



THE IAFSM CURRENT

Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management

Winter 2021 Newsletter

FEMA Public Assistance Funds Available for Post-Flood Damage Assessments

~Brian Killen, CFM, FEMA Region 5

Major disasters can be declared under the Stafford Act allowing State or Tribal governments to request federal assistance when a natural event has caused damage of such severity that it is beyond the combined capabilities of State, Local, Tribal and Territorial (SLTT) governments to respond. The President can declare a major disaster for any natural event, based on the information included in a Governor or Tribal Chief Executive's request. This process involves a preliminary damage assessment (PDA) in which a joint federal/state/tribal team will conduct a thorough assessment of the impacted area to determine the extent of the disaster, its impact on individuals and public facilities and the types of federal assistance that may be needed. A major disaster declaration authorizes a wide range of federal assistance programs for individuals and public infrastructure, including funds for emergency, permanent work and hazard mitigation. The determination of which disaster assistance programs are authorized is based on the types of assistance specified in the Governor or Tribal Chief Executive's request and the needs identified during the PDA process. In addition to FEMA assistance programs, a major disaster declaration makes available other federal resources as well, such as Small Business Administration loans.

The Stafford Act has been amended several times by Congress, most recently with the passing of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA) of 2018, in an effort to reduce the complexity of FEMA and build the nation's capacity in response to disasters. One notable change specific for assistance to floodplain managers and building officials was section 1206 of the DRRA. This provision authorizes FEMA to provide assistance to SLTT governments for building code and floodplain administration and enforcement, including inspections for substantial damage compliance. FEMA is implementing DRRA section 1206 through the Public Assistance (PA) Program, whose framework and requirements are defined by a recently issued policy, Building Code and Floodplain Management Ordinance Administration and Enforcement. This PA [policy](#) is effective November 1, 2020 and applicable only for applicants located in a county or federal recognized tribe which, as part of a major federal disaster declaration, has been designated for Public Assistance and, if a flood risk has been identified, participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). **Continued on next page...**

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This policy offers a unique opportunity to connect communities with the resources needed to effectively administer and enforce state and locally adopted building codes and floodplain management ordinances for a period of no longer than 180 days after the date of a major disaster declaration. Eligible Work in this policy pertains to all building code and floodplain management ordinance administration and enforcement activities performed, in a designated area of the major disaster declaration and related to the repair, replacement, or retrofit of disaster-damaged structures in the jurisdiction of the Applicant. This may include public, private and residential structures. Eligible costs under this policy will be funded at the Permanent Work cost-share applicable to the disaster. Additionally, recognizing the substantial time and effort communities have dedicated to disaster recovery FEMA has also made the policy retroactive for disasters declared on or after August 1, 2017. Communities who wish to take advantage of this resource retroactively must opt-in through

the PA application process. For more information regarding eligible work activities, costs and documentation, please see the full [policy](#).

Though this policy authorizes FEMA to provide assistance for eligible building code and floodplain management administration and enforcement activities, reimbursement is not guaranteed. NFIP participating communities, regardless of the potential for reimbursement, are required to carry out and enforce their local building code and floodplain management ordinances, this includes making substantial damage determinations. These activities help ensure the health and safety of residents and offer opportunities to build a more resilient community.

If you have any questions concerning this Public Assistance policy, feel free to contact Brent Hamilton, Public Assistance Planner with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, at (217) 785.9927 or j.brent.hamilton@illinois.gov.

FEMA Issues Revisions to 2D Modeling Standards & Guidance Documents

~Glenn Heistand, P.E., CFM, ISWS

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) maintains guidelines and standards to support the Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (Risk MAP) program. These specifically define how to apply the statutory and regulatory requirements for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). FEMA has a maintenance plan for these guidelines and standards and issues updates annually.

Effective November 2020, FEMA revised the standards and guidance related to 2D modeling and mapping for regulatory

flood insurance studies, including floodways. A number of significant updates are being adopted by FEMA to facilitate the use of floodways in regulatory 2D models. An informational summary is available at: https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-10/fema_maintenance_announcement_risk_map_guidelines_standards_2020.pdf

The updated guidelines and standards will be available at: www.fema.gov/guidelines-and-standards-flood-risk-analysis-and-mapping



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Requirements for Agricultural & Accessory Structures

~Marilyn Sucoe, P.E., CFM, IDNR

In July 2020 FEMA issued a [Floodplain Management Bulletin, P-2140, Floodplain Management Requirements for Agricultural Structures and Accessory Structures](#). The guidance defines what the NFIP considers to be agricultural structures and accessory structures and, perhaps more importantly, what is not. The bulletin also addresses:

- Dry floodproofing requirements.
- Wet floodproofing techniques and limitations of use for agricultural structures and accessory structures.
- Variances and permits.
- Model ordinance language for wet floodproofing by permit or by variance.
- NFIP flood insurance coverage for agricultural structures and accessory structures.

An agricultural structure is defined as a structure that must be used exclusively in connection with the production, harvesting, storage, raising, or drying of agricultural commodities and livestock; an agricultural structure specifically excludes any

structure used for human habitation. This means, a building that is used seasonally by the public for wine tasting or a farm stand is not an agricultural structure and must meet your building protection standards.

Similarly, the bulletin addresses accessory structures, giving examples of two-car detached garages (or smaller), carports, storage and tool sheds and small boathouses. Garages tend to be the biggest permitting problem. Your ordinance will have a size limit, usually 500 or 576 sq. ft. for an accessory structure. Over time ordinances have been increasing the size, communities are ignoring this limitation, or communities are issuing variances to allow larger accessory structures.

Finally, before you issue a permit or a variance, always read your ordinance and check if the structure is subject to state floodway rules. Your local rules and the state floodway rules are more restrictive than the minimum rules of the National Flood Insurance Program.

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Rethinking Minimum NFIP Requirements to Sustain Cooperative Federalism

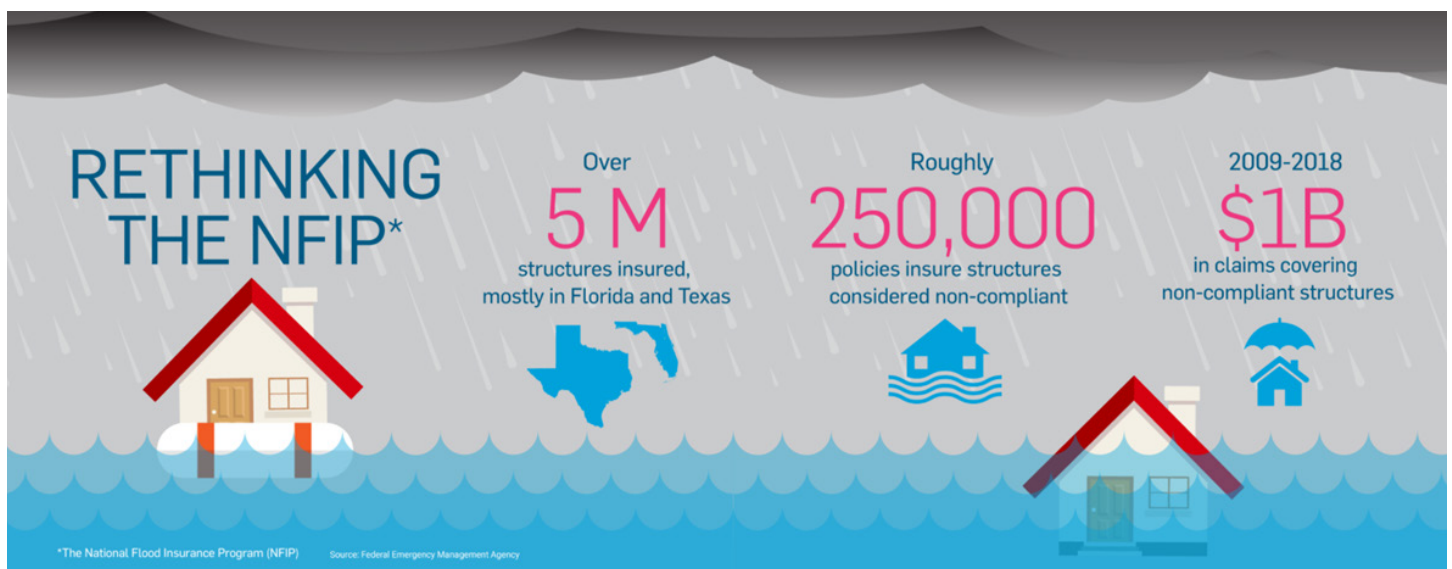
By Phetmano Phannavong, SNC Lavalin, September 16, 2020

The NFIP is an example of cooperative federalism, where the federal government provides affordable flood insurance to homeowners, business owners and renters; in return, communities agree to adopt and enforce floodplain regulations, also known as “minimum NFIP requirements.”

More than just an insurance program, the NFIP is also a floodplain management and flood risk mitigation program. Enforcement of minimum NFIP regulations, however, is a

real challenge, with non-compliant communities costing the program tens of millions every year. By adopting better land use planning, using technology to identify multiple flood hazards and allowing communities flexibility in how they reduce flood risk, we can sustain cooperation across all levels of government to fulfill FEMA’s mission to protect lives and property.

The full article can be found [here](#).



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The advertisement for Hanson Hands-On Water Resources Solutions features a dark blue background with a white globe icon and the company name. It includes an aerial photograph of a water treatment facility and mentions an ACEC & ACE Award Winner.

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CRS Updates Coming in 2021

~Julie Lomax, P.E., CFM, Village of Downers Grove, IAFSM CRS Chair

In January, FEMA plans to issue a 2021 Addendum to the 2017 CRS Coordinator's Manual. The Addendum will serve as a "bridge" between the existing guidance materials and the more comprehensive update that is anticipated as FEMA continues to implement the NFIP transformation. The 2021 Addendum will include two new prerequisite requirements, several new credit opportunities and some updates and modifications aimed at simplifying credit and reporting requirements.

Class 9 already includes a prerequisite for Elevation Certificates. However, the 2021 Addendum adds the requirement for 90% accuracy and requires written Elevation Certificate management procedures, which will receive 38 points under Activity 310.

Class 8 or Better communities will now have a new freeboard prerequisite. By the first verification cycle visit after the Addendum is issued, Class 8 or Better communities need to adopt and enforce at least 1 foot of freeboard (including machinery and equipment) for residential buildings (including mobile/modular homes) in the floodplain where the BFE has been determined.

The 2021 Addendum also adds opportunities for credit:

- Activity 370: New credits for flood insurance coverage improvement plans and implementation, as well as technical assistance and flood insurance promotion activities.

- Activity 510: A new sub-element for natural functions – floodplain species assessments.
- Activity 510: A new element for a substantial damage management plan – most Illinois communities already do a good job at this activity, the plan will reflect that effort and provide credit.
- Activity 610: A new credit opportunity for flood response operations when plans include damage assessment, floodplain management teams and/or substantial damage assessment procedures, as well as local ordinance requirements for substantial damage, including a cumulative substantial damage.

Check the CRS website (www.crsresources.org) for updates and training opportunities. Recordings of the CRS Webinar Series will be made available. You can also sign up for the NFIP/CRS Newsletter (under the 100 Series Tab). If you have any questions please contact Illinois ISO/CRS Specialist Lou Ann Patellaro at LouAnn.Patellaro@versik.com or (312) 438.9113.

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Some of Illinois' First Settlers Were Flooded & Forced to Move


When the first Norwegian immigrants arrived in Chicago in August 1836, “suspicious land speculators” persuaded them to settle on “the most beautiful government land under the sun” just a day’s ride south of Chicago. They arrived in Iroquois County where they found “a paradise on earth with flat land, fertile soil and prairie grass towering over their heads”. They bought oxen, cut timber and broke the prairie. By winter they had built a settlement. Yet as they cleared the land, they noticed “odd signs the land had been under water”, according to the book *Nordmaandene I Amerika* (Norwegians in America) by Kund Langeland

That winter rains began to fall. Icy water covered the land. Immigrants elevated their cabins and wore boots everywhere they went. By spring, the water was still there. Into summer, the water still “covered the land as far as the eye could see”. Immigrants survived on porridge and sour milk. Many died of malaria. The few survivors left everything and moved further west to LaSalle/Kendall County where they found beautiful rolling prairies and dry ground! Here the first permanent Norwegian settlement in



America was established. Many of their Norwegian offspring still live in the area. The Norwegian National Immigration Memorial is located just south of Norway, Illinois.

Today, IDNR is doing a large \$5 million dollar buyout in these same wide floodplain areas where some of our first settlers chose to move away from after one season. Some things go full circle; have we learned anything in 200 years?!



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Water + Us: How We Think, Feel & Take Action on Water

Recently, The Water Main and the American Public Media Research Lab conducted a nationwide survey “to measure United States residents’ knowledge, connection, concern and action related to water issues facing the country.” The survey asked a variety of questions about water quality, infrastructure, hydrology and quantity, as well as asking about people’s connections to and attitudes about water resources and concerns for the future. It found that the vast majority of respondents care about water, but only about half of Americans know where stormwater ends up, among many other findings. The study results are presented in clear, simple graphics and can be helpful for those tasked with developing public outreach and education campaigns. The full report can be viewed [here](#).



Congrats to our New CFMs!

Congratulations to everyone who passed the exam and became a Certified Floodplain Manager in the State of Illinois in 2020! These CFMs took the exam before the pandemic affected our ability to offer in-person testing. IAFSM continues to work towards providing a virtual exam option for those who wish to take the CFM exam in the future. Details will be communicated once they are available. For more information on the CFM exam, visit our website: www.illinoisfloods.org.

Melanie Arnold, Robinson Engineering, Ltd.
Matthew Asselmeier, Kendall County, IL
Shawn Bryan, KDM Engineering
Mickey Davis, Kabbes Engineering, Inc.
Eric Dean, d'Escoto, Inc.
Olivia Dorothy, American Rivers
Kurtis Duemler, Hanson Professional Svc., Inc.
Joseph Frazee, Hampton, Lenzini & Renwick, Inc.
Gary Gifford, H.W. Lochner, Inc.
Kevin Hoobler, Illinois Dept. Natural Resources
Linnea Hruska, Michael Baker International
Paul Hurley, Greeley & Hansen, LLC

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Robert Lott, Farnsworth Group, Inc.
Michelle Madrid, Donohue & Assoc., Inc.
Samuel Millard, Kabbes Engineering, Inc.
Anita Mitchell, Baxter & Woodman, Inc.
Ariana Nevarez, Globetrotters Engineering Corp.
Laura Pellizzari, HR Green, Inc.
Krystian Powala, Baxter & Woodman, Inc.
Yiwei Shen, d'Escoto, Inc.
Joseph Webster, Smith LaSalle
Lizeth Zuniga, Lake County, IL

From the Chair: Virtual Conference & Board News

-Erik Gil, P.E. CFM, Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd.

I think we are all ready to welcome 2021 with the hope that it will be more positive than the challenging 2020. Due to the pandemic we were not able to offer the typical assortment of in-person workshops throughout the year, but thanks to our very active Young Professionals Committee Chair, Adam Blumstein, who brought the Zoom platform to IAFSM early on, we were still able to offer interesting webinars that were very well attended. Furthermore, Diane Bouckaert, our Education Outreach Chair, has been working diligently to complete the IAFSM Education website, which is independent from our main website. We expect this new website to be available to members in early 2021. Thank you Diane and Adam!

As you know, our 2021 annual conference will be virtual this year. Our conference chair, Steve Altman and Sarah Harbaugh, Executive Secretary, have put in many extra hours this year to prepare the virtual platform to follow our usual program. Steve and Sarah will be sending email updates on this to prepare our membership for the conference and they will be working with the presenters to prepare their pre-recorded technical sessions

that will be followed with a live Q&A. I've been able to attend several of the preparatory meetings and there certainly is more work involved to get a virtual conference ready to go. Congratulations to Steve and Sarah for getting us this far!

I received an email from George Riedel of the ASFPF Foundation regarding the #GivingTuesday challenge for the Future Leaders Scholarship and George indicated that they exceeded their goal of raising \$20,000 – they raised \$22,000. A big thank you to all of you that donated to such a worthy cause. Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin were the top five donor chapters – I guess since we are not a swing state, we didn't stand a chance.

In closing, we hope you will be able to attend our March conference (we all need those CECs for our CFM). Our plan is to have our usual assortment of sessions, with the unfortunate exception of one of our most beloved programs, the door prizes, but overall we will follow the same format and schedule as past conferences.

Consider Volunteering for IAFSM Secretary

-Mark Hoskins, P.E., CFM, IDNR-OWR, IAFSM Nominations Chair

Nominations are open for the IAFSM Executive Board position of Secretary. This is an elected position chosen at the next annual meeting in March 2021, "voted-in" by all the IAFSM members. The Secretary position typically progresses into the other Executive Board positions eventually serving as the IAFSM Past Chair. If elected, you will serve as Secretary for two years. After your Secretary term is over, you can accept positions in the Executive Board of increasing responsibility. The next position is Treasurer, then Vice Chair, then Chair, then finally Past-Chair. Each Executive Board position has a voluntary tenure of two years.

The Secretary is a great introduction to the IAFSM Executive Board since you discuss, document and draft Board bi-monthly meeting minutes. A Secretary quickly learns about the responsibilities of the various committees and background about Illinois floodplain issues. The Treasurer tallies all the annual member dues and reports the available funding and disbursements back to the Board. The Vice-Chair organizes

two annual Spring conferences with close coordination with all the other elected officers and IAFSM Committee Chairs. The Chair and Past Chair offer guidance and remembrances of how to best advise the Association.

The Illinois Floodplain Association is one of the largest state chapters within the larger umbrella of the national Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM), headquartered in Madison, Wisconsin. The mission of ASFPM is to promote education, policies and activities that mitigate current and future losses, costs and human suffering caused by flooding and to protect the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains - all without causing adverse impacts. As our new Secretary, you will be interacting and learning about many significant Illinois and national floodplain issues. Board meetings are focused and interesting.

Please send your nomination information to mark.hoskins@illinois.gov before January 22, 2021.

Award Season is upon us! Chapter Award Nominations Are Open

If you know of a project or person worthy of recognition by IAFSM, consider submitting a nomination for a Chapter or Project Award. The award nomination forms can be found on our website at <https://www.illinoisfloods.org/about/committee/20/awards>.

Chapter awards are typically presented to individual people, groups, or agencies that represent the Chapter's best in the

Floodplain and Stormwater Management profession. These awards honor the efforts of one person over a career, or honor an agency over an extended period of time and/or through many projects. Awards are presented at the Annual Conference in March. Questions? Contact Sarah Hunn, SarahHunn@dupageco.org.

Young Professionals Group Update

The Young Professionals Group and the Youth Outreach committee recently co-hosted the RISE Challenge Illinois webinar. The RISE Challenge includes student-led teams completing real world projects to solve local environmental issues. If you would like to view the webinar recording or get more information about the RISE Challenge Illinois, please visit the [YP Group Committee page](#) on the IAFSM website.

The YP Group is working hard to plan exciting events for the 2021 virtual conference in March. The YP Group will

be hosting a Young Professionals Panel discussion during the conference, including several outstanding and accomplished young professionals across various sectors within the floodplain and stormwater management industry. We will also be planning a Young Professionals networking event, with more details to follow.

Questions about the YP group? Contact Adam Blumstein, arblumstein@burnsmcd.com



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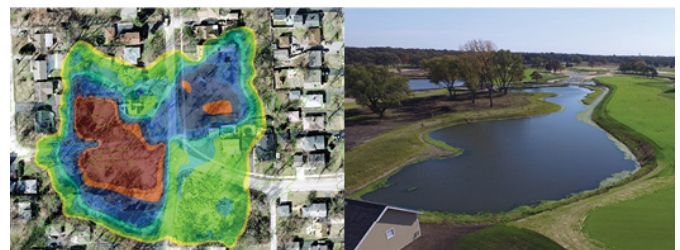
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The 2021 Conference is Coming!

The Annual IAFSM Conference will be held virtually this year, on March 10-11, 2021 and will generally follow the same format as our in-person conferences. Registration information, as well as Sponsor and Exhibitor information, will be sent soon via email. You can also watch our website for updates. <https://www.illinoisfloods.org/conferences-workshops/iafsm-annual-conference>

CEC Education & Training Opportunities

Looking for training opportunities? The following opportunities are coming up in the next few months. If you are looking for credits, be sure to review the material and confirm they meet the appropriate requirements.

IAFSM/ASFPM Sponsored Training Opportunities:

- IAFSM Annual Conference (virtual) March 10-11, 2021

Additional Training Opportunities:

EMI provides a wide range of training opportunities and upcoming training.

EMI courses are free for local and state government employees. Learn more at the EMI website: <http://training.fema.gov/emicourses/>

- E0273 Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP – February 1st- 4th, 2021
- E0278 NFIP/Community Rating System – May 24th- 27th, 2021
- E0282 Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts II April 12th- 15th, 2021

Webinars

ASFPM – <https://www.floods.org/training-education/online-training/asfpm-webinars/>

ASFPM is also offering additional at home training. For information: <https://floods.redvector.com/>

Conferences

ASFPM Annual National Conference – Raleigh North, Carolina, May 9-13, 2021

Other training and CEC opportunities can be found on ASFPM's calendar:

<https://www.floods.org/conference/>

IAFSM on Social Media

Follow IAFSM on Facebook and LinkedIn! Please send any time sensitive announcements or ideas for content to Melissa Duyar at Melissa.Duyar@kimley-horn.com or Sarah Wenzel at SWenzel@prairieengineers.com



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https://www.facebook.com/pg/Illinois-Association-For-Floodplain-And-Stormwater-Management-607922356237945/posts/?ref=page_internal



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Important Stuff We Tell You in Every Newsletter...

Save the Date! 2021 IAFSM Conference

The 2021 Annual Conference will be March 10th & 11th, 2021, held virtually. Our 2022 conference will be at the Bloomington Normal Marriott and Conference Center, Tuesday and Wednesday March 8th and 9th, 2022.

Wanted: Newsletter Ideas and Articles

IAFSM members, this is YOUR newsletter! Email Jennifer Maercklein, editor, at jmaercklein@v3co.com if there are topics that you'd like us to cover. You don't need to write the article - we just want your ideas! If you're gifted with a pen and would like to provide content, we welcome your written contributions as well.

Get Involved with IAFSM!

IAFSM Committee Chairs welcome your help and involvement. See the list of chairs on the last page of this newsletter, or visit the committee webpage to learn more about volunteer opportunities. <http://www.illinoisfloods.org/committees.html>.

Borrow our Water Table

IAFSM has five Watershed Tabletop Models available for all members to check out (free of charge) and bring to Public Works Open Houses, Scout meetings, 4-H meetings, school classrooms, etc. This offers a great opportunity to educate about the dangers and impact of unplanned development and human activity in the floodplain. IAFSM currently keeps tables in Springfield, Champaign, Bartlett, Woodridge and Swansea. Contact Sarah at IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org to make arrangements.

Next Board Meeting

The next IAFSM Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 13th at 10am via zoom. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend Board meetings. Contact Sarah Harbaugh for the Zoom ID to attend virtually: IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org.

Jobmart

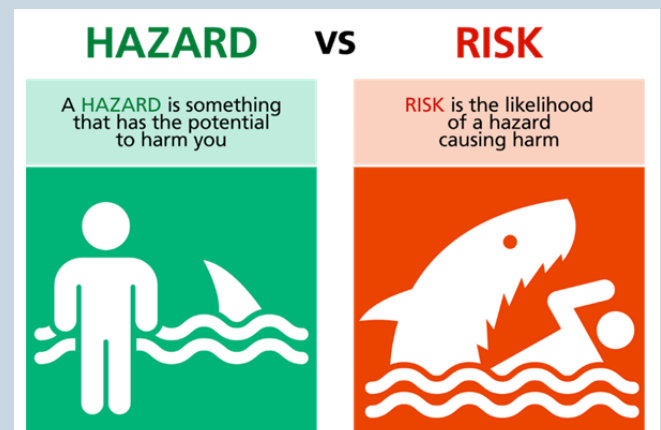
Visit our Jobmart at <http://www.illinoisfloods.org/jobmart.html>. Jobmart is a free service to members of IAFSM. To post an open position, please sign into our website and complete the job listing form. If you have any questions please contact Sarah at IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org.

CFM Exam Schedule

In-person CFM exams have been suspended during the pandemic. We are exploring options for virtual exams and will announce details once they're available. For info, visit www.illinoisfloods.org/certification.html.

Flood Terminology: Hazard vs. Risk

-Reprinted from The Flood Zone, Nadeau Land Surveys, November 4, 2020



The terms hazard and risk are often used interchangeably, though the differences are quite significant. A hazard is something that has the potential to cause harm, such as flood waters. Risk is the likelihood or probability that the hazard actually causes harm. A risk assessment takes a known hazard and evaluates its impact in real world situations. A flood risk assessment would involve using modeling software to predict the likelihood of flooding in a particular area based on different variables, such as proximity to a water source, or topography of the land.





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Winter 2021 Newsletter

The IAFSM Newsletter is published quarterly for members of the Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management. Information and opinions contained herein do not necessarily reflect the views of all members. Items for publication and other editorial matters should be directed to the editor at jmaercklein@v3co.com.

IAFSM OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

CHAIR

Erik Gil, P.E., CFM
Christopher B. Burke Eng., Ltd.
egil@cbbel.com

VICE CHAIR

Stephen Altman, P.E., CFM
IDNR - OWR
Steve.Altman@illinois.gov

TREASURER

Dallas Alley, CFM
Village of Swansea, IL
dalley@swansea.il.org

SECRETARY

Sharon Østerby, CFM
Lake Co Stormwater Mgmt Comm.
SOsterby@lakecountyil.gov

PAST CHAIR

Glenn Heistand, P.E., CFM
Illinois State Water Survey
heistand@illinois.edu

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Sarah Harbaugh
IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org

CONFERENCE

Stephen Altman, P.E., CFM
IDNR - OWR
Steve.Altman@illinois.gov

BOARD NOMINATIONS

Mark Hoskins, P.E., CFM
IDNR-OWR
Mark.Hoskins@illinois.gov

AWARDS

Sarah Hunn, P.E.
DuPage Co Stormwater Mgmt
Sarah.Hunn@dupageco.org

CERTIFICATION

Gregory Thorpe, CFM
Rock Island County
Gthorpe@co.rock-island.il.us

COMMUNITY RATING SYS.

Julie Lomax, CFM, P.E.
Village of Downers Grove
JLomax@downers.us

EDUCATION OUTREACH

Diane Bouckaert, P.E., CFM
Manhard Consulting Ltd
dbouckaert@manhard.com

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

Mike Sutfin, CFM
City of Ottawa
mike2449@yahoo.com

INTER-ORGANIZATIONAL

Ajay Jain, P.E., CFM
HR Green
ajain@hrgreen.com

LEGISLATIVE

Kay Whitlock, P.E., D.WRE
Christopher B. Burke Eng., Ltd.
kwhitlock@cbbel.com

MITIGATION

Ron Davis
IDNR-OWR
Ron.Davis@illinois.gov

NEWSLETTER

Jennifer Maercklein, P.E., CFM
V3 Companies
jmaercklein@v3co.com

STORMWATER MGMT

Steve Bicking, P.E., D. WRE, CFM
HR Green
sbicking@hrgreen.com

WETLANDS

Tom Kehoe
Christopher B. Burke Eng., Ltd.
tkehoe@cbbel.com

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Adam Blumstein, PE, CFM
Burns & McDonnell
arblumstein@burnsmcd.com

YOUTH OUTREACH

Brian Chaille, P.E., CFM
Illinois State Water Survey
bchaille@illinois.edu

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION FOR FLOODPLAIN & STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

35W749 Bluff Drive, St. Charles, Illinois 60175

IAFSM@IllinoisFloods.org Phone: 630.443.8145 Fax: 630.443.8198

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