

The IAFSM Rapid Assistance Flood Team (RAFT)

Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management (IAFSM)



Rapid Assistance Flood Team (RAFT) Guidance
January 2015



Includes Information On:
RAFT Information and Assistance Request
RAFT and Community expectations
RAFT members' waiver form
Community request waiver form



IAFSM

Illinois Association for
Floodplain and Stormwater Management

Flooding in Illinois

Illinois' Rivers, Lakes, & Streams



Floods occur
SOMEWHERE in
Illinois every
single year.

There has been
a federally
declared flood
disaster in
every county in
Illinois

**Disasters
1993-2014**



**Facing
hundreds of
flooded
homes?**



Use IAFSM Expertise

- ▶ # IAFSM members
- ▶ # IAFSM CFMs
- ▶ # IAFSM damage assessment experts

What is the RAFT?

RAFT is the Rapid Assistance Flood Team.

Members of the RAFT are all active in the IAFSM.

Members are all Certified Floodplain Managers.

They represent local, state and federal government, the private sector, and other professional disciplines.

RAFT members all have experience and training in post-flood responsibilities.

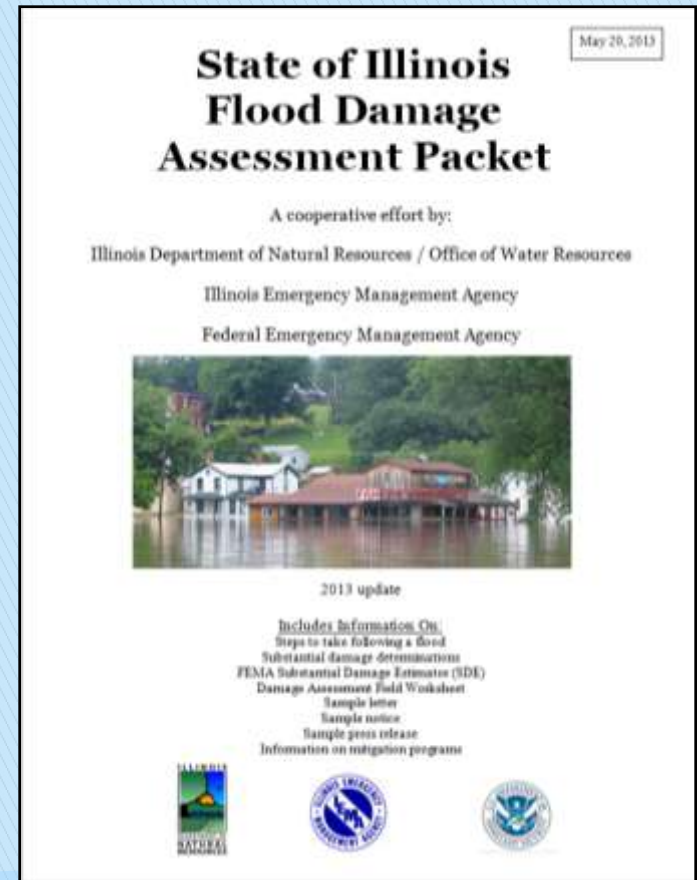
RAFT members are all volunteers and have agreed to assist other communities in times of need.

What is the purpose of RAFT?

- ▶ Often, local floodplain managers will be overwhelmed following a flood.
- ▶ Illinois is blessed with some of the best floodplain managers in the entire nation.
- ▶ These Illinois Association of Floodplain and Stormwater Managers has coordinated a program to provide these experts free-of-charge to local officials following a flood.

Post Flood Responsibilities

- ✓ **MOVE FAST! Don't wait for FEMA!**
- ✓ **Identify, tag, photograph, and document flooded structures**
- ✓ **Get damage assessments completed.**
- ✓ **Post information for the public on permit requirements. Use media sources.**
- ✓ **Provide technical information**
- ✓ **Get help if needed!!!**



Understanding Substantial Damage

“The 50% Rule”:

If damages from ANY source (flood, fire, tornado, alien attack, zombies, etc..) exceed 50%.

The structure must be brought into compliance with floodplain regulations (elevated or floodproofed).



Substantial Damage

Cumulative Substantial damage tracking (example)

1999 - \$20,000 damage / \$100,000 = 20% damage

2001 - \$10,000 damage / \$120,000 = 8% damage

2008 - \$28,600 damage / \$130,000 = 22% damage

50% cumulative damage

Building must be brought up to flood code!

The Illinois state model ordinance tracks CUMULATIVE substantial damage

Field Inspections During FloodCrest



Post Flood – Survey

- ▶ **Document high water marks**
- ▶ **Digital photos**
- ▶ **Mark locations on map**
- ▶ **Post notices on properties**
- ▶ **Follow up letters**



Cull the Herd 100% damaged







The Pierce Home

Henderson
County, IL



Focus on the Tough Ones

40% – 60% Damaged



EXAMPLE



**The Rulo
Home
Grafton , IL**



Sometimes they are REALLY tough!



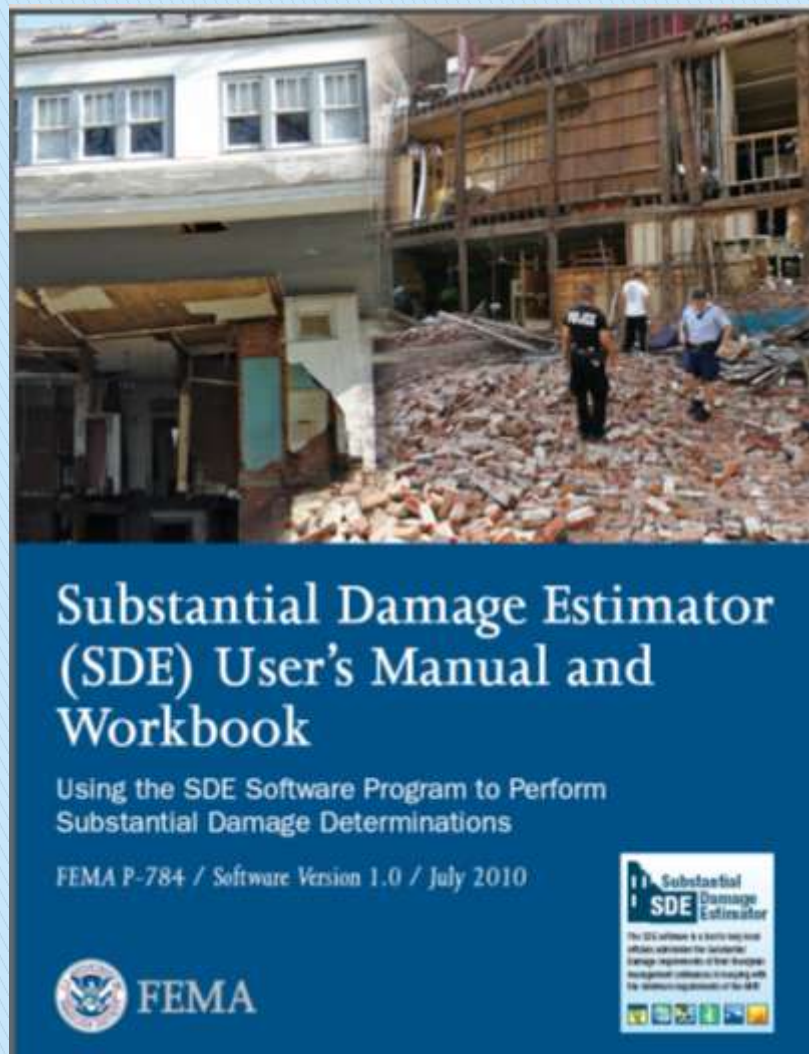
Ottawa Central School
One inch of flooding.



Fall 2008

Learn to use the SDE

- Print out the user's manual
- Obtain the base cost #s from Marshall Swift or Mean (I can't say that)
- Do a couple of trail runs.
- Use the “cheat sheet” to enter the percent damage for each component.
- Be fast, uniform, & equitable.
- Get the letters out ASAP.
- Can address challenged estimates later.



Learn to use the SDE (cont.)

- On site inspection done for each flooded structure.
- Information recorded on damage inspection worksheets (field sheets).
- Entered into SDE back at the office.



Appendix B Forms and Checklists

SDE DAMAGE INSPECTION WORKSHEET

Single-Family, Row, or Townhouse Site Built Residences

Subdivision Information:

Subdivision: _____ Parcel # _____ Lot # _____

Elevation of lowest floor: _____ Datum: _____

Community Information:

NFIP Community Name: _____ NFIP Community ID: _____

Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

Building Address:

Owner's First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Building Address #: _____ Street: _____ Suffix: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ County: _____

Mailing Address:

ss#: _____ Street: _____ Suffix: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

County: _____

Attributes:

_____ 2-story _____ More than 2 stories _____

Continuous Wall w/ Slab _____ Piles _____ Crawlspace _____

Basement _____

Stud-Framed _____ Masonry _____ ICF _____ Common Brick _____

Shingles _____ Clay Tile _____ Slate _____

Standing Seam (Metal Roof) _____

SDE Inspection Elements

- ▶ Foundation
- ▶ Superstructure (Framing and Masonry)
- ▶ Roof
- ▶ Insulation and weather stripping
- ▶ Exterior Finish
- ▶ Interior Finish (Drywall)
- ▶ Doors–Windows–Shutters
- ▶ Lumber Finished
- ▶ Hardware
- ▶ Cabinets–Countertops
- ▶ Floor Covering
- ▶ Plumbing
- ▶ Electrical
- ▶ Built-in Appliances
- ▶ Heating–Cooling (HVAC)
- ▶ Painting

FPM Committee Meeting in Ottawa

First order of business....the name

- **DAFT**
- **RFT**
- **FFF**
- **TAFT**
- **RAFT.....Rapid Assistance Flood Team!**

Who can belong to RAFT?

- ▶ **RAFT volunteers must be pre-approved by IAFSM.**
- ▶ **They must be Certified Floodplain Managers and have the experience and training completed to assist the host community.**
- ▶ **Volunteers provide their own vehicle and equipment.**
- ▶ **RAFT volunteers must sign liability waiver forms annually.**

Will RAFT cost my community?

- ▶ **No, RAFT members volunteer their time.**
- ▶ **Per diem and travel are reimbursed by IAFSM at the State of Illinois travel rates.**

How Does My Community Request RAFT Help?

- ▶ **A formal request letter must be sent to the IAFSM Floodplain Management Chairman.**
- ▶ **This letter also serves as a release of liability.**

Sample Request Letter Template

SAMPLE REQUEST LETTER

(insert letterhead)

(insert date)

Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management
35W749 Bluff Drive
St. Charles, IL 60175

Reference: Request for IAFSM RAFT Assistance

To Whom It May Concern:

On (insert date), the (insert community) suffered severe flooding. This letter serves to request the assistance of the IAFSM RAFT to assist local officials with damage assessment and other disaster response functions.

In making this request, the (insert community) agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the IAFSM, its agents and assigns, and any persons who participate in Rapid Assistance Flood Team activities for any actions or inactions during the course of the disaster response. Furthermore, the (insert community) agrees and declares that any actions taken by any of the above-referenced persons in the course of providing assistance are to be considered duly authorized actions of the (insert community).

The (insert community) has designated the following staff member as primary point of contact for the IAFSM RAFT Volunteer(s):

John Flood
Floodplain Manager
(XXX) XXX-XXXX
fpm@XXX.org

Thank you for your assistance with our efforts to recover from this disaster.

Sincerely yours,

RAFT Members are volunteers

- ▶ **IAFSM estimates that in most cases, RAFT volunteers can complete damage assessments in a day or two.**
- ▶ **Travel on work day only. If overnight lodging is required, it must be provided by the host community**
- ▶ **No community cost for travel or per diem – reimbursed to volunteer by IAFSM.**

IAFSM Expectations

- ▶ **1. Acts as overall coordinator of RAFT volunteer activities**
- ▶ **2. Coordinates RAFT volunteers and ensures annual training needs are met**
- ▶ **3. Ensures RAFT member liability waiver forms are updated, signed annually, and maintained on file**
- ▶ **4. Coordinates logistics for deployment to host community**
- ▶ **5. Provides damage assessment packet and volunteer packet**
- ▶ **6. RAFT volunteers will use consistent and industry accepted damage assessment methods developed by IAFSM to ensure equitability.**

RAFT Volunteer Expectations

- ▶ **Attend annual training to be prepared for damage assessment response**
- ▶ **Maintain IAFSM membership and Certified Floodplain Managers (CFMs) license**
- ▶ **Provide equipment (digital camera, clip board, etc.) and clothing (boots, mask, etc.) necessary to conduct damage assessments**
- ▶ **Provides digital photos of damage assessments and digital files to be left with host community.**
- ▶ **Provides a vehicle to get to the host community and conduct damage assessments**
- ▶ **Has a personal photo identification badge to wear during inspections**

Host Community Expectations

- ▶ Provides official ID tag or letter from Community leader.
- ▶ If possible, provide a local host to accompany the RAFT volunteer while doing inspections
- ▶ Provides a local contact or cell phone number for RAFT volunteer in case of emergency (police or fire)
- ▶ Provides a morning meeting location and afternoon wrap-up location
- ▶ Provides RAFT volunteer with digital or paper damage assessment worksheets and map with assigned addresses to inspect
- ▶ Maintains records of damage assessments
- ▶ Ensure follow up on damage assessments and compliance with floodplain regulations.
- ▶ If the host community has the financial means or if disaster assistance funding is obtained, the host community will reimburse IAFSM for the travel and per diem expenses paid to RAFT volunteers.

RAFT Volunteers Must Sign An Agreement

Firm/Community/County _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____ FAX: (____) _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Geographic Availability: 1) Chicago Metro ____ 2) Northeastern IL ____ 3) Northern IL ____ 4) Central IL ____
 3) Metro East ____ 6) Southern IL ____

EXPERTISE TO BE PROVIDED RELATING TO DISASTER RESPONSES:

(damage assessment & estimating, expedient design, building code inspections, etc)

Emergency Contact:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Signed _____ Date _____

RAFT Volunteers Must Sign A Waiver

I _____ have volunteered as a member of the Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management (IAFSM) Rapid Assistance Flood Team (RAFT).

As a volunteer, I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the IAFSM, its agents and assigns, and any persons who participate in Rapid Assistance Flood Team activities for any actions or inactions during the course of the disaster response.

Furthermore, I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the host community, its agents and assigns for any actions or inactions during the course of the disaster response.

I understand that IAFSM will reimburse at effective State of Illinois travel rates my travel cost and a daily per diem. Any other expenses are the responsibility of the volunteer or the volunteer's employer.

I am a Certified Floodplain Manager and my No. is _____

I have performed _____ number of damage assessments using FEMA's Substantial Damage Estimator Tool

I have _____ years of experience with conducting damage assessments for _____

I have participated in the annual IAFSM R.A.F.T. annual training in 20_____

Signature of RAFT Volunteer _____

Signature of Volunteer's Community CEO _____

RAFT Volunteers Provide Their Own Equipment

- ▶ RAFT Guidance Booklet with sample documents
- ▶ Clipboard
- ▶ Pen/Pencil
- ▶ Substantial Damage Field Worksheets (likely provided by Host Community)
- ▶ Tape Measure (100 Foot)
- ▶ Folding Ruler
- ▶ Local identification badge
- ▶ Flashlight
- ▶ Boots
- ▶ Rubber Gloves
- ▶ Masks
- ▶ Digital Camera
- ▶ Cell phone
- ▶ Health insurance information card

RAFT Volunteers

- 1) Make Your Job Easier**
- 2) Reduce Your Stress**
- 3) Provide a scapegoat**
- 4) Get your community and residents on the fast lane to recovery**
- 5) Cost you NOTHING!**



Actual photo of
Mary Lou Kalstead
during the Lisle
flood



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Committee Chair
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