



# THE IAFSM CURRENT

*Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management*

Winter 2023 Newsletter

## NEW Elevation Certificate & Dry Floodproofing Certificate

Both the current Elevation Certificate (EC) and the Floodproofing certificate for Non-Residential Structures have an expiration date of November 30, 2022. New certificates are under review and may be issued even before this newsletter is issued.

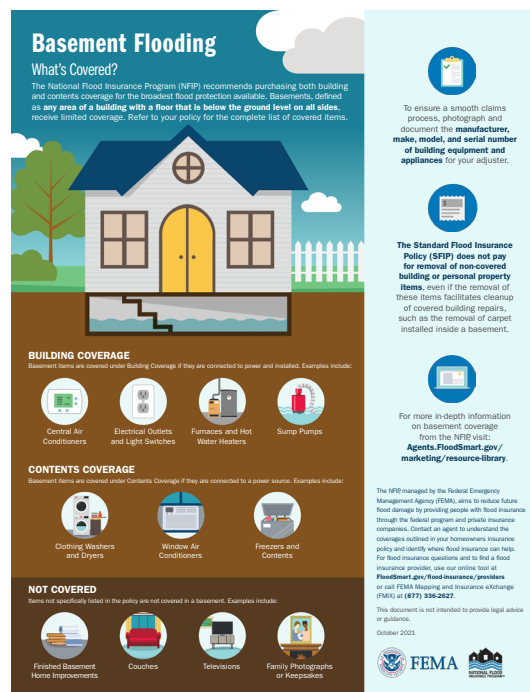
The new EC is expected to request additional data needed to better align the new Risk Rating 2.0 flood insurance methodology. Until the new forms are issued, the current forms remain valid and any forms signed prior to the date of the new release may be accepted. All certificates signed after the release date must be on the new forms.

Remember the EC is just a tool to help you determine compliance with your floodplain regulations. It must be reviewed for accuracy and does not guarantee compliance. Check for items such as accurate building diagram, freeboard, required openings in any enclosures/attached garage, lowest machinery and equipment, and lowest adjacent grade. The EC does not address floodplain development concerns such as fill compaction or if the improvements are in the floodway.

## Basement Flooding - What's Covered?

As part of FEMA's disaster support outreach, a series of new infographics have been published to assist agents, adjusters, and consumers before and after flooding events.

The [Basement Flooding flyer](#) explains how the NFIP defines a basement and highlights specific examples of what is and isn't covered. Composed of illustrations and plain language, this publication is suitable for all audiences. Perfect for any flood preparedness outreach.



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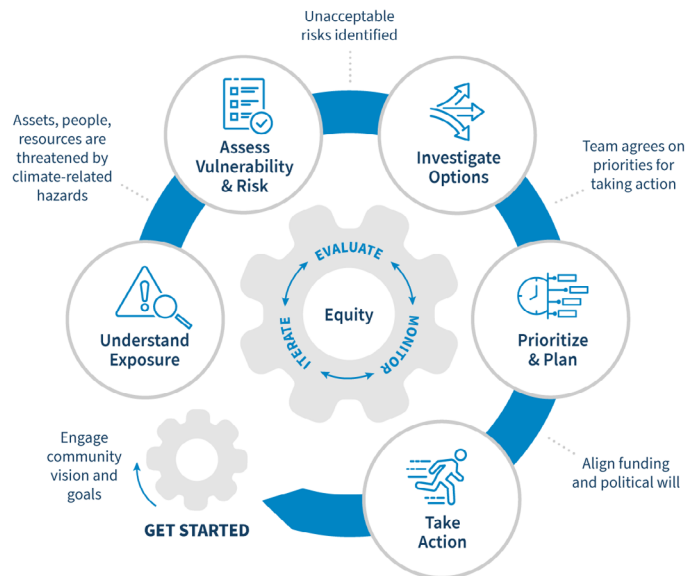
## U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit

~from the Flood Zone, Nadeau Land Surveys, December 2022

This helpful toolkit describes the “Steps to Resilience” framework, a methodical approach communities can use to identify their valuable assets, determine which climate-related hazards could harm them, and then identify and take effective actions to reduce their risk.

Built on foundational work by climate scientists and professional planners, the Steps to Resilience framework can help neighborhoods, cities, regions, and tribal or state governments quantify their vulnerability and risk and integrate considerations of people, ecosystems, and economics into their plans.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the framework, read case studies, and explore additional resources.



*Photo: A graphic overview of the Steps to Resilience. Graphic by Anna Eshelman, NOAA.*

## Illinois Floodplain Management Office Hours


Join IDNR staff to discuss your floodplain management questions during monthly virtual office hours. Any topics are open including permitting, maps, enforcement, and flood insurance. The sessions will be held on:

- [January 12](#), Thursday, 10 to 11 am
- [February 9](#), Thursday, 10 to 11 am
- [March 9](#), Thursday, 10 to 11 am

No registration is required. Select a date to open the link to the WebEx meeting.



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## Top 5 NFIP Publications of 2022

~Excerpt from ASFPM News & Views, December 15, 2022

Now is the perfect time to check in with clients and make sure your community is prepared for a flood event in 2023 and beyond. Here are the top five most popular NFIP publications and resources of 2022 you can use to inform clients of their flood risk and help homeowners, renters and business owners protect the lives they've built. [Did your favorite resource make the list?](#)

## America Underwater: Extreme Floods Expose the Flaws in FEMA's Risk Maps

~Excerpt from ASFPM News & Views, December 15, 2022

In a powerful, multimedia piece, the Washington Post looks at some of the extreme flood events of this past summer and how outdated flood maps combined with more intense rain are putting more people at flood risk.

"Maps do not forecast flooding. Maps only reflect past flooding conditions and are a snapshot in time. They do not represent all hazards and do not predict future conditions," said Michael Grimm, acting deputy associate administrator of FEMA's Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration. [Read more.](#)

## Updated NFIP Flood Insurance Manual and Answers to Your Questions

The October 2022 edition of the [National Flood Insurance Program Flood Insurance Manual](#) is now available to view and download. The current manual explains the Risk Rating 2.0: Equity in Action pricing methodology along with the legacy rating plan. The manual can be used to help you answer any questions you or a resident in your community may have, however, please don't hesitate to contact the IDNR State Floodplain Management staff at [Erin.C.Conley@illinois.gov](mailto:Erin.C.Conley@illinois.gov) or [Marilyn.Sucoe@illinois.gov](mailto:Marilyn.Sucoe@illinois.gov). If we don't know the answer, we will put you in touch with James Sink, FEMA Region V's Flood Insurance Liaison.



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# 2023 Annual Conference



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## Conference Exhibitors



Register at: <https://www.illinoisfloods.org/event/3/1026/2023-iafsm-annual-conference>



## From the Chair

~Steve Altman, P.E., CFM, IDNR-OWR

Happy New Year! Things started returning to normal for IAFSM. We held an in-person conference and held an in-person exam CFM exams for the first time since 2020. We are continuing to use the Virtual option for our Board meetings and potential use as an option for trainings. The board met in November to help Conference Chair Dallas Alley plan the 2023 Annual conference. Thank You to all of those folks who submitted abstracts!

Moving forward, IAFSM is looking for members to lead and participate in the Floodplain Management committee. If you are interested contact [Mark.Hoskins@illinois.gov](mailto:Mark.Hoskins@illinois.gov) and [Steve.Altman@illinois.gov](mailto:Steve.Altman@illinois.gov). I hope to see all of you in Tinley Park in March!



*Photo: Dallas Alley, IAFSM Vice President and Conference Chair, made a floodplain with his Christmas lights. I wonder if it shows up on the DFIRM!?*

## IAFSM H&H Software Analysis Subcommittee Update

~Steve Bicking, PE, D.WRE, CFM, HR Green

The Stormwater Committee's Hydrologic & Hydraulic Software Analysis Subcommittee has been meeting over the course of the last year to evaluate various software used to complete urban stormwater modeling as a replacement for XP-SWMM. The goal was to establish consistency among consulting firms and municipalities within Illinois for dynamic and 2-D stormwater modeling software. The subcommittee intends to publish their recommendation at the 2023 annual conference. Sub-committee chairman Matt Moffitt will give a presentation at the annual conference to discuss the sub-committee's approach, findings, and ultimate recommendation. For more info, contact [sbicking@hrgreen.com](mailto:sbicking@hrgreen.com).

## CRS Data Visualizations

The Community Rating System resources include a data visualization website that allows the public to search and visualize data related to the CRS. The page can be found [here](#).

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## IAFSM Young Professionals Updates

~Sarah Wenzel, PE, CFM, Prairie Engineers

The Young Professionals Group of IAFSM has been very active. The group is open to any IAFSM member who identifies as a young professional. To receive email updates on activities, refer to the email signup info below. For general info on the YP group, contact Sarah Wenzel at [swenzel@prairieengineers.com](mailto:swenzel@prairieengineers.com).

### Young Professionals Conference Events

Are you a young professional? Do you want to make friends with the up-and-coming faces of IAFSM? Come join us for breakfast at our designated Young Professionals Tables in the dining hall at 8:00am on March 14th and 15th. Then join us for an extended social hour after the conference on March 14th! Watch for more details in the conference booklet!

### New! Young Professionals Email List

If you would like to receive additional updates, reminders, and opportunities for young professional events, please join our new young professionals email list! There are three ways to sign up: 1) Check yes to receive IAFSM Young professionals email content when you register for the conference. (This feature is newly added as of December). 2) Email Sarah Harbaugh directly and ask to be added. 3) Speak with a IAFSM YP Committee representative at the annual conference to sign up! We are happy to have you!

### New! \$75 Student Two-Day Conference Rate (Full Conference)

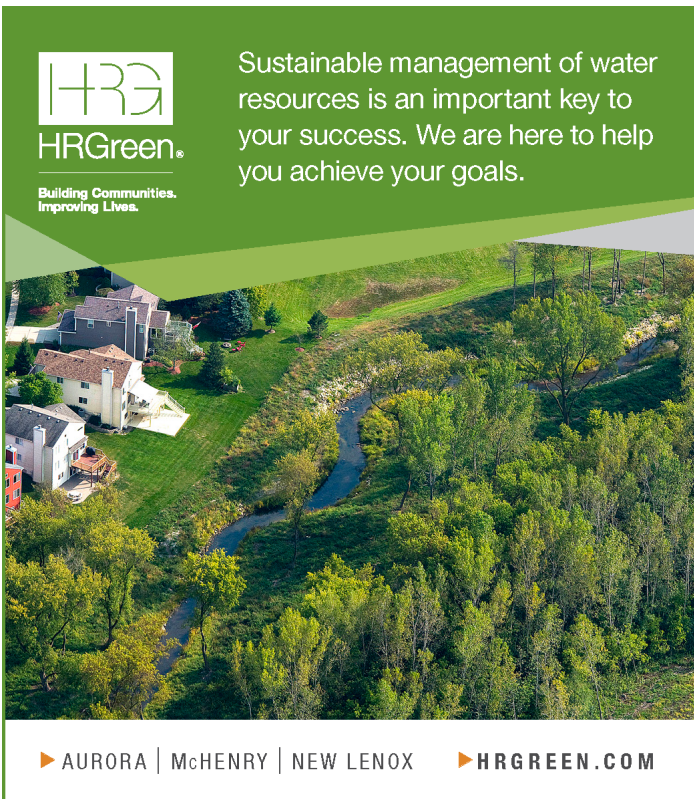
Know any students in Water Resources or a related discipline? Invite them to join us at the IAFSM annual conference in Tinley Park! Students enrolled in 6 or more credit hours at an accredited university can receive the most affordable rates ever offered for full IAFSM conference admission. A one-year IAFSM membership is included with every conference admission. In addition to receiving the student rate, students are invited to attend the IAFSM Board meeting and network with some of the most established professionals in the water industry. Students should register directly through the IAFSM website. Don't miss it!

### New! Half-Day Student Conference Option

IAFSM is excited to offer complimentary one half-day admission to the annual conference to students enrolled in 6 or more credit hours who want to experience IAFSM without a large financial or time commitment. Food and drinks are not included in half-day admissions.

### Student Conference Scholarship:

Student conference scholarships are available and cover conference admission, a one-night hotel stay, one year membership to IAFSM, and recognition at the award ceremony! Contact Sarah Wenzel for more info including the application: [swenzel@prairieengineers.com](mailto:swenzel@prairieengineers.com)



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## Youth Outreach Committee Updates: Borrow our Outreach Tools; Participate in RISE Challenge

~Brian Chaille, P.E., CFM, ISWS



*Photo: Dan Feltes, MWRD, joined his daughter Meghan's 6th grade class to teach a lab on hydraulics using IAFSM's sediment and water table.*

Life must be returning to some kind of normal, because IAFSM members are busy teaching large groups of students, in person! IAFSM member Dan Feltes from MWRD has been particularly eager to use IAFSM's EM2 Erosion Model to show students at four middle schools and four scout troops how rivers work, and how engineers and planners like us work with rivers. Dan told us, "Over 300 students and Scouts experienced first hand the power of water to move soil, as they enjoyed a valuable STEM classroom experience. Thank you again for lending it for this important outreach." Wow Dan! It's our pleasure! You can tell by the photos that these young leaders really enjoyed this valuable STEM classroom experience.

If Dan has inspired you, like he inspired us, maybe you'd like to plan to show the students in your life what makes floodplain and stormwater management so important to you and how they can be involved. The Youth Outreach Committee is here to support you! We have great tools that are guaranteed to engage and

enlighten. In addition to the erosion model (currently stored in Northeast Illinois), we have five watershed simulation models and the Extreme Event emergency response game. If you are unsure about how to start, just email Brian Chaille at [bchaille@illinois.edu](mailto:bchaille@illinois.edu), and he'd be glad to give you some pointers. Contact Sarah Harbaugh, [IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org](mailto:IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org) if you'd like to reserve an outreach tool.

IAFSM is proud to join with Earth Force, FEMA, the ASFPM Foundation and the Environmental Education Association of Illinois (EEAI) support RISE Challenge Illinois in 2023!

The Rise Challenge is a student led learning experience which focuses on a natural hazard faced by the student's community with the goal that students take civic action to reduce that hazard in their own communities. It follows Next Generation Science Standards, NGSS (which fits well with what we do). Students lead each step in the process: topic initiation, investigation, group decision making, design and execute research (analysis and interpretation), research policy and community practice research, problem statement, solution development based on argument from evidence, and civic action planning and communication.

This is a real competition, with prizes awarded to the top proposals and implementation funding offered to all! Those groups who successfully progress through the steps present their findings at the RISE Summit in late spring.

If you are interested in helping with this incredible opportunity, you can learn more here: <https://eeai.net/earth-force-and-rise-challenge/>. Now is the time to talk with your network of science teachers and scout troop leaders to form teams or sign up

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## IAFSM Annual Awards

Awards Season is upon us! Nominate Your Peers and Colleagues for Stormwater and Floodplain Management Awards!

Do you know someone who has made notable contributions to furthering the goals and missions of IAFSM? Nominate them now!

All Nominations and References are to be submitted online or via email. Nominations are now being accepted for the awards listed below. Nominations for the following categories are due by February 1, 2023. Please visit <https://www.illinoisfloods.org/membership/awards> for more information.

**Floodplain Manager of the Year:** Recognizes outstanding individual efforts and contributions at the local level in the area of floodplain management.

**Stormwater Management:** Awarded to an individual or group who have improved Stormwater management or reduced urban flood risks through creative engineering, regulatory measures, or other approaches.

**Mitigation:** Given to an individual or community that has encouraged flood hazard reduction through a buyout program, retrofitting, preparation of a mitigation plan, or other similar mitigation efforts.

**Outstanding Service:** Awarded to an IAFSM officer, a Federal, State, or Local Official, or a consultant who has gone above and beyond normal expectations and duties to promote or encourage IAFSM goals.

**Journalism or Public Outreach Award:** Given to a media outlet that has produced floodplain or stormwater management special features during the year. The award can include individuals or agencies who have contributed to outreach and public awareness of floodplain or stormwater management issues.

**Legislation:** Honors Illinois law makers or local officials for their efforts in floodplain issues. The award can also be given to an individual who makes extraordinary efforts to encourage the passage of legislation or to a community that has adopted unique local regulations that promote floodplain management or flood damage reduction.

**Lifetime Achievement:** This award is the IAFSM's highest honor. It is reserved for outstanding longtime floodplain managers. These individual's long-term contributions have made a noticeable impact on floodplain and stormwater management efforts in the State of Illinois. This award is not always given on a yearly basis.



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## 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:

Or email Sarah Wenzel at [swenzel@prairieengineers.com](mailto:swenzel@prairieengineers.com) to receive online application link to share with a student in your life.

### IAFSM/ASFPM Sponsored Training Opportunities:

2023 IAFSM Annual Conference March 14-15, Tinley Park, IL

2023 ASFPM Annual National Conference will be in Raleigh North Carolina, May 7-11,

### 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 thru the NFIP – February 13-16, 2023
- » E0278 NFIP Community Rating System – April 3-6, 2023
- » E0279 Retrofitting Floodprone Residential Buildings – May 1-4, 2023

### Webinars:

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

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

Other training and CEC opportunities can be found on ASFPM's calendar: <http://www.floods.org/n-calendar/calendar.asp?>

## IAFSM Conference Scholarships for Local Officials

At least ten local official scholarships will be offered again this year for the IAFSM 2023 Conference. The conference will be held on March 14-15 in Tinley Park. Priority will be given to new floodplain administrators and those that have not received a previous scholarship. For those traveling more than 150 miles, hotel accommodation for one night will also be provided. If interested, please send an email to [Erin.C.Conley@illinois.gov](mailto:Erin.C.Conley@illinois.gov) for the application.



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## Important Stuff We Tell You in Every Newsletter...

### Save the Date! 2023 IAFSM Conference

The 2023 Annual Conference is being planned for March 14 and 15, 2023. We will be returning to the Tinley Park Convention Center. Refer to the article in this newsletter for registration info!

### Wanted: Newsletter Ideas and Articles

IAFSM members, this is YOUR newsletter! Email Jennifer Maercklein, editor, at [jmaercklein@v3co.com](mailto: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](mailto:IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org) to make arrangements.




*Tim O'Brien uses the IAFSM Water Table to demonstrate flooding and flood mitigation techniques to local residents at the Village of Niles Public Works Open House in September 2021.*

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### Next Board Meeting

The next IAFSM Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 11 at 10am. Location is TBD. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

### 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](mailto:IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org).

### CFM Exam Information

Beginning in 2023, exams are only offered online. Online exams can be taken in your home (monitored by an online proctor) or at a testing center; there are many testing centers throughout Illinois. For information, visit [www.illinoisfloods.org/certification.html](http://www.illinoisfloods.org/certification.html).





# THE IAFSM CURRENT

*Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management*

Winter 2023 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](mailto:jmaercklein@v3co.com).

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