

# THE INSIDER

A Publication for Members - November 2012

## The Association of State Floodplain Managers

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### ASFPM Updates & Action - Hurricane Sandy

ASFPM has updated news coverage and added *ASFPM Activities and Resources for Property Owners* to the [Hurricane Sandy page](#).

On November 26<sup>th</sup>, ASFPM sent a letter of support to David Miller, FEMA's Associate Administrator, Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration, for FEMA's efforts to develop advisory flood hazards information. [Read the letter here](#).

ASFPM is also compiling a list of ASFPM members and Certified Floodplain Managers (CFMs) interested in volunteering to assist communities impacted by Hurricane Sandy. Interested CFMs can find more information [here](#).

Resources for Local Officials coming soon!

**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 ASFPM Executive Office has moved to a new location!**  
Please be sure to note the change in mailing address and contact numbers.

## Associate Director - Operations Report - Ingrid Danler

When U.S. News & World Report creates their 2013 annual Best Jobs Report, I hope they notice how our profession has contributed this past calendar year, because Floodplain Management has been pretty exciting! Floods, then drought, then floods dominated the news and the nation's attention for most of the year, culminating in Hurricane Sandy, which, on the heels of National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) reform, is changing the landscape and dialogue of flooding and floodplain management. ASFPM has been at the forefront of these issues, with our leadership providing many critical recommendations for the nation's leaders. Much thanks to the many minds doing the heavy lifting that keeps our Association the national voice for floodplain management and mitigation.



Given this high energy climate of change and need, our Association has kept pace and not missed a beat in creating new programs and initiatives to further promote the profession and floodplain management. Our calendar year started with our leadership Board Meeting in February and several new ad hoc and standing committees were created to continue and implement strategic planning in relation to Chapters, Long-Term Finance, By-Laws, and Higher Education. I am happy to report that during the November Board Meeting, the Board of Directors approved a recommendation to make Higher Education our 14<sup>th</sup> Policy Committee, with their attention focused on using the Emergency Management model to bring undergraduate and graduate programs to Universities nationwide. Their [RESOLUTION](#) was point on, in describing the need for degreed floodplain managers.

Back at the Executive Office in Madison, Operations is happy to report the execution and completion of multiple internal projects and initiatives. As of November 26<sup>th</sup>, the ASFPM Offices successfully relocated to 575 D'Onofrio Drive, Suite 200 (new phone 608-828-3000), without a hitch. Many thanks to all of our staff, but especially to Jason Schneeberger and Anita Larson who went far above and beyond - sorting 35 years of papers, finding high quality and affordable furniture (including through Craigslist), and getting our servers moved and online quickly. Another initiative that was launched the last week of November was the online membership renewal. With the ability to link to our database and eliminate the double-keying of information, the online renewal by credit card not only eliminates paper and postage, but frees staff to pursue other membership needs. We'd appreciate your feedback on the process as we work to improve it.

As we wrap up the year, we thank you for your membership and continued commitment to floodplain management. And heck, a bug in the ear of U.S. News and World Report for 2013, couldn't hurt either.

Take Care,



### **ASFPM's New Location Details**

***Phone: 608-828-3000***

***Fax: 608-828-6319***

***ASFPM***

***575 D'Onofrio Drive, Suite 200***

***Madison, WI 53719***

Easily accessible from the Madison Beltline (Hwy 12/18) via either the Gammon Road or Mineral Point Road exits.



**ASFPM Presents**

# LIDAR Essentials

**Understanding and specifying the most important factors influencing flood map accuracy**

Point cloud data from LIDAR bring tremendous value to mapping and analysis projects. Learn the basics of LIDAR data acceptance, exploitation and derived product generation from our in-depth LIDAR Educational Series of webinars.

## **Webinar 1: An Overview of LIDAR**

September 10, 2012: 3:00 - 4:00 PM EDT

- An overview of airborne LIDAR technology (How it Works)
- LIDAR Parameters (Density, Resolution, Precision, Network and Local Accuracy)
- Datums and Coordinate Reference Systems
- Accuracy considerations
- ASPRS LIDAR data format, LAS
- Uses of LIDAR Data - Data applications

## **Webinar 3: LIDAR Acceptance and QC**

November 9, 2012: 3:00 - 4:00 PM EDT

- What is the cost of not doing QC?
- A discussion of performance parameters
- Importance of independent ground control
- Data delivery strategies
- QC Program Strategies
- Quantitative Checks
- Vertical accuracy testing - relative and absolute
- Qualitative checks
- Communicating issues

## **Webinar 2: Specifying LIDAR Collection Projects**

October 22, 2012: 3:00 - 4:00 PM EDT

- Product-driven specification methods
- How performance specifications affect project cost
- Cost/Performance trade-offs
- "Buy-ups" - cost/benefit considerations
- Breakline (e.g. "hydro-flattening") considerations
- Specifying data deliverables
- Specifying data accuracy
- Specifying data formats and media
- Data Rights
- Monitoring Projects

## **Webinar 4: Using LIDAR Data**

December 10, 2012: 3:00 - 4:00 PM EDT

- Basic 3D visualization
- Intelligent data thinning - Model Key Points
- Generating derived products (for example, gridded elevation files)
- Generating contours
- Adding breaklines - enhanced elevation models
- Advanced topics - Adding value via local data extraction

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Submit your own items or suggestions for future topics to column editor Rebecca Quinn, CFM, at [rcquinn@earthlink.net](mailto:rcquinn@earthlink.net). Comments welcomed!

A few ASFPM members contacted me about two of the topics I covered in my last column (Minus-Rated National Flood Insurance Policies and Ground Below Base Flood Elevation but not in Special Flood Hazard Area), and another member and loyal reader gave me a lot to think about in terms of what floodplain managers do every day to reduce flood hazards and risk. I think you'll find the added information useful.

**NFIP Minus-Rated Flood Insurance Policies.** As a reminder, minus-rated properties are those that are rated with the lowest floor one foot or more below the base flood elevation. FEMA instituted this policy in part to ensure that only buildings that are compliant with the NFIP construction criteria receive the policy discounts available in Community Rating System communities. Last March, it was reported that more than 45,000 properties in 938 of the 1,192 CRS communities were minus-rated and affected by this policy.

In my last column I wrote that communities can request their minus-rated policy list by emailing [NFIPCRS@iso.com](mailto:NFIPCRS@iso.com) (include the Community Identification Number). I also shared my experience where I saw some properties were likely minus-rated because of relatively minor compliance issues that should be easy to correct (e.g., heat pump lower than the lowest floor, noncompliant flood openings).

Cristina Martinez, a CRS Flood Technical Coordinator with ISO, and former state and local floodplain manager, got in touch and shared information from previous CRS newsletters<sup>1</sup>. While noncompliance may indeed cause minus-rating, it's not the only cause and may not even be the primary cause. A large number of properties are minus-rated because of "disconnects" in the information used to rate the policies.

In 2008, after receiving their list of minus-rated properties, a number of CRS Coordinators took the initiative to help property owners understand the implications and options available to them. Martinez told me that her hands-on experience working with communities in Colorado and the experience of others reveled a lot about disconnects that result in minus-ratings.

After talking to Martinez, here's what I understand are some other the common causes of minus-rating, other than the obvious ones I saw myself:

1. Some pre-FIRM buildings were incorrectly rated as post-FIRM buildings even though they'd not been substantially improved or substantially damaged.
2. Buildings that were built in compliance with the effective flood map at the time of construction, but rated based on a more recent map that shows higher BFEs. These policies should be "grandfathered" because they were compliant when constructed. Many people, including agents, may not know how to access what FEMA calls "historic" FIRMs. Some (but probably not all) historic FIRMs are accessible through the FEMA Map Service Center ([www.msc.fema.gov](http://www.msc.fema.gov) and click on "Product Catalog").
3. Some floodproofed non-residential buildings were rated using elevation certificates instead of floodproofing design certification (indeed, insurance agents may not even be aware that a building is floodproofed if the proper documentation isn't provided).

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program/community-rating-system> (see especially March 2012)

4. Buildings with “below-grade” crawlspaces generally are rated as having basements even if the floor above is properly elevated. But if it can be shown that a building with a below-grade crawlspace complies with the limitations and requirements in Technical Bulletin 11, *Crawlspace Construction for Buildings Located in Special Flood Hazard Areas*, insurance companies can re-rate these buildings. As a reminder, TB 11 does not permit use of below-grade crawlspaces everywhere – it has some very specific limitations: the depth below grade shall be no more than 2 ft measured from the lowest adjacent grade to the top of the footing and the perimeter wall shall be no more than 4 ft high measured from the top of the footing to the top of the wall. Work through the numbers and you’ll see this means below-grade crawlspaces can be used only in relatively shallow SFHAs, especially if freeboard is required.

There’s no way the average property owner could figure out these compliance and rating problems. But once they realize their buildings are minus-rated, they can talk to their insurance agents to find out what’s causing that rating. What they learn may lead to corrections of noncompliance or corrections of problems with ratings that can sometimes result in lower premiums. This can add up to real savings, especially in CRS communities because these policyholders will also regain the CRS discount! Plus, in some cases, insurance companies may be able to issue refunds of excess premiums paid in the current year.

Your role? Local officials should get the list of minus-rated properties in their communities and take some time to figure out how best to help their citizens identify and resolve what factors cause minus-ratings.

**Topo Shows Ground Below BFE, But Site is Outside of SFHA.** Last month I noted that some states and communities include specific “elevation prevails” language in their floodplain management regulations to clearly provide authority to regulate these areas not shown on FIRMs. I also expressed my opinion that the public purpose of protecting public safety and minimizing future flood damage is sufficient basis on which communities can regulate areas that clearly are subject to flooding under the base flood conditions, even if not shown as SFHA on FIRMs.

A former state coordinator shared his reasoning, based on NFIP regulations, that helps local officials deal with this situation. He reminded me that the NFIP has a high level expectation that communities will “review subdivision proposals and other proposed new development to determine whether such proposals will be reasonably safe from flooding” (44 CFR 60.3(a)(4)). Every local floodplain management ordinance I’ve ever seen includes the phrase “reasonably safe from flooding” – but I’ll bet few of us pay that much attention to how it can be used in day-to-day enforcement. I think most of us can agree that laying aside good topo data that indicates an area is vulnerable to flooding under base flood conditions doesn’t meet that objective.

### **Outreach: An Important Part of Flood Damage (and Risk) Reduction**

“The only 100% effective form of floodplain outreach is a major flood” is how Warren Campbell, a long-time ASFPM member and civil engineering professor at Western Kentucky University, prefaced a recent email to me. His views are informed by his experience working for local government and serving his community in other capacities. After a flood, elected officials often are criticized for failure to prepare (sometimes unfairly, sometimes not). In many cases, had they proposed remedies that cost public money before a flood, they might have been laughed out of office. This leads to what Campbell calls the “hydro-illogic” cycle: failure to act followed by flooding, which leads to blame and recrimination often insufficient to prompt action which often means further failure to act and amnesia, and then – sure enough – another flood.

While none of us would want to order up a major flood just to generate political support for our programs, Campbell offered a few other ideas that don’t require a triggering event.

1. Public safety. Most people killed by floods die in their cars. The National Weather Service prepared a video “Low Water Crossings: The Hidden Danger,” an adjunct to the “Turn Around, Don’t Drown” campaign. Campbell reported that his community made copies to give to every public and private high school for their driver’s education programs and to the local traffic court’s driving school.
2. Keep trying to work with the media. We’re all familiar with how the media seems to view the world – “if it bleeds, it leads.” Campbell advises that we shouldn’t let that deter us from trying to help reporters understand the big picture and why we manage flood hazards the way we do. The challenge is to provide information in advance of the next flood.
3. Some local weather stations promote safety with an ingenious promotion – a weather dog. There’s Radar the Weather Dog, Storm the Weather Dog, BJ the Weather Dog, Schmitt the Weather Dog (<http://www.facebook.com/schmitttheweatherdog>), and so on. In Campbell’s community, Radar the Weather Dog was more than just a gimmick, he was a border collie mix rescued from the pound and voted the top local TV personality several years running! “I’ve often thought my next dog will be Freeboard, the Flood Hound,” said Campbell, suggesting a pooch might be an effective advocate for flood safety and floodplain management. [RCQ: Anyone else think the Greyhound would be the perfect breed to illustrate the benefits of elevation?]

It doesn’t take more than a simple Internet search to find even more ideas for improving public awareness of flood hazards and risk. Check with your NFIP State Coordinator or State Emergency Management Agency. FEMA has plenty of material, including “CRS Credit for Outreach Projects” (<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/CRS/>).

I’m pleased with my own contribution, having worked with more than 20 states to develop “Quick Guides for Floodplain Management” over the last 12 or so years. Actually, Leigh Morgan Chapman, my friend and colleague for more than 20 years, had the original idea. Thanks also go to George Riedel (former ASFPM chair and deputy director) who, many years ago as Missouri’s brand-new NFIP State Coordinator was open to a new approach to help local officials, elected officials, appointed planning commissioners and variance board members, and property owners understand floodplain management.

Links to the three most recent Quick Guides:

Florida (2012) [www.floridadisaster.org/Mitigation/SFMP/Documents/FLQG\\_web.pdf](http://www.floridadisaster.org/Mitigation/SFMP/Documents/FLQG_web.pdf)  
Georgia (2009) [www.gaepd.org/Files\\_PDF/techguide/wpb/GAQG2009\\_ScreenView.pdf](http://www.gaepd.org/Files_PDF/techguide/wpb/GAQG2009_ScreenView.pdf)  
California (2009) [www.water.ca.gov/floodmgmt/lrafm/fmb/docs/CAQG-screen.pdf](http://www.water.ca.gov/floodmgmt/lrafm/fmb/docs/CAQG-screen.pdf)

[RCQ]

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### **American Planning Association’s 2013 National Planning Conference April 13–17**

There will be two events of particular interest to state floodplain managers:

- A three-day symposium called *Water: Too Much, Too Little*. This series of 13 sessions on April 15- 17 will focus on water issues in the Great Lakes region.
- The “Resilient Communities” track is a conference-long series of 11 sessions focused on hazards and climate change.

You can find details about APA’s 2013 National Planning Conference at [www.planning.org/conference/](http://www.planning.org/conference/)



## ASFPM Foundation

*The ASFPM Foundation wishes you all a most successful and disaster-mild 2013. Watch your email for the Foundation donor plea – it is not too late to still make a 2012 tax-deductible donation! Members can simply add it to your 2013 Membership Renewal Form or you can go to [www.asfpmfoundation.org](http://www.asfpmfoundation.org) and look for the Donate box to make your secure transaction in just a couple of minutes. Questions can be directed to Diane Brown at [diane@floods.org](mailto:diane@floods.org) or 608-828-6324 in our office.*

*Your support is always greatly appreciated. Stay flood safe!*

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### 3rd Annual Collegiate Student Paper Competition – **Deadline Extended!**

Abstract Submittal Deadline is **December 31, 2012**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual collegiate student paper competition will be conducted at the 2013 ASFPM Conference held on June 10-13 in Hartford, Connecticut. The goals of this program, funded by the ASFPM Foundation, are to encourage student engagement in floodplain management topics and to identify talented individuals with the potential to make lasting contributions to the Body of Knowledge of floodplain management.

Full-time undergraduate or graduate students (or a team of 1-3 students) are urged to submit a one-page abstract (500 words double spaced) on subjects relating to floodplain, flood hazard, flood risk, or stormwater management, concisely describing the research and expected results from the study. Students who have previously submitted an abstract, but not been selected, may submit their abstract again.

Up to three semifinalists will be invited to submit a full paper which will be due **March 1, 2013**. Semifinalists receive up to \$1,000 for travel assistance to make their presentations at a special student session during the conference, and are judged by an eminent panel of floodplain managers for a scholarship of \$1,000, \$500, or \$250.

Abstracts must be submitted by **December 31, 2012**. Please submit abstracts electronically as a PDF to ASFPM Outreach & Events Manager Diane Brown at [diane@floods.org](mailto:diane@floods.org). More information is available on the website at: [ASFPM Foundation Student Paper Competition](http://www.asfpmfoundation.org/ASFPM_Foundation_Student_Paper_Competition).

Additional ASFPM Foundation information is available on the website: <http://www.asfpmfoundation.org/>

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### CALL for NOMINATIONS for 2013 ASFPM AWARDS

Join the stars who have received national recognition over the years for doing the right thing and doing it well. Here are the award categories for excellence in floodplain management for which we invite your nomination of worthy programs, projects or persons. See [ASFPM AWARDS](#) for more detail on these categories.

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| • Media Award                              | • Tom Lee State Award           |
| • LRJ Local Floodplain Manager of the Year | • James Lee Witt Local Award    |
| • Sheaffer Floodproofing Award             | • Meritorious Achievement Award |
| • Ivey Certification Award                 |                                 |

Our conference theme for 2013 in Hartford, Connecticut, is “Remembering the Past – Insuring the Future”. Please help us showcase the many successes across the country! Simply go to the ASFPM awards nomination page at [www.floods.org/awards/nomination.asp](http://www.floods.org/awards/nomination.asp) and submit your program, project, or person online. Make sure you get it in by the March 1, 2013 deadline because it will not be extended as the conference is in mid-May this year. It is highly recommended that you provide applicable letters of support for your nomination. Send those to Outreach & Events Manager Diane Brown in the ASFPM office at [diane@floods.org](mailto:diane@floods.org), who can also answer your questions about the process or categories (phone is 608-828-6324). Winners will be notified in mid-April to allow time to make travel arrangements.

## CFM® Corner



Direct your certification questions to [cfm@floods.org](mailto:cfm@floods.org). For suggestions on specific topics or questions to be covered, please email [Anita Larson](mailto:Anita.Larson@floods.org).

### CFM Renewal 1/31/2013

ASFPM CFMs who are up for their biennial CFM renewal **January 31, 2013** should have received a letter and renewal form via "snail" mail in November. If you have not yet received your information in the mail, please contact Anita Larson at [cfm@floods.org](mailto:cfm@floods.org) to ensure your CFM does not lapse.

Don't forget! If you need a few fast CECs to complete your certification renewal CEC requirement, check our website for online FEMA and RedVector courses. [See our list of pre-approved training courses](#).

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## ASFPM Member Services Note

Membership renewals are due **December 31, 2012**.

Contact [kevin@floods.org](mailto:kevin@floods.org) with any questions regarding member benefits and membership renewal.

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## ASFPM Staff Update

Please join us in welcoming Drew Whitehair, CFM, to the new Project Manager position for ASFPM!

Drew is a graduate of the University of Akron, OH where he majored in Emergency Management. Drew comes to ASFPM from Michael Baker Jr., Inc. where, as a Project Manager, he managed several hazard mitigation planning projects as well as other emergency management and hazard mitigation related activities as. Prior to that, Drew worked in both the Hazard Mitigation Branch and Disaster Recovery Branch (Public Assistance Program) at Ohio Emergency Management Agency. While there Drew managed several million dollars of flood mitigation projects including acquisitions, elevations, flood warning systems, stormwater management, and mitigation planning. He was also the program lead for benefit-cost analysis, compliance lead for NEPA environmental review requirements and served on national focus groups to improve FEMA's benefit-cost analysis and Severe Repetitive Loss Program. Drew also has had experience at the local level working for the Tuscarawas County, Ohio Emergency Management Agency. Drew's duties will include managing several active ASFPM projects as well as pursuing new opportunities that fit within ASFPM's mission.

Drew begins as a full time employee on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Contact Drew at [drew@floods.org](mailto:drew@floods.org)

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## Washington Legislative Report

Report to be released when lame duck session adjourns.





## **After Sandy**

*By: Brian Zitani, CFM, Waterways Management Specialist  
Town of Babylon, Suffolk County, Long Island*

When talking major weather events, many of us have 'a big one' by which we compare all other experiences to. You will find that a number of Long Islanders use the Great Hurricane of 1938 as the benchmark by which to assess the severity of more recent storms. My father still tells anyone who will listen about how they had to outrun the storm surge as it washed through my grandparent's summer home in Patchogue Village, whereas my first experience as a floodplain manager was with Hurricane Gloria in 1985, such that all following storms have been measured against that.

Then came Sandy. For many of us on Long Island, Hurricane Sandy has just re-written the book.

Although a hurricane, Sandy behaved more like what one might expect of a Nor'easter, with each tide cycle bringing a higher surge until the peak on the 30<sup>th</sup> - up to eight feet in some areas. The storm remained in the area for 72 hours; pushing wave action that steadily eroded the dunes on the barrier island, resulting in several breaches and dozens of washovers. Homes on the bayside, pounded by waves for three days, finally succumbed to nature as they collapsed or were washed off their foundations. Throughout the island, almost one million homes were without power and thousands lost natural gas service. The Marinas worked steadily through the weekend, pulling as many boats from the water as possible, only to have them wash back into the canals or drift onto neighboring properties.

One week later the focus is on debris cleanup and restoring power to the affected areas. Already, there is a steady stream of residents seeking federal aid or asking about building permits to elevate their homes. In 2009, when Long Island communities adopted the new Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs), there was concern expressed in response to how many areas not mapped on the previous FIRMs were changed to hazard areas.

Now the question being asked is, "When I raise it, will my house be high enough?"

## **New York, One Month After Sandy**

*Reprinted from the FEMA Blog, November 30, 2012 posting  
Posted by: Michael Byrne, Federal Coordinating Officer*

I am a native New Yorker. I was born in New York City. I grew up in the city's Public Housing developments in East Harlem and my Mom and Dad, brothers and sisters still live here. I worked for the New York Fire Department for 20 years, eventually serving as a Captain. I worked at the New York Office of Emergency Management and then I joined FEMA. I'm a proud New Yorker and today, I'm honored to be part of the federal team that is working hard to assist my home city and state.

Even before the storm, FEMA was preparing.



*Coney Island, N.Y., Nov. 12, 2012 -- Aerial view of damage and debris on Coney Island, New York. Storm surge from Hurricane Sandy caused flooding and power outages throughout the island.*

We prepositioned food, water and blankets at two incident support bases in New York. FEMA Incident Management Assistance Teams (IMAT), trained to quickly coordinate federal resources to support the state were on the ground days before landfall. We also started calling in the cavalry, everyone from the U.S. Coast Guard, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. We even had the Marines land on the beach in the Rockaways.

In the response phase of a disaster like this, it is critical that we focus on what I like to call the “four **Ps**” – “**P**eople, **P**ower, **P**umping and **P**ick-it-up.”

People always come first. The very first thing we did was get life- saving commodities out to the people. Within 24 hours we supplied more than a million liters water and more than a million shelf ready meals



*Long Beach, N.Y., Nov. 7, 2012 -- Cars were buried in sand from Hurricane Sandy. The storm surge created widespread flooding, power outages and devastation on Long Beach, New York. FEMA is working with state and local officials to assist residents who were affected by Hurricane Sandy.*

to the New York National Guard and Voluntary Agencies throughout the city - who quickly distributed them to the New Yorkers in need. The third day after the storm, we were set up in all the affected areas.

New York is an amazing place, made up of different people from all over the world. Every neighborhood is distinctly unique, with different traditions, dialects and sense of community. But most of all, New York is made up of neighborhoods.

For example, you look on a map and see the Rockaways. But there are really four different Rockaways. You have Far Rock, Rockaway Beach, Belle Harbor and Breezy Point. Each neighborhood is different.

We set up Disaster Recovery Centers, where people can meet and talk about assistance face-to-face. I

was out at the center in Rockaway Beach and there were tons of people waiting to be seen. Everyone had a number and I talked to a guy that had number 245. The center was on number 150. I told him we had heated buses that would take people to the Breezy Point center, but he wanted to stay with his neighbors and wait. That's New York. [Click here to read the full posting.](#)

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Reuters, 11/27/2012 - [New Jersey residents want shore rebuilt with strict standards: poll](#)

New York Times, 11/24/2012 - [Paying for Future Catastrophes](#)

New York Times, 11/23/2012 - [After Storm, Dry Floors Prove Value of Exceeding City Code](#)

Huffington Post, 11/12/2012 - [Hurricane Sandy Damage Amplified By Breakneck Development of Coast](#)

Star-Ledger Editorial Board, 11/4/2012 - [Editorial: Rebuild, carefully](#)

Asbury Park Press, 11/2/2012 - [Mauriello: We must rebuild wisely](#)

Bloomberg Businessweek, 11/1/2012 - [It's Global Warming, Stupid](#)

## CFM Volunteer Assistance - Sandy Recovery

ASFPM is compiling a listing of ASFPM members and Certified Floodplain Managers interested in volunteering to assist communities impacted by Hurricane Sandy.

ASFPM anticipates that communities may need assistance from experts in floodplain management, especially as it pertains to the administration of NFIP regulations. Communities may be overwhelmed in doing post disaster inspections for safety and damages before property owners will be allowed to occupy or repair their homes.

ASFPM helped facilitate volunteers interested in providing assistance in 2005 after Hurricane Katrina and States in need of these resources were successful in obtaining skilled personnel to help.

The Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) is the nation's State to State mutual aid system to support these types of volunteer efforts. EMAC has been ratified by Congress and law in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The EMAC legislation solves the problems of liability and responsibilities of cost and allows for credentials, licenses, and certifications to be honored across State lines. However, State floodplain managers do not fit well into the EMAC categories. Therefore ASFPM is compiling a list of State employees and local officials that are interested in volunteering.

### Following are procedures for how State employees can volunteer to assist the States impacted by Sandy:

1. Get approval from your agency to volunteer to be deployed to assist States impacted by Hurricane/Super Storm Sandy. Volunteers will be deployed for a 2 week period.
2. [Click on this link and fill out the form](#) to indicate that you are interesting in helping those impacted by Sandy. Information regarding your years of experience, areas of expertise and your credentials (e.g. CFM, PE) will be needed. You will also be asked to indicate when you would be available.
3. ASFPM will compile this information and provide it to the impacted States.
4. If a State does put in a request for a floodplain manager (specifically CFM), ASFPM will then send out notices to those that have volunteered indicating that they should contact their State EMAC coordinator to register. The CFM certification is a good way for EMAC to match the request for assistance with the resources that are available.

If you are a local official, you must first contact the EMAC Coordinator in your State to determine if you can become a "temporary agent of the State." Under EMAC, State agents or temporary State agents are the only resources that can be deployed. Most States have provisions for making local officials temporary agents of the State. Here is the link to State EMAC contacts

[http://www.emacweb.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=285&Itemid=256](http://www.emacweb.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=285&Itemid=256).

### Potential Work Activities:

Providing post disaster health and safety assistance and support to NFIP communities. Examples include:

- technical assistance implementing substantial damage requirements, including use of the Substantial Damage Estimating Software;
- assistance to communities enrolling into the NFIP;
- general floodplain management technical assistance;
- increased Cost of Compliance (ICC) coverage, and
- assistance with a variety of hazard mitigation initiatives.

The work could also involve assisting with the NFIP call center. Work would likely be under the direction of the NFIP Coordinator for the State where the work is being conducted.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

## ASFPM Expresses Support for USDA Soil Health Initiative

Along with 20 other conservation and commodity groups, [ASFPM](#) recently signed a [joint letter](#) expressing support for a USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service initiative. [News Release available here.](#)

### Unlocking the Secrets in the Soil

It's a daunting task. How do we meet the food production needs of the world's growing population while 1.) reducing the environmental impact of production agriculture; 2.) sustaining wildlife habitat; and 3.) providing potential cost savings to producers?

The key, says USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, is to improve the health of our nation's soil.

So to help producers discover the basics and benefits of soil health – as well as ways to improve it – NRCS recently launched a soil health awareness and education effort titled “Unlock the Secrets in the Soil.” The effort is supported by fact sheets; brochures; videos; web- radio- and social media announcements as well as local field days. In addition, NRCS will be making programmatic changes that will give farmers more assistance in trying the healthy soil methods on their own farms.

Soil health is achieved by disturbing the soil as little as possible, keeping it covered, growing as many different species of plants as practical, and keeping living plants in the soil as much as possible. Soil health practices, such as no-till, cover crops, buffers, etc., keep the soil in place, which improves air and water quality, reduces flooding, and enhances wildlife habitat.

“This effort will help our farmers meet current and future demands for American-grown agricultural products by encouraging good soil and natural resource practices that are beneficial to their operations,” said NRCS Chief Dave White. “We understand that soils and farms vary a great deal across the country, so our job is to provide farmers the very best information available to meet their unique needs and help their businesses thrive,” he said.

NRCS' focus on soil health has brought together farmers, businesses, and partnering agencies and organizations from communities across the country where growers are increasingly interested in how improved soil health can benefit their operations, as well as the environment. See the joint letter of support [here](#).

To “Unlock the Secrets in the Soil,” go to NRCS's [soil health page](#) or contact your local NRCS office.

###

Soil is a living and life-giving substance, without which we would perish.

As world population and food production demands rise, keeping our soil healthy and productive is of paramount importance. So much so that we believe improving the health of our Nation's soil is one of the most important endeavors of our time.

By focusing more attention on soil health and by educating our customers and the public about the positive impact healthy soils can have on productivity and conservation, we can help our Nation's farmers and ranchers feed the world more profitably and sustainably – now and for generations to come.

The resources on this soil health section of our site are designed to help visitors understand the basics and benefits of soil health – and to learn about Soil Health Management Systems from farmers who are using those systems.

So whether you're a farmer, a researcher, a conservationist or an interested citizen, the information on this site will help you “Unlock the Secrets in the Soil.”





## General News & Information

### News from the States

#### Florida's Tropical Storm Debby Loss Avoidance Report Released

The [Florida Division of Emergency Management](#) is happy to announce that Florida's Tropical Storm Debby Loss Avoidance Report is now available on their website. [Check it out here.](#)

### Outreach, Videos, and Social Media

#### Eight Success Story Videos Recently Published on NOAA's Climate.gov

NOAA recently posted videos about Fourchon Parrish, sea level rise, subsidence, and community efforts to adapt to a changing landscape. Watch these videos at the following links:

[Windell's Levee: Protecting a Coastal Community](#)

[Everything's Moving: Relative Sea Level Rise Explained](#)

[Leaving Leeville: Losing a Coastal Community](#)

[Advanced Coastal GPS: Immediate Data, Immediate Decisions](#)

[Built to Last: Climate Data Ensure Oil Supply Route](#)

[Ground Zero for Sea Level Rise](#)

[Louisiana's Front Line: Defense from Storm and Surge](#)

[Resilience and Energy: Coastal Management Ensures Supply](#)

#### EPA Releases Video: "EPA Scientists at Work: Managing Sewer Overflows with Green Infrastructure"

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) scientists are currently studying green infrastructure to determine the most effective and efficient practices for water treatment, management and transport. Water infrastructure may be considered "gray" or "green." Gray infrastructure refers to traditional practices for stormwater management and wastewater treatment. Green infrastructure refers to sustainable pollution reducing practices that also provide other ecosystem services such as reduced greenhouse gas emissions or increased flood control. Examples of green infrastructure include grass and forest buffers, use of porous materials for paving, as well as small-scale practices like rain gardens and rain barrels. [Click here to view the video.](#)

#### American Rivers - Call for Photos: 2012 National River Cleanup Photo Contest

[American Rivers](#) wants to see you, your group, the trash you collected, a "before and after" cleanup shot, or any other photos that best represent your National River Cleanup® success out on the river! Photo submissions must include your name, address, telephone and e-mail contact information, cleanup date and location. Photos submitted may be used by American Rivers to represent National River Cleanup® for both online and offline communications. Submission of photos agrees to the full [Terms and Conditions](#). American Rivers will feature all entries on the [American Rivers Flickr](#) page. **Deadline: December 31, 2012**

#### ASFPM Link to Submit Photos

ASFPM is always looking for good photos of flood mitigation, natural floodplain functions, and soft engineering. Please send ASFPM your public domain photos: [http://www.floods.org/photo\\_upload.asp](http://www.floods.org/photo_upload.asp)

#### ASFPM on LinkedIn and Facebook

ASFPM members continue to weigh in on various discussions posted to the ASFPM LinkedIn page. If you have not yet joined in any of the conversations, you can check them out [here](#).

*Has your organization released flood safety videos or recently launched an innovative use of social media?*

*If you would like to see these efforts shared in the ASFPM newsletter, please contact Katrien at [katrien@floods.org](mailto:katrien@floods.org)*

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## Chapter Corner

See [ASFPM Chapter Communications](#) to access the ASFPM Bi-Monthly Newsletter for Chapters or go directly to [December – Issue 6, Volume 3](#) for the latest.

### Free Webinars for Nonprofits – December & January

- [How to Captivate & Engage with Your Website](#), 8/14/12 @ 10:30am ET
- [Before You Seek a Grant: A Checklist for New Nonprofits](#) 12/11/12 @ 2:00PM ET
- [Creating a Comprehensive and Engaging Volunteer Training Program](#) 12/11/12 @ 2:00PM ET
- [You Got the Grant! Now What?](#) 12/13/12 @ 2:00PM ET
- [e-Strategy for Your Nonprofit](#) 12/17/12 @ 10:00AM PT
- [Proposal Writing Basics](#) 12/20/12 @ 1:00PM ET
- [The Keys to Successful Nonprofit Blogging that Drives Engagement](#) 1/13/13 @ 3:00PM ET
- [Developing an Epic Facebook Strategy for Your Nonprofit](#) 1/30/13 @ 3:00PM ET

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### Chapter Renewals Due

This process may be old hat for some chapters, but with elections and leadership changes, the process might be new to some of our chapter leaders. ASFPM chapter membership renewals are sent in November to the two primary chapter contacts on file for the chapter. Renewals to maintain your ASFPM chapter membership status are due back by **Dec. 31, 2012** along with your chapter membership fee of \$200.

The two primary chapter contacts are determined by the Chapter's Chair upon election, or by the previous year primary contacts at the renewal period. The two contacts must be chapter board officers or directors and should be persons who can respond to ASFPM requests and communications in a timely manner as well as have the authority to answer questions on behalf of the chapter. These two contacts receive all ASFPM member newsletters as well as any ASFPM Chapter Alerts and communications that are sent out to chapters.

What comes with your renewal paperwork? ASFPM will ask you some basic information about your chapter board and key members (directors, committee chairs, and webmaster), statistical information about your chapter membership (number of members, membership fees, # of newsletters & conferences, etc.), administration information (tax-exempt status, insurance coverage, incorporation status, election cycle and officer/director terms).

A "Chapter Re-cap Sheet" will provide a list of data and documents ASFPM has on file for your chapter to aid you in assessing what updated information should be shared with ASFPM. We will also include CFM status updates, a list of ASFPM Chapter Membership benefits, and occasionally a survey to collect frequently requested chapter information from other chapters.

We want to make this process as seamless and painless for chapters as possible. Please don't hesitate to contact Kait Laufenberg, ASFPM Training & Chapter Coordinator, at [Kait@floods.org](mailto:Kait@floods.org) or 608-828-3000.

## Chapter Alert

In July 2012, the President signed into law the RESTORE Act (Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourism Opportunities, and Revived Economy of the Gulf Coast Act, PL 112-141, July 6, 2012, 126 Stat 405), which created a Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund. The Fund will receive 80% of civil penalties paid under the Clean Water Act by the parties responsible for the April 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Gulf Coast States are developing restoration plans detailing activities to be undertaken. Coastal flood protection - nonstructural and structural - is an eligible activity for RESTORE Act funding. On 15 November 2012, BP agreed to pay \$2.4 billion for restoration and conservation programs as part of a record \$4.5 billion criminal settlement. Still unresolved are civil penalties under the Clean Water Act, which could total billions of dollars more. *The RESTORE Act presents opportunities for floodplain managers to inform restoration plans for the affected states and region, and to help ensure that investments restore protective coastal natural resources and reduce vulnerability to future disasters.* The ASFPM Executive Office recommends that Gulf Coast Floodplain Managers and Chapters (AL, FL, LA, MS, TX) become familiar with the provisions and opportunities of the RESTORE Act and consider how we can best contribute to the development and implementation of restoration plans. ASFPM has created a [memo](#) that provides a basic summary of the provisions of the RESTORE Act, along with staff comments and recommendations. The ASFPM staff point of contact for this effort is [Sam Medlock](#), who is monitoring developments related to the legislation, civil settlement, and RESTORE Act implementation. As part of this effort, Sam is gathering the following baseline information:

1. Are you currently engaged in your state's restoration planning?
  2. How might the ASFPM Executive Office be of service to you in supporting the successful implementation of the RESTORE Act?
- 

## News from the Chapters – New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management

### ***NJAFM Sends Letters of Support to FEMA's David Miller***

On November 27, NJAFM sent a letter of support to David Miller, FEMA's Associate Administrator, Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration, expressing their support. [This letter is available here.](#)

### ***Join [NJAFM](#) for the Upcoming Event - Rebuilding A Resilient New Jersey Shore***

***When:*** Friday, December 07, 2012

***Where:*** Wilson Hall, Monmouth University, 400 Cedar Avenue, W. Long Branch, N.J.

The devastation from Hurricane Sandy created a wake-up call on the need to rebuild the Jersey shore in a way that respects nature and protects people, properties and public investments. Come hear expert speakers address key topics, and share your opinion on how we can restore a thriving, healthy and resilient coastal region. NJAFM's Mark Mauriello will be presenting at the conference. Go to [Rebuilding A Resilient New Jersey Shore](#) or [click here](#) for more details and the agenda.

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### ***Get involved!***

ASFPM is looking to highlight Chapter successes, challenges, and learning lessons, so that others may also benefit from the efforts. Is your Chapter engaged in noteworthy action that may be of interest to readers elsewhere in the nation? If so, please contact [Kait](#) and [Katrien](#) so that we may share your story!

The next all Chapters conference call is **January 27, 2012, 1:00 p.m. Central Time.**  
All Chapter Board and Committee members are invited to participate.  
Please contact Kait at [kait@floods.org](mailto:kait@floods.org) to submit agenda items & RSVP.

## **Scholarships, Grants**

### **3rd Annual Collegiate Student Paper Competition – Deadline Extended!**

#### **ASFPF Foundation**

**Deadline: December 31, 2012**

The 3rd annual collegiate student paper competition will be conducted at the 2013 ASFPF Conference on June 10-13 in Hartford, Connecticut. The goals of this program, funded by the ASFPF Foundation, are to encourage student engagement in floodplain management topics and to identify talented individuals with the potential to make lasting contributions to the Body of Knowledge of floodplain management. Full-time undergraduate or graduate students (or a team of 1-3 students) are urged to submit a one-page abstract (500 words double spaced) on subjects relating to floodplain, flood hazard, flood risk, or stormwater management, concisely describing the research and expected results from the study. Students who have previously submitted an abstract, but not been selected, may submit their abstract again. Up to three semifinalists will be invited to submit a full paper which will be due March 1, 2013. Semifinalists receive up to \$1,000 for travel assistance to make their presentations at a special student session during the conference, and are judged by an eminent panel of floodplain managers for a scholarship of \$1,000, \$500, or \$25. Please submit abstracts electronically as a PDF to ASFPF Outreach & Events Manager [Diane Brown](#). More information at [ASFPF Foundation Student Paper Competition](#)

### **Call for Presentations 2nd Annual Student Water Conference – April 4-5, 2013**

#### **Oklahoma State University**

**Deadline: January 18, 2013**

The conference organizing committee invites graduate and undergraduate students to submit abstracts for oral and poster presentations. Abstracts on all water research topics - including but not limited to surface water, ground water, water quality, water quantity, storm water management, in-stream flows, water conservation, water reuse, water transfer, flood and drought, climate change, water resource economics, and water policy – are encouraged. Non-OSU Students: Some travel assistance funds are available for travel to the conference. Graduate and undergraduate students will have the opportunity to apply for travel assistance up to \$250 per student. Please refer to the abstract submission requirements to apply for the travel assistance grant. For more information, contact Dr. Garey Fox, Associate Professor and Buchanan Chair, at 405-744-8423 or at [garey.fox@okstate.edu](mailto:garey.fox@okstate.edu).

### **Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Joint Venture Habitat Restoration and Protection Grant**

#### **Fish and Wildlife Service**

**Deadline: February 1, 2013**

The goal of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is to target the most significant environmental problems in the Great Lakes ecosystem by funding and implementing federal projects that address these problems. As part of this initiative, the two bird habitat joint ventures that are in the Great Lakes watershed – the Upper Mississippi and Great Lakes Region Joint Venture and the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture – will be working with the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration programs in the Midwest and Northeast Regions of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to competitively fund state and other partner projects for long-term habitat restoration, enhancement or protection, for conservation of native Great Lakes fish and wildlife populations, particularly migratory birds. Preference will be given to activities that help meet the habitat goals of the Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Region Joint Venture Implementation Plan or the Lower Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Plain (BCR 13) Bird Conservation Region Plan, other relevant bird conservation plans, and State Wildlife Action Plans.

### **2013 Conservation Innovation Grant**

#### **United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**

**Deadline: March 6, 2013**

NRCS provides [funding opportunities](#) for agriculturalists and others through various programs. Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) is a voluntary program intended to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies while leveraging Federal investment in environmental enhancement and protection, in conjunction with agricultural production. Under CIG, Environmental Quality Incentives Program funds are used to award competitive grants to non-Federal governmental or nongovernmental organizations, Tribes, or individuals. CIG enables NRCS to work with other public and private entities to accelerate technology transfer and adoption of promising technologies and approaches to address some of the Nation's most pressing natural resource concerns. CIG will benefit agricultural producers by providing more options for environmental enhancement and compliance with Federal, State, and local regulations. NRCS administers CIG. More information is available [here and here](#).



## **TRAINING – Emergency Management Institute (EMI) FY13 Changes and Schedule**

### **Several changes are taking place in the application process:**

1. Enrollment periods for first and second semester courses have been eliminated. Applications are now being accepted for any class through the end of September, 2013. Applications are accepted up to 5 weeks before the start of the course. Floodplain Management courses typically fill up quickly so it is not advisable to delay or you may end up on the waiting list. When multiple offerings of the course are listed, you can put up to three dates on your application. If the first class is full you will automatically be considered for the next date listed if there are openings.
2. Acceptance letters will be sent out 8 weeks before the start of the course. EMI is planning to move to email notifications this fiscal year so it is important that your email address is legible on the application form.
3. To address privacy concerns EMI is no longer using Social Security Numbers on the application form. An individual Student Identification (SID) number will now be used. The process for obtaining an SID is pretty quick and easy and can be found at [this link](#), where you will also find the screen fillable EMI application form and Tips for completing it.

### **E273 Managing Floodplain Development thru the NFIP**

**Mar 11 – 14, 2013, Apr 29 - May 2, 2013, Jun 24 – 27, 2013, Sep 9 – 12, 2013**

*This course now requires the following online tutorials as prerequisites:*

1. Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) [tutorial](#) (30 minutes)
2. Federal Insurance Studies (FIS) [tutorial](#) (40 minutes)

### **E194 Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts - Aug 26 – 29, 2013**

1. NFIP Floodplain Rules and Regulations in Depth (1 day).
2. LOMC - Procedures for Applying and Floodplain Management Implications (1 day).
3. Roles and Responsibilities of the Local Floodplain Manager (1 day).
4. Preparing for Post-Disaster Responsibilities (1day).

### **E282 Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts II - Mar 25 – 28, 2013**

1. Higher Standards in Floodplain Management (1 day).
2. Placement of Manufactured Homes and Recreational Vehicles in the Floodplain (1 day).
3. NFIP Flood Insurance Principles for the Floodplain Manager (1 day).
4. Hydrology and Hydraulics for the FPM (1day).

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

1. Floodway Standards (1 day).
2. Disconnects between NFIP Regulations and Insurance (1 day).
3. Common Noncompliance Issues (½ day)
4. Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) (½ day).
5. Substantial Improvement/Substantial Damage (1 day).

*Advanced Floodplain Management courses may be taken in any order.*

### **E278 NFIP/Community Rating System**

**Apr 1 – 4, 2013, May 13 – 16, 2013, Jul 29 - Aug 1, 2013**

*The [CRS program is undergoing Significant changes](#), the updated CRS Manual will be taught in the FY13 E278 CRS courses. Attendees of previous E278 CRS courses may want to repeat this course. Restrictions on repeat attendance at EMI and application of CEC's to CFM requirements have been waived. The "no more than 2 attendees per community may attend at one time" restriction still applies.*

### **E279 Retrofitting Floodprone Residential Bldgs - May 6 – 9, 2013**

### **E386 Residential Coastal Construction - Aug 5 – 8, 2013**

*This course has been updated to incorporate information from the new FEMA P-55 [Coastal Construction Manual: Principles and Practices of Planning, Siting, Designing, Constructing, and Maintaining Residential Buildings in Coastal Areas \(4th ed.\)](#)*

## Job Corner

For more info and to see the most up-to-date job listings, please visit the online [ASFPM Job Corner](#).

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## Floodplain Management Training Calendar

For a full nationwide listing of Chapter, State, and Partner training opportunities, please take a moment to visit the [ASFPM Online Calendar](#).

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 2012! You can search the calendar by state using the directions below. Or you can use the category drop down menu to search by category.



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.

### Upcoming ASFPM Events – Mark your Calendar!

- June 9-14, 2013 – ASFPM 37<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference – Hartford, CT
- June 1-6, 2014 – ASFPM 38<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference – Seattle, WA
- May 31 – June 5, 2015 – ASFPM 39<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference – Atlanta, GA

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