

# ASFPM REGION 2 DIRECTOR ANNUAL REPORT

*Annual Conference-Atlanta, Georgia*



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## Overview

ASFPM Region 2 comprises New Jersey and New York, and while it is the smallest of the 10 ASFPM regions geographically, about 2 percent of the land area of the United States, Region 2 is home to the nation's largest metropolis, New York City, and approximately 28.6 million people, or about 9 percent of the US population.

Following a decade of severe storms that will live in people's memories for years (Lee, Irene, severe summer rain events, coastal storms, and of course, Sandy) in 2014, the majority of New Jersey and New York were offered a bit of a respite from widespread flooding and destruction of years past. With only two FEMA flood disaster declarations in New York, 2014 was the "quietest" in a while.

Among the flooding events in 2014 was the sudden flash flooding in and around the upstate New York village of Penn Yan. On May 14 and 16, between five and nine inches of rain fell during two short, but intense storms. The resulting wall of water caused massive flooding and damaged approximately 250 homes and 50 businesses in the area with total losses well over \$3 million. It should be noted that the village of Penn Yan is working with a FIRM that is dated June 15, 1981!

Additionally, some minor flooding was experienced in western New York as a result of the melting of record-breaking snows of November 2014.

## Activities

Beginning in the spring of 2015, the state of New York will begin a year-long statewide outreach effort to bring training to all 62 counties. This accredited training will be focused on connecting with local officials to update them on various aspects and requirements of the NFIP and associated topics, including levees and land regulated as Coastal Erosion Hazard Areas.

New Jersey continues to increase the number of jurisdictions joining the Community Rating System and now has 87 municipalities in the program. This is up from 75 prior to Sandy!

Coming off their 2013 Chapter of the Year Award, in 2014 the New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management continues to be an extremely active

and visible presence. The association and its members provided information via reports and presentations in a number of forums, including conferences, testimony to state officials, meetings and symposia, workshops and other means.

The New York State Floodplain and Stormwater Managers held its 2014 conference along the Hudson River in Poughkeepsie, NY in March. Over three days of review and conference, nearly 200 people attended, a record for NYSFSMA! The 2015 conference in Syracuse continues to expand with the addition of an in-person meeting of the New York State CRS Users Group, attended by approximately 50 participants. In addition, the number of Garden State CFMs continues to grow and now stands at nearly 250.

## **Mapping**

In the last year and a half, several FIRM revisions have gone effective in New York, including Albany, Jefferson (part), Rockland and Schenectady Counties. No new FIRMs have become effective during the past 18 months in New Jersey.

## **Regulations**

Through its statewide building code, New York now has a 2-foot minimum freeboard requirement for new construction. In addition, to prepare and anticipate future sea level rise, the coastal Long Island community of Freeport added an additional 2 feet to the state's freeboard requirement for a total for 4 feet for new and substantially improved structures.

During 2014, 87 Community Assistance Visits were conducted in New York and 16 in New Jersey. It is important to note that there are more than 1,500 communities in New York and 560 in New Jersey and our state and FEMA professionals do a great job of assisting as many communities as possible, every year.