

Association of State Floodplain Managers

www.floods.org

ASFPM Region 3 Status Report



Necolle Maccherone, CFM, Region 3 Director
May 21, 2018



Introduction and Regional Overview

ASFPM Region 3 includes Delaware, Maryland, and West Virginia; the Commonwealths of Pennsylvania and Virginia; and the District of Columbia.

These areas account for almost 10 percent of the U.S. total population, approximately 29.8 million people as of the 2010 census. The regional population ranges from densely urban areas in Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia to sparsely rural areas in the hills and valleys of West Virginia. The region is rich in history, with four of the original 13 colonies and the nation's Capital.

The physical geography ranges from the Appalachian Mountains in the western portions of Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania to the piedmont and coastal plain along the Atlantic coast, containing 130 HUC 8 watersheds. The region hosts two of the nation's largest estuaries—the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays.

As of March 2018, Region 3 has over 283,177 flood insurance policies in place, accounting for 5.6 percent of the nation's flood insurance policies.

About This Report

The ASFPM executive office asks that each regional director provide an annual report on the status of their region. These reports are [available here on ASFPM's website](#).

Requests for input to inform this report were sent to state floodplain managers, state hazard mitigation officers and chairs/vice-chairs of state floodplain managers associations within Region 3. Many thanks to Kevin Wagner, community assistance program manager for the Maryland Department of the Environment; Kevin W. Utt, president of the Virginia Floodplain Management Association and Stormwater Administrator & Environmental Planner for the city of Fredericksburg; Thomas Hughes, SHMO at Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency; and Phetmano Phannavong of the Department of Energy and Environment for their contributions.

State Floodplain Management Agencies

Delaware Department of Natural Resources

<http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/Pages/Portal.aspx>

Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control has created a flood tool to aid community members in researching flood risk in Delaware. It is available online at

<http://maps.dnrec.delaware.gov/floodplanning/default.html>.

DNREC is a Cooperating Technical Partner in FEMA's flood hazard mapping program. Delaware also has a Silver Jackets Team whose activities are available online at <http://silverjackets.nfrmp.us/State-Teams/Delaware>.

There is support for the Community Rating System within Delaware. To date, 11 communities in Delaware participate in CRS. A list of CRS communities to date can be found at https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1523648898907-09056f549d51efc72fe60bf4999e904a/20_crs_508_apr2018.pdf.

District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment

<https://doee.dc.gov/>

Recent mapping activity within D.C. includes the completion of D.C.'s Interior Flooding Report and Map, which summarize the current understanding of flooding within the district and presents the first district-wide map of interior flooding occurrence. This information is available through the D.C. Silver Jackets webpage (under Flooding Reports) at <http://silverjackets.nfrmp.us/State-Teams/Washington-DC>.

In July 2017, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers signed an agreement with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments to begin an approximately \$3 million, 3-year study on possible ways to address coastal flooding and storm damage across more than 57 square miles in the District of Columbia and surrounding areas of suburban Maryland and northern Virginia.

In October 2017, DOEE was involved in an event titled, "Is D.C. Ready for a 500-Year Storm Event?" This event shared views from multiple local agencies on action in the D.C. metropolitan area as new studies are underway to assess the coastal storm risk in the region.

DOEE is a CTP in FEMA's flood hazard mapping program and a co-leader and founding member of the District of Columbia Silver Jackets Team (<http://silverjackets.nfrmp.us/State-Teams/Washington-DC>). The D.C. Silver Jackets hosted webinars to introduce and demonstrate how to use the flood inundation mapping tool. Digital maps are available that allow community members to view potential flood impacts during high-water events along the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers (<https://www.weather.gov/lwx/PotomacInundationMaps> and <https://www.weather.gov/lwx/Inundation>).

Maryland Department of the Environment

<http://mde.maryland.gov/Pages/index.aspx>

Countywide digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps are effective in all Maryland counties except Allegany County. The state is working with FEMA to contact communities that received early digital FIRMs so they can update their hydrology and hydraulics and create new Risk MAP products. Those communities include Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Frederick County, Montgomery County and St. Mary's County.

MDE developed a tool for community members to research their flood risk in the Maryland. The website mdfloodmaps.net continues to be updated with new mapping and data (e.g., bridge and culvert data, hydrology and HEC-RAS studies).

MDE is active in community and multi-agency engagement and outreach. Some of the workshops, meetings and conferences they hosted, attended and presented are described below:

Event/Activity	Location	When
Two community outreach meetings	Annapolis, MD	January 2017
FEMA Region III NFIP/SHMO workshop	Harrisburg, PA	April 18–20, 2017
Maryland Society of Surveyors spring conference. Partnered with the Risk Reduction Plus Group to offer training	Linthicum Heights, MD	April 21, 2017
National Academy of Sciences Workshop on Urban Flooding	Towson, MD	April 24, 2017
Association of State Floodplain Managers Association	Kansas City, MO	May 2017
Flood workshop sponsored by the Maryland Historical Trust	Crownsville, MD	May 25, 2017
Partnered with FEMA Region III and held a week-long L194: Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts course	Wye Mills, MD	June 5–8, 2017

Event/Activity	Location	When
FEMA-MD Risk Reduction/Consultation Meeting	Millersville, MD	June 21, 2017
Floodplain management workshop for municipal officials	Prince George's County, MD	October 4, 2017
Partnered with Stantec to offer floodplain management training	Calverton, MD	October 11, 2017
Maryland Association of Floodplain and Stormwater Managers annual conference	Linthicum Heights, MD	October 12, 2017
Keeping History Above Water conference	Annapolis, MD	October 31 and November 1, 2017
Partnered with FEMA Region III and Resilience Action Partners to offer floodplain management training	Cumberland, MD	November 7, 2017
Partnered with FEMA Region III and Resilience Action Partners to offer floodplain management training	Leonardtown, MD	December 7, 2017
FEMA Region III NFIP/SHMO meeting	Washington, DC	January 23–25, 2018
FEMA Region III Community Assistance Program Summit	Lewes, DE	April 3–5, 2018
Flood Tabletop Workshop	Chester, MD	April 11, 2018
Partnered with MAFSM to conduct workshop: People, Data, and Tools to Minimize Flood Risk on the Eastern Shore	Wye Mills, MD	June 6, 2018
In partnership with USACE and Maryland Silver Jackets team, three nonstructural floodproofing workshops	Eastern Dorchester, central Calvert, and western Washington Counties, MD	August 7–8, 2018

Event/Activity	Location	When
Anticipated partnering with FEMA Region III to offer three Substantial Damage Estimator training courses	Salisbury, Largo, and Hagerstown, MD	July 30–August 1, 2018
Coast Smart County/Adaptation and Response Working Group meetings	Annapolis, MD	Quarterly
Maryland Association of Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Board meetings	Rotating locations in Central Maryland	Bi-Monthly
Eastern Shore Climate Adaptation Partnership meetings		
Silver Jackets meetings		
Maryland Resiliency Partnership meetings		Annual
Hydrology Partners Group and Coastal Flood Users Group meetings with the National Weather Service	Sterling, VA	Annual
Three Flood Risk Product training sessions are planned for later in 2018	Maryland	TBD in 2018

MDE is responsible for conducting Community Assistance Contacts and Community Assistance Visits. In 2017, they completed approximately three CACs and six CAVs. It is anticipated that eight CACs and three CAVs will be completed by the end of May 2018.

MDE is a CTP in FEMA's flood hazard mapping program and a member of the active Maryland Silver Jackets team (<http://silverjackets.nfrmp.us/State-Teams/Maryland>), which holds meetings every three to four months. This year's events include a levee outreach meeting in Bladensburg, MD April 19, 2018, and three nonstructural floodproofing workshops planned for August in eastern, central and western Maryland.

There is support for CRS within this agency. Efforts have been made to share information about CRS with Maryland communities. To date, 14 communities in Maryland participate in CRS. A list of CRS communities to date [can be found here](#). Several of these communities have recently been reassigned

to a better class rating with a higher flood insurance discount. Two communities completed their CAV with FEMA, and are in the process of addressing the follow-up items identified during the CAV to join CRS. Four communities have submitted their letter of interest in CRS to FEMA and are awaiting the scheduling of a CAV.

Maryland has an active CRS Users Group with regular meetings once per quarter. Topics are picked by attendees, and meetings are rotated between southern, central and eastern Maryland.

Maryland has an official state chapter of ASFPM, the Maryland Association of Floodplain and Stormwater Managers. Information on MAFSM can be found online at www.mafsm.org.

Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development
<https://dced.pa.gov/> and the **Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency**
<http://www.pema.pa.gov/Pages/Default.aspx>

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is active in planning, project management, training and outreach to support floodplain management and reduce risk to life and property from flooding.

Activities related to planning include:

- Work with stakeholders to create a State Standard Hazard Mitigation Plan that meets the Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan requirements;
- Work with FEMA Region III to become an enhanced state in 2019;
- Work with stakeholders to have a revised State Pre-Disaster Recovery Plan by May 2019 (funded through a Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery sponsored by Housing and Urban Development);
- Conduct six planning-related meetings and three planning-related webinars; and
- Work currently on 31 non-disaster funded (Pre-Disaster Mitigation/Flood Mitigation Assistance) plans/projects and 21 disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program projects with an additional 20 non-disaster funded plans/projects anticipated.

Activities related to project management include:

- Closed out HMGP DR-4099 Sandy and DR-4149;
- Anticipated closing the two largest recent disasters within the next 3 months (DR-4025 Hurricane Irene and DR-4030 Tropical Storm Sandy);
- Acquiring 550 homes and floodplain lots; and
- Coordinating five CDBG-DR funded buyout projects for our sister agency—90 more homes.

Activities related to training and outreach include:

Event/Activity	Location	When
Eight USACE Non-Structural Floodproofing workshops	Allegheny, Butler, Erie and Montgomery Counties, PA	2017
PA DCED and PEMA provided a Floodplain Managers Track at the Governor Emergency Preparedness Summit	Hershey, PA	September 30–October 4, 2017
National State Hazard Mitigation Officers Meeting	Washington, DC	January 24–25, 2018
Eight USACE Non-Structural Floodproofing workshops	Allegheny, Armstrong, Union, Tioga and York Counties, PA	2018
Hazard Mitigation Stakeholders Workshop	Emmitsburg, MD	March 12–16, 2018
Natural Hazard Mitigation Association (NHMA) Disaster Risk Reduction Curriculum	Harrisburg, PA	April 17–18, 2018
Community Assistance Program Summit	Lewes, DE	April 3–4, 2018
SHMO Workshop	Harrisburg, PA	April 19–20, 2018

Other activity includes:

- Delivered two FEMA L273 Managing Floodplain Development Through the National Flood Insurance Program courses;
- Delivered eight FEMA/DCED sponsored “Best Practices for Floodplain Managers” courses;
- Supported the Elevation Certificate, Community Rating System, and Hazard Mitigation Assistance Workshops with the Southwest Planning Commission;
- Participated in the FEMA Headquarters External Stakeholder Workgroup;
- Supported the Resilience Neighbors Network and USACE Practical Community Resilience Initiative; and
- Presented at the 2018 Hazard Mitigation Stakeholders Workshop.

The Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development is a CTP. Pennsylvania has an active Silver Jackets program. More information can be found online at <http://silverjackets.nfrmp.us/State-Teams/Pennsylvania> and <http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Home/Silver-Jackets/>. Work with the Silver Jackets included six webinars and four in-person meetings convened at PEMA headquarters, as well as participation in 14 ongoing Silver Jackets projects.

There is support for CRS within Pennsylvania. To date, 35 communities in Pennsylvania participate in CRS. A list of CRS communities to date can be found online at https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1523648898907-09056f549d51efc72fe60bf4999e904a/20_crs_508_apr2018.pdf. PA DCED and PEMA assisted with the stand-up of the PA CRS Users Group (currently 32 members).

The Pennsylvania Association of State Floodplain Managers (<http://www.pafpm.org/>) is active throughout the state. They have recently submitted paperwork to ASFPM to become an official chapter. Pennsylvania is also active within NHMA.

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

<http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/dam-safety-and-floodplains/floodplain-index>

Virginia has a flood risk tool developed with the Center for Coastal Resources Management. The tool includes information from the National Flood Hazard Layer, NFIP and digital FIRMs provided by FEMA to localities in the Virginia, as well as data from the National Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey and Esri. To access the tool, visit <http://cmap2.vims.edu/VaFloodRisk/vfris2.html>.

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation is a CTP. Virginia has an active Silver Jackets team, whose activities can be found online at <http://silverjackets.nfrmp.us/State-Teams/Virginia>.

There is support for CRS within Virginia. To date, 26 communities in Virginia participate in CRS. A list of CRS communities to date can be found online at https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1523648898907-09056f549d51efc72fe60bf4999e904a/20_crs_508_apr2018.pdf.

Virginia's official chapter of ASFPM is the Virginia Floodplain Management Association (<https://vaflood.org/>).

West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

<https://dhsem.wv.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

The West Virginia Flood Tool is designed to provide floodplain managers, insurance agents, developers, real estate agents, local planners and citizens with an effective means by which to make informed decisions about the degree of flood risk for a specific area or property. West Virginia has a flood mapping tool that can be found online at <http://www.mapwv.gov/flood/>.

The West Virginia DHSEM is a CTP. Information on the West Virginia Silver Jackets team can be found at <http://silverjackets.nfrmp.us/State-Teams/West-Virginia>.

There is support for CRS within West Virginia. Efforts have been made to share information about CRS with West Virginia communities. To date, 10 jurisdictions in West Virginia participate in CRS. A list of

CRS communities to date can be found at https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1523648898907-09056f549d51efc72fe60bf4999e904a/20_crs_508_apr2018.pdf.

West Virginia has an official chapter of ASFPM, the West Virginia Floodplain Management Association (<http://wvfma.org/>).

Recommendations

ASFPM has an opportunity to enhance participation and buy-in to the national organization from its Region 3 partners. Engaging these partners on a regional and individual level and providing information tailored to their state will yield greater participation from them in the future.

Based on correspondence and conversations with state representatives within Region 3, actions that would increase their engagement with ASFPM are identified below:

1. ASFPM executive office could hold twice yearly regional calls, similar to the Quarterly State Floodplain Management & Mitigation Call, with the state floodplain managers and SHMOs. Suggested call topics include trends and policy that ASFPM has noticed in the region it is monitoring.
2. When coordinating the Quarterly State Floodplain Management & Mitigation Call, have a standing day and time sent out at the beginning of the year. Solicit input.
3. Move the regional meetings at the annual ASFPM conference to a later, more convenient time of the day. It traditionally begins at 7 a.m. Also, have an agenda that was created from state input in the conference program.
4. Remove the requirement for a minimum number of attendees to take the CFM exam. Provide CFM proctors a discount on their annual renewal fee (e.g., \$10 off per exam proctored, with a maximum discount per renewal cycle).