



Region 7

Status Report 2020

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**ASSOCIATION OF STATE
FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS**

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Introduction and Overview

The ASFPM Region 7 area includes the states of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. The ASFPM State Chapters in Region 7 include:

- [Iowa Floodplain and Stormwater Management Association](#) (IFSMA)
- [Kansas Association for Floodplain Management](#) (KAFM)
- [Missouri Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association](#) (MfSMA)
- [Nebraska Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association](#) (NeFSMA)

2019 was a record-setting year in each Region 7 state. In Nebraska, record snowfall and the coldest February on record brought on one of the largest flooding disasters in the state's history. Missouri saw lots of flooding with the longest duration in recorded history; Kansas joined in with its wettest year ever. Not to be outdone, Iowa had a record-setting disaster in 2019 with 81% of its counties declared for public assistance.

All Region 7 states had declared disasters in 2019: DR-4421 in Iowa, DR-4449 in Kansas, DR-4451 and DR-4435 in Missouri, and DR-4420 in Nebraska. Every state in the region is in the long process of recovery. By contrast, please note that at the time of this writing there are no disaster declarations as of yet in 2020.

State Accomplishments Since the 2019 Annual Report

Iowa: There are 683 NFIP-participating communities in Iowa; 12 are currently participating in the Community Rating System (CRS) program. Since May 2019, four counties in Iowa have had Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) become effective. Fourteen other counties are scheduled to have DFIRMs become effective before year's end. Iowa currently has 73 ASFPM Certified Floodplain Managers (CFMs).

Kansas: There are 464 NFIP-participating communities in Kansas; 38 are currently participating in the CRS program. Since May 2019, four counties in Kansas have had DFIRMs become effective. One community is scheduled to have its DFIRM become effective before year's end. Kansas currently has 113 CFMs.

Missouri: There are 675 NFIP-participating communities in Missouri; 11 are currently participating in the CRS program. Since May 2019, 11 counties in Missouri have had DFIRMs become effective. Eight other counties are scheduled to have their DFIRMs become effective before year's end. Missouri currently has 179 CFMs.

Nebraska: There are 103 NFIP-participating communities in Nebraska; six are currently participating in the CRS program. Since May 2019, two counties have had DFIRMs become effective. Three other counties are scheduled to have their DFIRMs become effective before year's end. Nebraska currently has 90 CFMs.

State NFIP Coordinators (SCs)

Coronavirus (COVID-19): All Region 7 state NFIP coordinators (SCs) and floodplain management staff have been working from home since mid-March. Many NFIP activities, such as training workshops and CFM exams,



have been postponed until travel restrictions relating to the pandemic have been lifted.

2020 Tiered State Framework (TSF): Region 7 states all performed extremely well on the Tiered State Framework (TSF) Self-Assessment, scoring the highest in the nation. Even with this remarkable accomplishment, SCs have score-related funding concerns since 2021 funding apportionment will be affected by the new tiered system. The TSF Self-Assessment involved much consideration to providing community services, always a priority for all Regions 7 states.

FEMA'S Letter to the Governors: On April 26, 2019, all state governors received a letter from David I. Maurstad, Deputy Associate Administrator for the Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration, regarding state floodplain management regulations of state-owned properties in special flood hazard areas. All Region 7 states responded to this letter within the six-month deadline given to them by FEMA. These four governors have not received any follow-up correspondence from FEMA, which would no doubt have given SCs a boost for pushing for stronger state NFIP regulations.

State Hazard Mitigation Officers (SHMOs)

Disaster Declarations: All Region 7 State Hazard Mitigation Officers (SHMOs) are focusing their efforts on managing the 2019 Disaster Declarations. They're identifying communities that need mitigation projects to protect their citizens—buyouts, public safe rooms, storm shelters, warning sirens, and power generators. The SHMOs are working with local public power districts to identify any mitigation projects to make the power grid more resilient. These 2019 disasters are a heavy lift for the SHMOs and their staffs and will affect hazard mitigation for months to come.

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC): SHMOs submitted comments on the recently-released proposed guidance for the BRIC program. BRIC is the formula mitigation program that replaces the PDM grant program for mitigation. The first round of grants for this program will be available in FY21, with the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) appearing in August.

State Hazard Mitigation Plans (SHMP): Nebraska is updating its State Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP) to address large-scale disasters such as the multifaceted flooding disaster of 2019.

State Partnerships: The Region 7 SHMOs have a robust partnership and take pride in maintaining mutually beneficial affiliations. They actively participate by providing technical assistance and support to other states requesting information and aid with mitigation and flood recovery efforts.

Region 7 Concerns

- Region 7 states continue to be concerned with access to the PIVOT portal and the Information Sharing Access Agreement (ISAA) requests for sharing NFIP data containing policyholder personally identifiable information (PII).
- With widespread flooding, states face difficulties in knowing which of their communities have been



affected by flooding. This presents extra difficulties for providing support for Substantial Damage Estimates (SDEs).

- SCs are concerned with the manner in which Congress supports the NFIP, keeping it afloat with a series of temporary extensions. NFIP reauthorization is an opportunity for Congress to take bold steps to strengthen and reduce the complexity of the program rather than these piecemeal extensions of the status quo.
- Region 7 states are concerned with how climate change is affecting the Midwest.
- Several Region 7 states are working with legislators to pass laws that will strengthen their state mitigation and floodplain management programs.

Ways ASFPM Can Better Serve Region 7

- Create a handout brochure that fully describes the dangers of building basement foundations after a LOMR-F has been approved by FEMA.
- Advocate for flood insurance exemptions for low-cost agricultural buildings having a value of less than \$2000.
- Create publications for local floodplain administrators with guidance on how to prepare in advance for a flooding event, as well as what to do after flood waters have receded.