



The Antediluvian

Ohio's Floodplain Management Newsletter

Volume VI

Summer 1999

Issue 2

MISSION STATEMENT: The Mission of Floodplain Management Program is to provide leadership to local governments, state agencies, and interested parties toward cooperative management of Ohio's floodplains to support the reduction of flood damage and the recognition of the floodplain's natural benefit. This mission will be accomplished through technical assistance, public awareness, education, and development/protection standards.

A Precarious Balance - The Multi-Hazard Planning Conference

By Christopher M. Thoms,
Senior Environmental Specialist, Division of Water
Floodplain Management Program

I recently had the opportunity to return to the Blue Mountains for a FEMA conference where specialists from across the nation, who respond to hurricane, earthquake, tsunami, tornado, dam, and flood hazards, gathered to discuss coordinating their efforts whenever feasible.

This All-Hazards Conference was held on Mt. Weather, overlooking the Shenandoah Valley along the northernmost stretch of the 500-mile Blue Ridge Parkway. The ever-changeable weather on Mt. Weather and the once highly secret use of the mountain as an underground Pentagon, served well as a backdrop to emphasize the wide variety of hazards that fall under the *all-hazards* concept. However, it was a nostalgic side trip that I took the day before the conference that served to symbolize our efforts. I remember a summer in the late 1950s when I stood upon Jefferson's Rock (pictured above-right). It is precariously perched atop a ledge overlooking the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, twenty-five miles north of Mt. Weather. Now some forty years later, I was again able to stand on that rock to see what, in 1783, Thomas Jefferson said, was a scene *worth a voyage across the Atlantic*.

Jefferson's Rock consists of a stack of several large sections of Harpers shale.



Jefferson's Rock (northwest view) 1896
Photograph from NPS archive

In this Issue

- A Precarious Balance.....1**
- The Privacy Act.....4**
- Planning Ahead Reducing Flood Losses.....4**
- More on Enforcement (The Last Resort).....6**
- Flood Resistant Materials.....7**
- New FEMA Elevation Certificate.....8**
- North Coast Floodplain Assistance.....10**
- Need Help with the Q3 Flood Data?.....11**
- CRS Changes for 1999.....11**
- Division of Water Developments..... 12**
- Rerun.....13**
- FEMA Map Information Sources.....14**
- Poster Contest Winners.....14**
- How Time Flies.....15**

The original shale formation under the top slab was so narrow that with a slight push the top would sway back and forth. In the late 1850s, because—according to the Army Corps of Engineers—this natural foundation had dwindled to very unsafe dimensions by the action of the weather, and still more, by the devastations of tourists and curiosity-hunters, they placed four stone pillars under the top slab. They could have eliminated or reduced the hazard by removing the slabs of stone, but that would have destroyed a natural beauty enjoyed by many, so a compromise was reached. The stone, the beauty, and the hazard remain, each diminished, but they coexist.

Over the past 250 years, the view from this rock has included many floods; floods that have destroyed scores of lives, homes, crops, bridges canals, and industries. In 1748, according to local legend, floodwaters drove the town's namesake, Robert Harper, from the log cabin he had acquired from Peter Stephens. Some of the floods in this—well inland—area have been the result of Atlantic hurricanes, some the result of rains or snowfall carried from distant locations. As remote as this site appears, it has never been insulated from multiple hazards. More buildings use to be in Lower Town but the repeated floods have removed most, and people have stopped returning to rebuild what will surely be knocked down. Instead, much of the town has ascended the ridge and can now watch the floods pass by in relative safety. This hard-won lesson in disaster response is not unique to Harpers Ferry.

Those who gathered at the All-Hazards Conference had stories of far-flung locations yet most with the same two messages: experiencing disasters is a harsh way to learn how to respond, and: all disaster responses-whether before or after-are compromise. But some compromises are better than others.

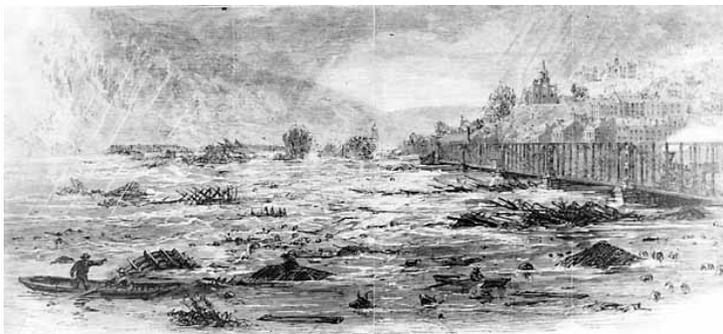


Shenandoah Street (Lower Town) Flood of 1889

Photograph from NPS archive

By gathering specialists from different types of disaster response agencies and sharing what has been tried, we can be better prepared to offer better compromises. Speakers at the conference gave examples from a wide range of disaster responses. From the multi-state tsunami hazard mitigation effort in the Pacific states, to tornado-room projects in the Plains states, to hurricane projections on the East coast, to floods everywhere, the advantage of a coordinated disaster response was emphasized. Projects formed through the combined efforts of private concerns and government agencies illustrated some successful compromises that enlisted the support of the community in disaster prevention and response.

Slides and films recording the destruction and the recovery efforts from across the country served as a repeated reminder that the disasters are not hypothetical. One speaker compiled a series of hazard probability map transparencies of the continental U.S. He placed one upon another to illustrate the overlapping hazards. A representative from Wyoming complained that his data, showing no risk for her state, undermined her efforts to make people aware of their increasing risk. He responded that his data only registered clusters of disasters, which in turn left out much of the country's significant but singular disasters. Even so, his data seemed to illustrate that the West Coast is not a good risk for virtually any natural hazard, while the Great Lakes states are—by comparison—a very safe place to live, even with the multiple hazards we face. Some good hazard news.



Harpers Ferry

Flood of 1870

Photograph from NPS archive



Confluence of Shenandoah and Potomac rivers Flood of 1996
(Northwest View)

Photograph from NPS archive

Mike Armstrong, Associate Director, FEMA Mitigation Directorate, committed FEMA to using an all-hazards approach. He stressed the importance of promoting communication and cooperation among the disciplines both in and out of government. He emphasized the desire of the FEMA staff to *mentor* rather than *monitor* local NFIP-participation.

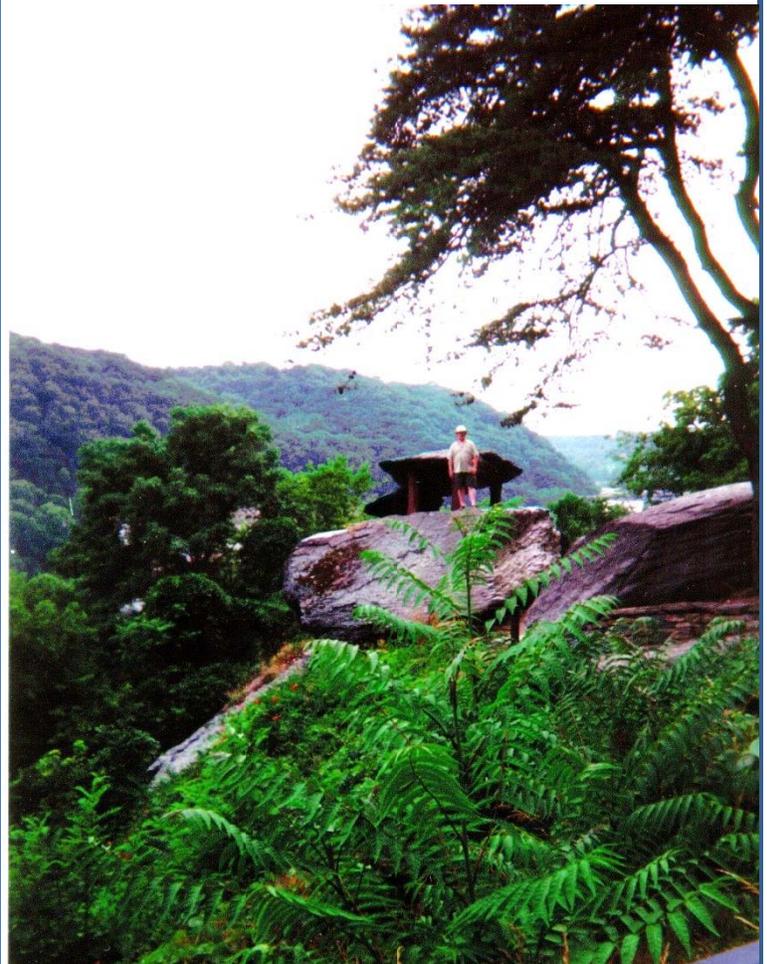
FEMA Director James Witt highlighted **Project Impact** and the **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program** as examples of the wise use of limited resources. He also stressed the need for in-state disaster response cooperation networks. Ohio's own **Smart Recovery** program was featured as a model coordination effort in a wise-use mitigation response that is coordinated among many agencies.

Introductory-level cross-training sessions for each disaster-type were provided to allow specialists the opportunity to learn *outside the box* of their own area. The importance of ongoing education, within each specialty, was also emphasized and the skillful use of current and new technology to efficiently provide better quality data across each specialty was promoted. Specifically for floodplain management, the second *Professional Floodplain Manager Certification* examination was offered at Mt. Weather (see following article, *Planning Ahead – Reducing Flood Losses in the 21st Century*).

The view from Jefferson's Rock is different today than two hundred years ago in Jefferson's day or one hundred years ago as pictured on the preceding

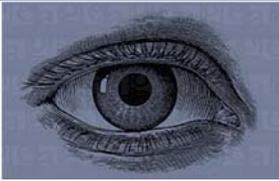
page or forty years ago when last I stood there. Trees now frame the view and parklands line the rivers below:

Over the years, disasters have taken a tremendous toll on people who hoped they could beat the odds and like other hazardous areas, this town still bears the scars of harsh experience with some bad compromises. But not all the compromises have been bad. The people of Harpers Ferry could have rebuilt the town in spite of the known hazards, but that would have led to even more destruction and loss. As shown on the left, the historic structures in Lower Town still are subject to flooding. Instead, by limiting Lower Town floodplain development and actively preserving and restoring the Upper Town, the community has preserved much of both the natural beauty and the historic character of the town, so a compromise was reached. Though heavy industries have not returned to the floodplains, the tourists have. The shale no longer sways back and forth, but due to a compromise, the rock remains—still, but not nearly as—precariously perched atop the ridge overlooking what Jefferson described as *one of the most stupendous scenes in Nature*. 



Author at Jefferson's Rock (east view)

1999



The Privacy Act

By Kay Phillips, Chief,
Response & Recovery Branch, OEMA

Immediately following a presidential disaster declaration, disaster victims begin the long process to recover from the incident. By calling the FEMA Teleregistration Center, the victims apply for assistance from the primary disaster programs that are the **FEMA Disaster Housing Program**, the **Small Business Administration (SBA)**, **Home/Personal Property Loan Program**, and the **Individual and Family Grant (IFG)** program. During the Teleregistration process, disaster victims provide confidential information such as social security numbers, source(s) of income, annual incomes, and contact telephone numbers. This information is required by various disaster assistance programs to determine eligibility for the assistance. This information is maintained in the FEMA database for use by agencies that may provide disaster assistance.

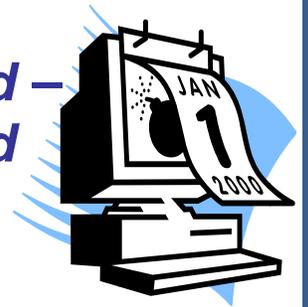
Following the Teleregistration process, FEMA and SBA will send inspectors to verify registration information as well as inspect the damages to the applicant's damaged residence. As part of the inspection process, the inspector also provides the applicant a copy of the **Privacy Act** that they sign. The on-site inspection and the signed Privacy Act form, when combined with the registration information, determine the type and amount of assistance disaster victims may receive.

The purpose of the Privacy Act is to protect the confidential information that the disaster victim has provided in order to receive disaster assistance. In accordance with federal law and regulation, no specific information pertaining to disaster victims and assistance provided may be released without written release provided by the applicant. Only those agencies identified in the *Robert T. Stafford Act*, may have access to the disaster information maintained in the FEMA database. The agencies such as FEMA, SBA, and IFG, may only use the information in conjunction with disaster relief.

Frequently, my office (the Ohio Emergency Management Agency's Response and Recovery Branch) has been contacted to provide lists of those having applied for disaster assistance, type and amounts of assistance, provided to individuals and businesses and other related information. Regardless of the reason, neither my office nor any other disaster relief agencies with access to the FEMA database may legally provide this information without written release from each person on the list(s). The only action my office or the FEMA and/or SBA may provide is confirmation of data and only for very specific reasons.

Please feel free to contact my office at (614) 889-7176 for additional information pertaining to the Privacy Act.

Planning Ahead – Reducing Flood Losses in the 21st Century



By Cynthia J. Crecelius, Program Manager,
Division of Water - Floodplain Management Program

The above title reflects the theme of this year's annual conference of the Association of State Floodplain Managers held in Portland, Oregon in May. According to the dictionary, planning is *...any detailed method, formulated beforehand, for doing or making something...* In this context, the topics and presentations at the conference were focused at a vision of how to reduce flood risks as we enter a new millennium. There is a strong return to planning as the basis for comprehensive and successful flood loss reduction. It seems that in the current era of reduced government, increasing disasters, and competing demands for regulatory and enforcement follow-up, planning has been the activity sacrificed.

Over 600 participants attended the conference and shared issues, concerns, and success stories related to reducing flood risks. There were plenary sessions for everyone, focused small-group meetings, roundtable breakfasts, workshops, training sessions, and field trips to support the information exchange.

Mike Armstrong of the FEMA Mitigation Directorate and JoAnn Howard, Federal Insurance Administrator, shared their goals and updated participants on the progress FEMA has made this past year. Both addressed program improvements at the federal level to support better state and local floodplain management. Mr. Armstrong reviewed that **Project Impact** is the priority FEMA initiative in support of risk assessment and local planning to reduce vulnerability. He also stressed the efforts of FEMA to find appropriate funding to support the map modernization effort. Ms Howard reviewed several changes that have been implemented to shift the insurance focus to loss prevention. She also indicated that findings from the *National Flood Insurance Program: Issues Assessment* will be used to develop a closer integration of insurance mitigation concerns.

Technical sessions focused on mapping issues (accuracy, quality, updating, and new technologies), stream management techniques, river restoration, and the importance of biological diversity. The conference location and Pacific Northwest sensitivity to the balance of resource management and wise land use provided opportunity to see watershed or regional management strategies and application of multi-objective approaches to traditional floodplain management issue.

A milestone was reached in professional development for floodplain managers at this year's conference. The first examination for certification as a professional floodplain manager was offered. Four Ohio floodplain management professionals will display the distinction of CFM or **Certified Floodplain Manager** after their names. Please join us in congratulating local floodplain managers **Jerry Brems** of Licking County, **Greg Smorey** of Hamilton County, and **Kari Mackenbach** of Fuller, Mossbarger, Scott, and May (formerly of Licking County) for their professional achievement [*the author was the 4th*]. While four does not seem like a great number out of the possible 700 we have in the state, it represents 12% of those completing and passing the exam. It is worth noting that all the Ohio participants passed on their first attempt. Certification is for two years and depends upon completion of continuing education and professional development standards. If you are interested in becoming a CFM, please visit the Association Web site at < <http://www.floods.org>>

or call our office at (614) 265-6750.

The conference also included many sessions and discussions on the priorities of National Flood Insurance Program compliance and reducing repetitive loss properties in local communities. These two items are likely to be the focus of most federal – state activities in the coming year.

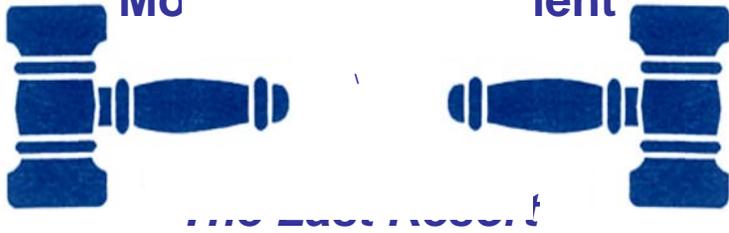
As always, the conference provides a wealth of information and opportunities to meet other professionals involved in floodplain management. If you have never attended a national conference, I would encourage you to budget both the time and money and plan on attending next year's event. It will be in Austin, Texas from June 17-23, 2000. For more information contact the Association of State Floodplain Managers Executive Office at (608) 274-0123 or Web site at <<http://www.floods.org/conf-ous.htm>>

There will also be an opportunity November 16-17, 1999 to attend the Water Management Association of Ohio/Ohio Floodplain Management Association Fall Conference in Columbus, Ohio. For more information contact Water Management Association of Ohio at (614) 292-6108 (or conference chair Kari Mackenbach at (614) 846-1400. 



The following article was submitted by a local floodplain administrator as an example of how a community carried an enforcement action to the maximum extent practicable. [see related article, *Section 1316 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (Denial of Flood Insurance Coverage for Violations* in the last edition of *The Antediluvian*]. We solicit your articles on enforcement problems and success stories for future issues. For more information please contact us at (614) 265-6750. *Editor*

More On Enforcement



By Kent Huston, P.E., City Engineer
Department of Engineering, City of Lancaster

In many smaller' communities, local floodplain management is the responsibility of a local agency or department that wears many different hats in the course of daily duties. For the City of Lancaster, a community of approximately 37,000, the administration of the City's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance was assigned to the Engineering Department in May of 1980. This made sense at the time because the Engineering Department, in addition to management of public infrastructure projects, had staff that administered the zoning codes, subdivision codes, residential building codes, and sign regulations. In addition, the department issued the permits that were required by these and other codes. Today, the department still has these duties. In some respects, this is an advantage for the administration of the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. If there is any project being proposed in the City, it must begin in the Engineering Department and if there are issues involving the floodplain, those issues can be addressed in a single review. The disadvantage to the administration, of so many regulations is that there is no *expert* in some areas. The department relies heavily on the ODNR Division of Water for guidance when an unusual situation develops in floodplain management.

One of those unusual situations, how it was resolved, and what safeguards the City took to minimize the risk of a similar violation from occurring is the story to be told. In 1993, a local builder applied for building permits to construct two duplex units on property he and his spouse owned. Since the property was in the flood fringe of the Hocking River, a Development Permit for construction in a flood hazard area was required. The units were constructed. In June 1996, the City was notified by FEMA that both buildings were in

violation of the City regulations and were built 3.3 feet below the Base Flood Elevation (BFE). Since the building permits were issued by, and the inspections during construction were performed by, the Engineering Department, it was first assumed that there had to be some mistake with the elevation information in the FEMA letter. The Development Permits for the buildings were checked. The BFE on those permits was checked, was correct, and the builder had signed those permits acknowledging he knew the required low(est) floor elevation. A visit to the site revealed that both structures were visibly constructed at an elevation higher than adjacent structures. Since the property was in an older section of the City, that was fully developed many years before any floodplain regulations existed, there were no convenient bench marks for reference. Record street and sewer drawings were reviewed, that showed enough elevation information to convince staff that the structures were, in fact, built below the BFE.

A *Violation Notice* was mailed to the owner in July 1996. Following the notice, there were several meetings between the City and the owner's attorney and a formal response from the owner's attorney was received in March 1997. In summary, the owner's response was that it was too costly to raise the structures and do the other work needed to bring the buildings into compliance. The owner's attorney attempted to make an argument, based on the FEMA manual *Retrofitting Flood-prone Structures* that the City should base its decision on what corrective work needed to be performed on cost-benefit considerations. Since this was our first violation of this nature, we provided detailed information to ODNR and requested their review of the owner's argument and their technical assistance. As pointed out at the time by ODNR staff, the manual, in general, applies to structures built prior to floodplain regulations and not structures built in violation of regulations. There were discussions between the City and the owner's attorney through 1997. Attempts to resolve the problem in early 1998 also failed and nothing constructive appeared to be happening. The City learned that the owner had not continued the services of the attorney that we had been working with. The City filed with the Municipal Court in June 1998. There were hearings and delays and another round of discussions with the new attorney. The case went before a judge in January 1999. Charges against the owner's spouse

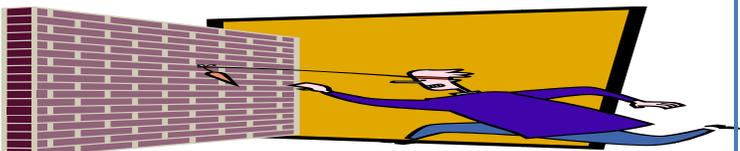
were dismissed. The owner pled guilty and the judge delayed sentencing until June 1999.

Apparently the owner and his attorney believed that a variance could be obtained and they filed a request with the Board of Zoning appeals. Both the City Law Director and Engineering Department recommended denial. ODNR staff provided general guidance on requirements for variances to floodplain regulations. The Board of Zoning Appeals denied the request in January' 1999.

The owner and his attorney were made aware that if the buildings were not brought into compliance the City intended to request that FEMA deny the availability of flood insurance coverage to the structures pursuant to the provisions of Section 1316 of the National Flood Insurance Act. That request and backup documentation was forwarded to FEMA Region V in March 1999. The review of the denial request was substantially completed by FEMA in June 1999 and will be finalized as soon as we can make a site investigation and confirm, in writing, that the violations on the building have not been corrected.

To help minimize the risk of this problem in the future, we have added the requirement in our regulations that an on-site construction bench mark be established before construction begins and the location and elevation be included with the *Development Permit*. This elevation is needed for the contractor to build the structures and will allow department staff to field check elevation if it appears justified.

The City has never had to take an owner to court to enforce the floodplain regulations. First, the action itself, will not protect the occupants (nor contents) of the buildings. Second, the owners of the buildings will not be able to mortgage or sell their property through conventional financial institutions. Third, a significant decrease in the building's value is probable. Fourth, the City and owner have substantial resources invested in an action that really is not a solution. Having to take this action should be *The Last Resort*. 



Flood Resistant Materials Requirements



(Technical Bulletin # 2-93)

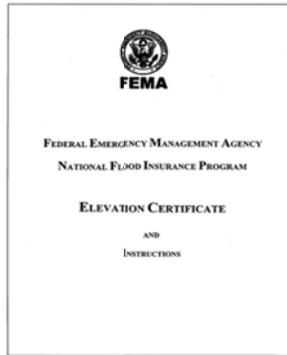
By Christopher M. Thoms, CFM
Senior Environmental Specialist, Division of Water
- Floodplain Management Program

When building in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), the minimum NFIP-standards require that the lowest floor of the structure, including basement, be built at or above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE), that the structure be anchored, that utilities be flood-protected, and that the construction material and methods used be flood resistant. These are the four basic structural flood hazard reduction standards for any NFIP-participating community. Technical Bulletin #2-93 ***Flood Resistant Materials Requirements***, addresses the last of the four. In sixteen pages, FEMA provides guidance for how and when these materials may be used to reduce the flood hazard of a structure.

Flood-resistant material is defined as any capable of withstanding direct and prolonged (≥ 72 hours) contact with floodwaters without sustaining significant (not just cosmetic) damage. The bulletin gives examples of flooring, wall, and ceiling materials using the Army Corps of Engineers' classification system with a few design applications. References to six additional publications are also given to provide even more information concerning the appropriate use of flood resistant materials and methods to reduce the exposure of at-risk structures. To obtain a copy of this or any of the Technical Bulletin series, write to FEMA Publications P.O. Box 70274, Washington, D.C. 20024 or our office 

NOW AVAILABLE:

NEW FEMA ELEVATION CERTIFICATE



(reprint from *The Illinois Association for Floodplain Stormwater Management NEWS*, Summer 1999 modified for use in Ohio
- Editor)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has promulgated a new *Elevation Certificate*, (FEMA Form 81-31) to replace the one that has been in use since 1990. It has been available since August 1999 and will be mandatory for flood insurance policies after January 1, 2000.

The new form is the result of an extensive review by a workgroup of representatives of user organizations, including surveyors, local officials, insurance agents, FEMA, and the Insurance Services Office, Inc. The workgroup's draft was field tested by several surveying companies and revised again.

When must it be used? All elevation certificates shot after January 1, 2000, must be on the new form. After that date, FEMA will not accept applications for flood insurance policies using the old form unless it was prepared before then.

All communities in the **Community Rating System** (CRS) must use the new form to record the elevation of all buildings that are new or substantially improved or damaged after January 1, 2000. Communities may accept elevation certificates on the old forms only if they were completed and signed before January 1, 2000. Communities and surveyors are encouraged to start using the form sooner.

Communities not in the CRS are not required by FEMA to use the form. However, the model ordinance and resolution used by Ohio communities charges the local permit official with maintaining elevation information on all new buildings and substantial improvements constructed in the

floodplain. The FEMA *Elevation Certificate* is an excellent tool for doing so.

The Form: The new form can be downloaded from FEMA's web site at www.fema.gov.

The form has seven parts. Sections A- G. Here's a summary of these sections and the major changes that went into the new form:

Section A – Property Owner Information. Section A is used to record information necessary to identify the building and the building owner. It now has optional spaces for recording the latitude and longitude of the building's location

Section B - FIRM Information. Section B is used to record Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) information in effect at the time of the certificate. The changes make it easier to record data from a countywide FIRM.

Section C - Building Elevation Information (Survey Required). As with the old form, Section C is used to record building elevation information (see below). However, there are some very important changes in the new version. The term, *reference level* has been removed. Surveyors do not need to determine the location of the reference level.

Instead, they select the appropriate diagram number from the instructions at the end of the certificate and shoot all elevations noted. The diagram descriptions and their *Distinguishing Features* have been rewritten for clarity. The letters in section C3 relate to building diagrams 1-8. Diagram 8 (below) is of a building on a crawlspace.

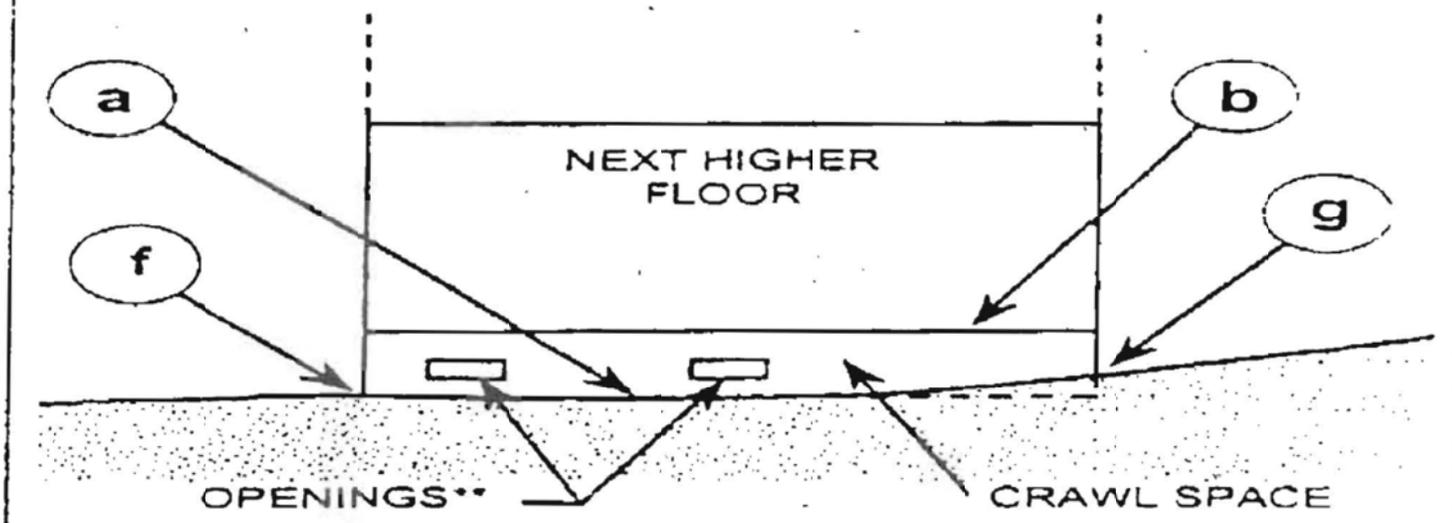
The surveyor must also count the number of openings and calculate their total area and enter the results in C3. h) and i). While this sounds like a lot more work than was needed under the old form, in fact, surveyors prefer this approach as it eliminates them from having to determine the correct reference level.

Section C is not completed for buildings in Zones AO and A (without base flood elevations).

DIAGRAM 8

All buildings elevated on a crawl space with the floor of the crawl space at or above grade on at least one side.

Distinguishing Feature – For all zones, the area below the first floor is enclosed by solid or partial perimeter walls. In all A zones, the crawl space is with or without openings** present in the walls of the crawl space. Indicate information about the openings in Section C Building Elevation Information.



SECTION C - BUILDING ELEVATION INFORMATION (SURVEY REQUIRED)

C1. Building elevations are based on: Construction Drawings* Building Under Construction* Finished Construction

* A new Elevation Certificate will be required when construction of the building is complete.

C2. Building diagram Number ___ (Select the building diagram most similar to the building for which this certificate is being completed - see pages 4 and 5. If no diagram accurately represents the building, provide a sketch or photograph.)

C3. Elevations - Zones A1-A30, AE, AH, A (with BFE), VE, V1-V30, V (with BFE), AR, AR/A, AR/AE, AR/A1-A30, AR/AH, AR/AO

Complete items C3a-I below according to the building diagram specified in item C2. State the datum used. If the datum is different from the datum used for the BFE in Section B, convert the datum to that used for the BFE. Show field measurements and datum conversion calculation. Use the space provided or the Comments area of Section D or Section G, as appropriate, to document the datum conversion.

Datum _____ Conversion/Comments _____

Elevation reference mark used _____ Does the elevation reference mark used appear on the FIRM? Yes No

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a) Top of bottom floor (including basement or enclosure) | _____ ft.(m) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> b) Top of next higher floor | _____ ft.(m) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> c) Bottom of lowest horizontal structural member (V zones only) | _____ ft.(m) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> d) Attached garage (top of slab) | _____ ft.(m) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> e) Lowest elevation of machinery and/or equipment servicing the building | _____ ft.(m) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> f) Lowest adjacent grade (LAG) | _____ ft.(m) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> g) Highest adjacent grade (HAG) | _____ ft.(m) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> h) No. of permanent openings (flood vents) within 1.0 ft. of LAG | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> i) Total area of all permanent openings (flood vents) in C3h | _____ sq. in. (sq. cm) |

License Number, Embossed Seal, Signature, and Date

Section D - Surveyor Certification. Section D is used by surveyors, engineers, or architects to certify Section A, B, and C. The surveyor's or engineer's signature and embossed seal are on the same side of the form as the information (to prevent alterations). Additional information and comments are noted on the top of the other side of the paper.

Section E – Building Elevation Information (Survey Not Required) This section is completed for buildings in AO or approximate A Zones where no base flood elevations are provided on the FIRM. It can be certified by the local official, the owner or the owner's representative.

Section F – Property Owner (Or Owner's Representative) Certification Section F is used only if the owner or the owner's representative completed Section E.

Section G – Community Information This section is used when the local official completes Section E and to provide additional information on the building project. If a local official copied survey data onto the FEMA form, the comments section in Section G is used to explain the source of the data

Related news: There are no changes to the FEMA *Floodproofing Certificate* (FEMA Form 81-65).

FEMA is planning to present classes on the new elevation certificate. They will be publicized through this newsletter, among other media.

FEMA will have a new *Elevation Certificate* software program available in November 1999. Copies can be ordered by calling (317) 848-2898 or faxing a request to (317) 848-3578. The software is available at no charge. 



North Coast Flood

Mitigation Assistance

By Janice Gartner, Environmental Specialist
Division of Water, Floodplain Management

The Division of Water, Floodplain Management Program Office will soon be meeting with six Lake Erie coastal communities (Ottawa County, Vermillion, Sandusky, Eastlake, Port Clinton, and Toledo) to discuss flood mitigation opportunities to reduce future flood losses.

These six communities are among the top 15 in Ohio that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has identified with structures that been repetitively flooded.

The Division of Water's Floodplain Management staff will conduct community meetings to provide the repetitive loss data and discuss the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program. The Flood Mitigation Assistance Program includes planning grants for assessment of structures at most risk for future flooding and development of projects to specifically reduce or eliminate this risk for structures with flood insurance; and project grants to implement actions such as acquiring or flood protecting structures. For more information contact the Floodplain Management Program Office at (614) 265-6750. 



Need Help with the Q3 Flood Data?

FEMA Digital Flood Data Technical Support

FEMA provides technical support for users FEMA's digital flood data products through the **FEMA Digital Flood Data Technical Support Line**.

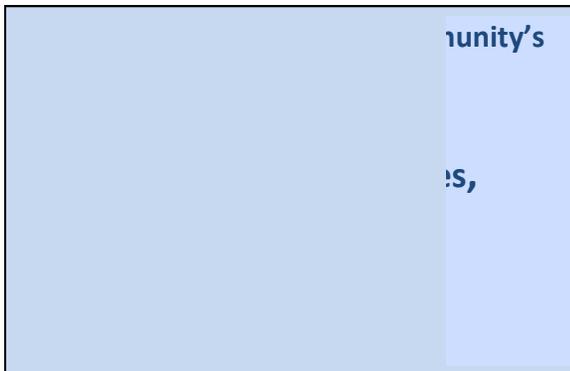
This line handles any technical question about Q3-flood or DFIRM-DLG data, including data content, attribute definitions and coding, data formats, DLG data structure, compatibility with various Geographic Information System (GIS) software, projection and datum information and related technical questions related to FEMA's digital flood data products.

There are three ways to submit a question to the support line:

- Phone (617) 354-2614
- Fax (617) 868-6855 (Attn: FEMA SUPPORT)
- E-mail fema@hdm.com

The support line staff attempts to respond to all questions within the business day.

The Map Service Center handles questions about digital flood data availability, pricing, and ordering.



Changes for 1999

By James Harrington, ISO Commercial Services Field Representative

Over the course of the past few years the **Community Rating System (CRS)** has undergone changes to reflect comments and concerns expressed to the **Community Rating System Task Force**. As a result of a three-year evaluation, three general conclusions were noted by the Task Force.

Certain elements deserve more credit based on a review of their effectiveness in reducing flood losses.

Communities should be encouraged to design their own programs.

The scoring procedures and documentation requirements should be simplified.

In early 1998, comments were solicited from various communities and floodplain officials. Many very detailed and helpful comments were received. Each of these comments were reviewed at the April 1998 meeting of the CRS Evaluation Committee and discussed at the Task Force meeting over the following days.

As a result of this review, numerous changes have been made. These changes went into effect on January 1, 1999, with the distribution of a revised **CRS Coordinator's Manual**.

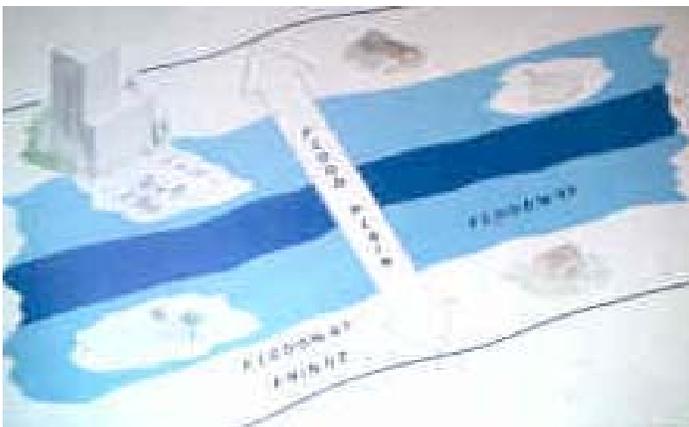
The changes ranged from the points assigned to various activities, new procedures for publicity of various activities and prerequisites for new communities enrolling in the CRS program. If you are a participating CRS community and have not yet received your 1999 version of the **CRS Coordinator's Manual**, please contact: Insurance Services Offices, Inc. at (317) 848-2898.

NEW COMMUNITIES

Communities are still encouraged to join the CRS program. The objective of this program is to reward communities that are doing more than meeting the minimum NFIP requirements to help their citizens prevent or reduce flood losses. The CRS also provides an incentive for communities to initiate new flood protection activities. The goal of the CRS is to encourage, by the use of flood insurance premium adjustments, community and state activities beyond those required by the National Flood Insurance Program to:

- Reduce Flood losses, *i.e.*,
 - Protect public health and safety,
 - Reduce damage to buildings and contents,
 - Prevent increases in flood damage from new construction,
 - Reduce the risk of erosion damage,
 - Protect the natural and beneficial floodplain function
 - Facilitate accurate insurance rating, and
 - Promote the awareness of flood insurance

Communities that are interested in further information or wish to obtain a copy of the **CRS Coordinator's Manual** can contact the ODNR offices at (614) 265-6750 or Jim Harrington at (716) 247-7202.



EMI CRS Classes

FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) conducts a CRS course for local officials. They run Monday morning to Friday noon and cover all the basics of the program. These classes are appropriate for communities that haven't joined the CRS as well as those that wish to improve their classification.

Here's the schedule for upcoming classes:

November 15-19, 1999

April 10-14, 2000

July 31-August 2, 2000

Tuition for these courses is free for local government officials and travel stipends are available. For more information, contact the training office of OEMA at (614) 889-7168 or EMA at (800) 238-3358. 



Division of Water Developments

By Cynthia J. Crecelius, Program Manager,
Division of Water - Floodplain Management Program

It seems that the old adage, *the only constant is change*, rings true again for our office. Since the last edition we have obtained a new Chief in the Division of Water, lost two Environmental Specialists, gained one Environmental Specialist and will hire a total of six staff over the next year. Not to mention that the five floods in three years run seems to have been interrupted by the drought of 1999.

Jim Morris, P.E., has returned to the Division of Water in the capacity of Chief. He spent several years in the early eighties here, working in the Dam Safety and Floodplain Management programs, was head of the Arizona Floodplain Management Section and returned to the Division of Water as Chief in 1992. He has been chief in several other Ohio Department of Natural Resources divisions and offices and served as Deputy Director of the Department during the last administration. Jim

brings with him a strong floodplain management background, and is a progressive leader.

Jaime Best, who introduced himself as the newest staff member in the last newsletter, and Andrew Reimann are the two Environmental Specialists most recently departing from the program. Jaime also has the distinction of being the shortest (term) employee of the program in the last fifteen years. He decided to pursue other interests and works at a local lumber yard. Andy accepted a job with a small environmental consulting firm on the East Coast and is hoping to influence wise use and natural resource protection through design and project development. We miss Andy's spirited contributions and wish both good luck in their new pursuits.

Janice Gartner is the most recently hired Environmental Specialist. She returns to the Floodplain Management Program after several years in the private sector environmental consulting area. Please read Janice's remarks and introduction in the following article, *Rerun*. We are very glad to have Janice rejoin our staff.

The Floodplain Management Program has received the support of the current administration and the Chief to expand by four staff positions in the next budget cycle. We plan to add additional environmental planning staff (2) to support more technical assistance for local communities, an engineer to support administrative rules concerning floodplain studies and mapping of flood hazard areas, and a geographic information specialist to assist with the integration of technology for collection, interpretation, and distribution of flood hazard information.



Our strategic priority continues to be the development of comprehensive and effective local floodplain management capabilities. We hope our activities in the areas of technical assistance, education and training, increased engineering services, and progress on development of a geographic information system will support your local capability.

We are looking forward to our growth and welcome your ideas for improvements in our services. If you have specific comments or concerns please contact me at (614) 265-6750. 



Rerun

By Janice Gartner,
Environmental Specialist
Division of Water,
Floodplain Management

Hello! I'm a returning member of the Division of Water's floodplain management team and would like to introduce myself to those who didn't meet me the first time around. My untimely departure was a result of budget cuts and layoffs that occurred in 1991. Needless to say, it's great to be back working with all the old timers. I worked in the private environmental consulting world during my absence from the floodplain unit. I gained valuable job experience in performing environmental site assessments, wetland delineations, and asbestos surveys of buildings. I also have experience as a naturalist with the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy district and the Salvation Army. I also worked in numerous departments of Bank One in my earlier years.

I have been reading and reviewing all the FEMA and NFIP publications and reacquainting myself with all the useful resource data stored in the office. I am currently involved with the repetitive loss project that FEMA has requested us to coordinate with the assistance of the local communities. I look forward to working with you to promote the wise use of the floodplain and in administering the NFIP. 

FEMA Map Information Sources

Two new free services are now available to answer frequently asked questions about the National Flood Insurance Program like, *How do I get a letter of Map Amendment?*

Dewberry & Davis, (FEMA's mapping technical evaluation contractor for Ohio) has a new web site <www.dewberry.com/fip/> This site contains information on a wide range of NFIP-related topics including: *Letters of Determination Review* (FODRs), *Letters of Map Change* (LOMCs) including both: *Letters of Map Amendment* (LOMAs) & *Letters of Map Revision* (LOMRs); information on the *Coastal Barrier Resources Areas* (COBRAs), & *Digital Line Graphs* (DFIRM-DLGs); procedures for requesting **Flood Insurance Study** (FIS) Data, Hydrologic and Hydraulic (H&H) Data, & FEMA Q3 Flood Data; & Fact Sheets for Homeowners, Study Contractors, State and Local Officials, & Builders and Developers.

- FEMA's toll free number,

(877) F E M A M A P
(877) 3 3 6-2 6 2 7

Other sources of information

- FEMA's Map Service Center, **(800) 358-9616**, to order copies of flood hazard maps
- FEMA's web site still at <www.fema.gov/> Check *Work in Progress* at <www.fema.gov/mt/tsd> to look for status reports on FEMA's **Map Modernization** program.
- FEMA's Publication Center, **(800) 480-2520**, to order any current FEMA publication
- National Flood Insurance Telephone Response Center **(800) 427-4661**, for questions about flood insurance

- Association of State Floodplain Managers' web site: <www.floods.org>
- Ohio's Floodplain Management Program Office (ODNR) web site: <www.dnr.state.oh.us/odnr/water>

Tornado / Flood Safety Awareness Poster Contest Winners



By Christopher M. Thoms, Senior Environmental Specialist, Division of Water - Floodplain Management Program

Chikaka Kawai, a 5th-grader from Krout Elementary School in Tiffin, won this year's overall award for her poster (below). Her teacher accepted the award on her behalf, along with the school's trophy, since Miss Kawai had to return to her native Japan.



Statewide winners included **Susan Barrows** of Cambridge, **Rose Brandle** of Wellsville, **Roberto Buenavista** of Toledo, **Allison Collier** of North Canton, **Brent Gerrety** of Cincinnati, **Jennifer Haddox** of Kingston, **Gregory Haman** of

Englewood, **Amy Hunt** of Tarlton, **Melissa Vaillancourt** of Youngstown, and **Lisa Winton** of Strongsville.

Regional winners included **Shane Antolak** of St. Clairsville, **Courtney Boone** of Brookville,

William Brechum of Clinton, **Jonathan Brzyszc** of North Bloomfield, **Rogelio Buenavista** of Toledo, **Brandon Carter & Kyle Criner** of Oak Hill, **Bliss Davis** of Cleveland, **Jessica Drake** of Pedro, **Jessica & Michaela Flanagan** of Cincinnati, **Audrey Davis** of Galion, **Matt Greenlee** of Circleville, **Sandra Hornyak** of Toledo, **Aaron Hounshell** of New Lebanon, **Megan Johnston** of Tiffin, **Benjamin Malone** of Oak Hill, **Adyson Mascher** of East Palestine, **Tyler Miller** of Ottville, **Sara Pasquinelli** of Minford, **Kara Phillips** of Oak Hill, **Joseph Pittner** of Piedmont, **Emily Ramsey** of Wellsville, **Molly Smith** of Cincinnati, **Justin Walden** of Lewisburg, **Lindsay Wilson** of Lancaster, & **Andy Wygant** of Brookville.

Representatives from the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness presented the awards and prizes at the Ohio State Fair. The committee consists of representatives from the National Weather Service, Red Cross, Ohio Insurance Institute, Ohio News Network, Ohio Emergency management Agency County Emergency Management Director's Association, and the Ohio Departments of Education, Health, & Natural Resources.

Congratulations to all the students who contributed their talents to reminding us of the importance of Tornado & Flood Safety Awareness.



How time Flies



By Christopher M. Thoms,
Senior Environmental Specialist, Division of Water
- Floodplain Management Program

You may have noticed that the State Cardinal had changed perches on our letterhead. The temporary design change allows us to announce that on August 11, 1999, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources turned fifty. Each division displayed some of their accomplishments over the last half century at ODNR's ever-popular Ohio State Fair

park-site. At ODNR headquarters, here at Fountain Square, our celebration featured remarks by Director Sam Speck and First Lady Hope Taft. Hopefully, the list of ODNR's accomplishments for the next fifty years will prove to be even more impressive as we fly on to our first century.



Floodplain Management Training Available

For floodplain administrators or other community officials who want to learn more about the NFIP, the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) in Emmitsburg, Maryland offers courses on NFIP floodplain management, CRS-participation, (see above article) & related uses of Geographic Information Systems.

For more information or course catalog, call EMI at (800) 238-3358

Lender & Agent Seminars in Ohio

If you know a lender or an insurance agent who needs to learn more about their role in the NFIP, have them contact Rich Slevin to find out when & where the closest upcoming seminar (designed especially for them) will be held.

For more information call:

Rich Slevin, Regional
Marketing Manager
for the NFIP at
(630) 955-4550





DIVISION OF WATER
1939 FOUNTAIN SQUARE
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43224

Bob Taft
Governor,

Samuel W. Speck,
Director,

James R. Morris,
Chief

The Amelivian is produced by the Division of Water and is supported by funding through a FEMA Cooperative Agreement as part of the Community Assistance Program - State Support Services Element of the National Flood Insurance Program. The contents do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the federal government.

Christopher M. Thoms, Editor.

