

ASFPM REGION 6 DIRECTOR ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Conference-Atlanta, Georgia



Jessica Baker, Regional Director

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Region 6 Report 2014-2015

Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Texas

Jessica D. Baker, PE, CFM, PMP - Region 6 Director

REGIONAL COORDINATION:

Over the past year, FEMA Region VI hosted two Community Assistance Program coordinators meetings in Denton, Texas. The state NFIP coordinator's from each of the region's states, as well as representatives from the State Floodplain Management Associations, were invited to participate in a multi-day coordination meeting. The meetings provide an excellent opportunity for the key stakeholders from each state in Region VI to coordinate with each other, sharing successes, lessons learned, and tools and strategies to assist each other. Agenda items and topics for each meeting are summarized below.



FEMA Region VI Administrator Tony Robinson addresses state NFIP coordinators and state floodplain management associations at the October 2014 Region VI CAP meeting in Denton, TX.

- May 20-21, 2015:
 - Regional Administrator Welcome
 - NFIP Value Proposition
 - Federal Flood Risk Management Standard
 - HFIAA Update and Outreach Strategy
 - NFIP-CRS Data Collection Process
 - Building Codes and the NFIP
 - Accessory Structures
 - Risk MAP Implementation with new Contractors
 - FTN Digital Library
 - Oil & Gas Legislative Update from Oklahoma
 - State Updates
- Oct. 28-29, 2014:
 - Regional Administrator Welcome
 - Flood Stormwater Model demo & Outreach Discussion
 - FY15 Outlook
 - State Owned Development Update
 - Training Needs Assessment
 - HFIAA Update and Outreach Strategy
 - CAVs and Compliance Goals for FY15

- Risk MAP Implementation
- State Updates

ARKANSAS UPDATE:

State of Arkansas NFIP program is in the Arkansas Department of Natural Resources Commission. Michael Borengasser, CFM, serves as the state NFIP coordinator.

FY14 – FY15 Updates:

- Several new staff in State Dam Safety/Floodplain Management Office
- Development on state-owned property is a focus – highway projects, public schools, colleges and universities, and other property managed by Arkansas Building Authority.
- Permitting for non-structural “development” is a focus – objects not tied down, development in remote areas of private property (i.e. a small bridge on large property, what permitting should be required). Assisting by developing a form letter/template for communities to use for this type of development.
- Special topic training offered – post-flood disaster/substantial damage/grants, Risk MAP, hydrology and hydraulics, Community Rating System
- In-state conferences – county judges, municipal league, emergency management, GIS conferences
- Risk MAP – state CTP:
 - Discovery Watersheds – 3
 - Phase 2 Detailed Floodplain Mapping
 - New DFIRM – Grant County
 - New LiDAR
 - New Zone A mapping with LiDAR – Saline County
- Challenge to train floodplain administrators with new digital data – demonstrating national flood hazard layer through Google Earth or GeoPlatform. Also using Risk MAP products to communicate with local floodplain administrators.
- DFIRMs in Arkansas – 50 of 75 counties modernized.
- Watersheds in Arkansas – 76 watersheds touch AR – 38 are primarily in AR
- LiDAR coverage is limited and this is challenge to starting new Risk MAP products – working with FEMA to obtain new LiDAR
- Silver Jackets – working on plan for 2015
- USACE will provide BFEs for Zone A areas for free – might hire another staff member to work on this more full time. Oklahoma mentioned that USACE is charging now and only doing for residential.
- Developing real-time flood mapping
- Promoting CoCoRaHS – Rainfall Observers Network

NEW MEXICO UPDATE:

State of New Mexico NFIP program is in the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management. Bill Borthwick, CFM, serves as the state NFIP coordinator.

FY14 – FY15 Updates:

- HFIAA – Office Superintendent of Insurance – briefed NMFMA workshop – training is major need for agents.
- 16,000 policies
- \$10-11 Million in payouts on losses.
- When home mortgages are paid off, lots are walking away from NFIP policies.
- Levees – Levee database has gaps, levee impacts – working with Jerry Clark on disconnects. Office of State Engineer has another levee database. Struggling in some areas with certifying levees – critical care facility going in behind certifiable levee – if can't get certified, will be issue. Donna Ana FIRMs have been on hold since 2003 due to levee issues.
 - DFIRM flood zones – with or without levees – levee segments – how do they tie into state highways, county, tribal areas?
 - Geocoding policies behind each levee – future mortgages will be affected.
- HFIAA update at each NMFMA conference.
- Would like to have FEMA CAVs in disaster declaration counties when declaration occurs. FEMA work together with state coordinator – benefits communities and strengthens NFIP because they pay attention after disaster.
- NFIP policies – does info contain current structure value? Checking with county assessors.
- HFIAA economic impact – created a webpage to outline impacts.
- State priorities for FY16–
 - Fund NMFMA workshops and projects
 - Expand state Silver Jackets program – will be funding flood simulation model, and educating Navaho nation on TADD – 330,000 people – 110 chapters – none in NFIP, no FIRMs, 22 pueblos with no flood maps. TADD program success!
 - Coordination of CTP program – Jerry Clark has been great FEMA partner.
- TADD program success integrated into Silver Jackets. Place QR code on signs to learn about flooding in the area.
- Association priorities –
 - L273 course training – just wrapped up course in May 2015.
 - Floodsmart calendars
 - Low Water Crossing Signs
- New NFIP Communities... Eagle Nest, NM and Village of Cuba, NM
- CTP... Eight unmapped counties will have some best available data to address flood concerns.

OKLAHOMA UPDATE:

State of Oklahoma NFIP program is in the Oklahoma Water Resources Board. Matt Rollins, CFM, serves as the state NFIP coordinator. Longtime Oklahoma state NFIP coordinator is retiring in September 2015. During the May 2015 FEMA Region VI CAP meeting, we honored Gavin's service to floodplain management.

FY14 – FY15 Updates:

- Spring 2015 flooding updates
- 398 communities in NFIP
- Current state legislation could potentially suspend entire state – oil and gas bill.
- State accreditation of FPAs – OWRB/OFMA partnership – 19 workshop opportunities: FPM 101, FPM 202 (new course – bridge between 101 and advanced), advanced topics, 1 new location for training, two cities picked each year and rotating yearly
- Tools and technology: Enhanced FP Viewer-Document Viewer – has been successful so far and now bringing in more datasets – some are hard copy now, but bringing into digital format and incorporated into viewer. Agency has a long-term goal to go paperless – scanning and adding to online portal.
- Cross Decking-Incorporate Multi-Discipline – Mitigation, Risk Identification, Emergency management, Economic Development, Water Investment
- CTP program –
 - Broaden scope - moving out of populated areas
 - Verify risk - using FOA to verify risks.
 - Incorporate existing datasets
- 16 CAVs scheduled this year – a lot of this year's CAVs are affected by flooding – not a lot of structure flooding, but where there has been, it is non-SFHA areas.
- CACs – use state CAV priority list and CIS report – Identify yearly 25-40 communities to contact each year – contact through letters/phone to discuss duties, accreditation and inter-local agreements. Do a follow up ordinance review or hazard mitigation plans.
- Agency required each year to report key performance measures and it is reported to state legislature. Measure ale and actionable items. Typically around 70-75 percent attainment annually. Affected by new FPAs in communities or change in contacts. How to increase attainment? Inter-local agreements for smaller communities; regional development authorities provide program support; bi-annual training mix of online and in person workshops; integrate this discussion with CACs/CAVs.

- OFMA and OWRB work very closely together to achieve attainment – Oklahoma CFM program, advanced FPM training, Disaster Response Team (DRT), legislative reception.

LOUISIANA UPDATE:

State of Louisiana NFIP program is in the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development. Cindy O'Neal, CFM, serves as the state NFIP coordinator.

FY14 – FY15 Updates:

- Louisiana becoming a CTP – Susan Veillon will be program manager – attended EMI training in February 2015.
- State priorities for 2015:
 - Maintaining and modifying CRS ratings
 - Increasing CRS participation
 - Deploying CRS class in September 2015
- Current challenges: state-owned buildings
- Biggest success: 80 percent of flood policies receive CRS discount
- Working to get state vehicles.

TEXAS UPDATE:

State of Texas NFIP program is in the Texas Water Development Board. Michael Segner, CFM, serves as the state NFIP coordinator. Shawn Snyder, CFM, provided Texas updates at this year's CAP meeting.

FY14 – FY15 Updates:

- Jessica Artz with NFIP program left the state – new hire - Jessie Libra - starts June 15
- CTP program moved into TWDB NFIP group from TNRIIS
- Grants group - managing \$180 million in grants
- CAVs – Statement of Work included 13. Actual to date is 13.
- CACs – SOW included 74. Actual to date is 224.
- 61 CRS communities
- 1,240 of 1,460 communities participate
- Training - successful - E273 - Arlington (December 2014), Houston (June 2015), Amarillo (July 2015)
- Advanced four-day - Cedar Park in February 2015
- Basic 101 - TFMA conference - fall/spring. Additional courses in Bryan, Denton.
- Partnerships/Organizations - TFFC (November), FLASH (March), TFMA Spring, BPI - UTA (May), ASFPM (June), Hurricane Prep in Kingsville (June), TFMA fall (September)
- Attended Region 6 Regional Interagency Steering Committee (RISC) meeting on hurricanes
- Attending discovery meetings, CCO meetings and open houses
- 84th Texas Legislature in session