbpa.org. Abstracts must include the name, affiliation, address, telephone number and e-mail address of the primary corresponding author and include a brief (100 word) biography of the presenter. All expenses are the responsibility of the presenter, including travel, lodging, and registration fees. Submissions will be confirmed within a week of submittal with notification of presentation status by June 28, 2013. Additional information can be found at www.asbpa.org.

[Research Grants Related to Hurricane Sandy Recovery – Call for Applications](#)

Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response

Deadline: May 20, 2013

The Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response is accepting applications for research grants to study lessons learned during Hurricane Sandy recovery. State and local governments, schools, nonprofits, and higher education institutions are eligible for grants of up to \$500,000. Topics of research could include community resilience, long-term recovery, health system response, and social media use. For more information or to apply, visit the grant Web site.

[Local Sustainability Matching Fund](#)

The Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities (TFN)

Deadline: May 22, 2013

The TFN announces round 3 of the Local Sustainability Matching Fund. The Matching Fund is intended both to support significant urban sustainability projects and to build bridges between public sector sustainability leaders and local foundations. The Fund will provide matching investments - between \$25,000 and \$75,000 per project - from national foundations on a competitive basis to build partnerships between sustainability directors and local place-based foundations to advance discrete sustainability initiatives that demonstrate broad-based community support and engagement. The proposal must be submitted by a team of at least two partners who are (1) the sustainability director of a city (municipality) or a county and (2) the local, place-based foundation. For more information, visit the [Funders' Network](#).

2013

Coastal CLIMATE Adaptation & Resilience Workshop

Supporting climate and coastal resilience planning in the Western Lake Erie Basin

Date and Time:

Wednesday June 19, 2013 from 8 am to 4:30 pm

Location:

Owens Community College Toledo Area Campus

Audio/Visual Classroom Center (#16 on map)

30335 Oregon Road, Perrysburg OH 43551

Who should participate:

Planners and professionals addressing land use, public health, storm-water, watersheds, economic development, emergency preparedness, sustainability, agriculture, ports and natural resources.

Workshop includes:

- Basic climate science.
- Regional climate trends.
- Potential climate change impacts.
- Planning processes and tools to help communities adapt to climate change and coastal hazards.
- Great Lakes Coastal Resilience Planning Guide - Learn what's in the guide and how it can be used. Provide input to help shape this new planning resource.
- Learn how communities and habitat managers are adapting to a changing climate in the Western Lake Erie Basin and beyond.
- Communication and education techniques to support individual and community climate action.
- Opportunity to network with other communities and organizations.

Approved for 6 Certified Floodplain Management (CFM) Core Credits

Approval pending for 6 APA Certification Maintenance Credits

Workshop Funders:



Contacts:

Heather Elmer heather.elmer@dnr.state.oh.us
 Patrick Robinson patrick.robinson@uwex.edu
 Toledo Division of Enviro. Services 419-936-3015

Workshop Collaborators:

- Lucas Soil and Water Conservation District
- Toledo-Lucas County Sustainability Commission
- City of Toledo
- University of Wisconsin Extension
- NOAA Coastal Services Center
- American Planning Association
- Coastal States Organization
- National Association of Counties
- National States Geographic Information Council
- Midwest Regional Climate Center
- University of Michigan Graham Sustainability Institute
- Great Lakes Integrated Sciences & Assessments Center
- Michigan Sea Grant
- Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant
- American Rivers
- Ohio State University Watershed Extension

This project was funded in part by President Obama's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Financial assistance provided under awards NA10NOS4190182 and NA12NOS4200138 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce through the Ohio Coastal Management Program and Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve, administered by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Office of Coastal Management and Division of Wildlife.

Learn more [HERE](#) via the [Great Lakes Coastal Resilience](#) website. [Save the Date Flyer \(pdf\)](#)

Webinar - The New Digital Coast Data Registry May 8, 2013 at 2-3pm (EST)

Want one place where you can see all of the ways a data set is available through the Digital Coast? Would you like to access, download, and view data sets? Then you're in luck! The newly released Digital Coast Data Registry is your new one-stop shop for all the data you can handle from the Digital Coast. This new resource brings together data collected by many different entities and hosted from many different places into one centralized access point. Users can filter by data theme, geography, or type of map service and then quickly access available formats for download, find and preview maps services, and link to supporting information. Join us for this webinar, and we will give you the VIP tour of the registry. In this webinar participants will:

Learn how to use the data registry to find data

Learn about multiple formats for data access and download

View a live demonstration of the data registry

Learn about all the contributors to the registry, such as Office of Coast Survey, National Geodetic Survey, and National Geophysical Data Center

Join us for a VIP tour of the registry, your new one-stop shop for data and services. For a full abstract and to register, go to <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/webinar/>

Calendar

FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) 2013 Continuing Education Opportunities

There are seats available for floodplain management courses at EMI that have been pre-approved for Continuing Education Credits (CECs) for CFMs. EMI courses are offered at the Emmitsburg, MD campus and are **FREE** for local and state government employees. FEMA reimburses travel expenses and provides housing for state and local government employees attending EMI courses. Attendees or their employers pay for the campus meal ticket (about \$100 per week). You can find the EMI Course Schedule and application materials on the [EMI website](#). Advanced Floodplain Management courses may be taken in any order.



E194 Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts Aug 26-29, 2013

E284 Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts III Jul 8-11, 2013

River Rally 2013

River Rally 2013 will be held in St. Louis, Missouri, **May 17-20, 2013**, with a special focus on environmental justice and human health issues (related to our water resources). They expect 400 clean water advocates from across the country, and River Rally provides an excellent opportunity to share your experience with a broad audience. [Call for proposal](#) deadline is October 18, 2012. For information, [click here](#).

DHS, FEMA & U.S. Northern Command: Building Resilience through Public-Private Partnerships

The third-annual [Building Resilience through Public-Private Partnerships Conference](#) will be held **July 23-25, 2013**. This year's conference theme, "Partnerships in Action: Enhancing National and Economic Security," will highlight successful public-private partnerships across the homeland security enterprise and is designed to identify solutions to coordinate gaps between the public and private sectors. Each year, the conference attracts over 300 participants from the public and private sectors to promote innovation in furthering public-private partnerships across the homeland security enterprise. This year's key themes are Hurricane Sandy response efforts, campus resilience, critical infrastructure and key resources, cyber security, and global supply chain resilience. More detailed information will be posted soon.

For immediate inquiries, please contact the [DHS Private Sector Office](#) or PPPConference@hq.dhs.gov.

2013 Flood Risk Management - Silver Jackets Webinar Week

August 20-22, 2013, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Flood Risk Management and Silver Jackets Programs will conduct a series of webinars to share information and experiences among those actively managing flood risk. These webinars will focus on integrating and leveraging efforts to reduce flood risk. Sessions will provide opportunities to share successes and challenges; learn about flood risk management programs and activities in other states and federal agencies; and further develop the knowledge and skills key to managing flood risks effectively. For further information on the developing agenda, please visit <http://www.nfrmp.us/frmpw/2013webinarweek/>.

ASFPM Calendar

The events listed below are only the highlights of events of interest to floodplain managers. A complete list of flood-related training, conferences, and other meetings, including ALL the workshops and conferences of State Chapters and associations is always posted at
http://www.floods.org/n_calendar/calendar.asp

June 9–14, 2013: 37TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS, Hartford, Connecticut. Contact (608) 274-0123 or see **<http://www.floods.org>**

June 1–6, 2014: 38TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS, Seattle, Washington. Contact (608) 274-0123 or see **<http://www.floods.org>**

May 31–June 5, 2015: 39TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS, Atlanta, Georgia. Contact (608) 274-0123 or see **<http://www.floods.org>**

Are you looking for training opportunities to earn CECs for your CFM? If so, be sure to check out our web calendar, which already has LOTS of training opportunities listed for 2013! You can search the calendar by state using the directions below. Or you can use the category drop down menu to search by category.

http://www.floods.org/n_calendar/calendar.asp

- Go to the calendar and click on the search feature icon at the top of the calendar. Type your state's initials in parenthesis (for example "(WI)") into the search field and it will pull all the events (training, conferences, etc.) that are currently listed on the calendar for your state. What a great way to find upcoming training for CECs! The only events without a state listed in the event title are EMI courses which are all held in Emmitsburg, MD.

NEWS & VIEWS

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Deadline is the last day of odd-numbered months.

For address changes and member services, contact the ASFPM Executive Office at the address in the box above.

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