



# THE IAFSM CURRENT

Illinois Association for  
Floodplain and Stormwater Management

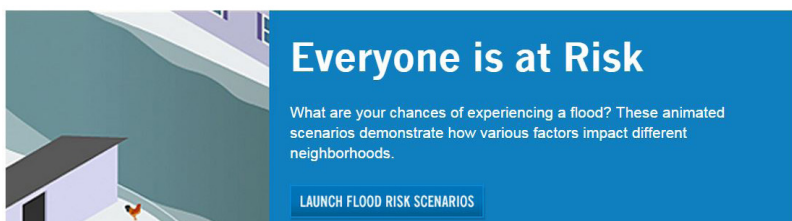
Summer 2015 Newsletter

## Visualize Flood Risk with FloodSmart's Flood Risk Scenarios Tool

~Abbi Boose, FloodSmart

The consequences of a flood can be devastating to families, businesses, finances, and the overall health of a community. It is something we hope that people will never have to live through or recover from. But because we know that floods are the most common natural disaster in the United States—in fact, all 50 states have experienced flooding in the last 5 years—

it is a safe bet that most people and communities are at risk of flooding in the near future. Using the free [Flood Risk Scenarios Tool](#) available on [FloodSmart.gov](#) demonstrates that anywhere it can rain, it can flood. FloodSmart is the marketing and education campaign of the National Flood Insurance Program.



This tool demonstrates the different risk scenarios in which a flood can occur.

- [Snowmelt](#) is a common cause of flooding during the winter and early spring months. During these times, large amounts of runoff cannot be absorbed into the frozen ground. The water accumulates into lakes, streams, and rivers, causing excess water to spill over their banks.
- [Flash floods](#) are the most common severe weather emergency. A flash flood is caused by intense rainfall from one or more downpours, and can also be caused by the collapse of a man-made structure, such as a levee or dam.
- Construction and [new development](#) can change the natural drainage patterns in areas around buildings, parking lots, and roads, meaning less land is available to absorb excess water.
- [Dams](#) and [levees](#) also pose a flood risk. While these structures assist in the prevention of flooding, there are instances when it can still occur. Dams can become jammed with debris or can fail with the build-up of water pressure—or they can weaken over time and crack or collapse altogether. Levees can be overtopped or breached.
- [Tropical storms, hurricanes](#), and [Nor'easters](#) can bring several inches of precipitation in just hours. These heavy rains can lead to severe flooding by oversaturating the ground, overfilling storm drains, or causing rivers to spill over their banks or levees.

All of these examples are demonstrated in the Flood Risk Scenarios Tool and can help residents understand the many ways they may be at risk. Since floods can happen anywhere that it can rain, it's important that everyone is financially protected

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from the dangers of floodwaters. Flood insurance is available to residents and business owners in both high- and moderate-to low-risk areas. And because most policies take up to 30 days to go into effect, the time to act is now.

The Flood Risk Scenarios Tool is available for download through FloodSmart's Community Resource page. For those interested in using this tool, it easily can be embedded into websites. This tool, in addition to other tools and resources on [FloodSmart.gov](http://FloodSmart.gov), can assist in educating communities about flood risks and educating residents about the need to purchase flood insurance that will help reduce the financial impact of flooding.

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## Ottawa Gets \$25,000 Top Prize for Flooding Project

~Charles Stanley, *Ottawa Times*, [charless@mywebtimes.com](mailto:charless@mywebtimes.com)



*Mike Sutfin of Ottawa with The Weather Channel's Jim Cantore.*

Ottawa Building Official Mike Sutfin has snared another top honor relating to flood prevention for the city of Ottawa.

In May, in Washington, D.C., as the representative of the city, Sutfin was presented with the top "Judges' Prize" award and \$25,000 in a national contest seeking ways to reduce the risk of weather-related disasters in communities.

That means Ottawa surpassed dozens of other entries from more than 20 states with innovative solutions to reduce weather disaster risk in this "Solution Search" competition.

The team of top judges selecting Ottawa included former U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson and Weather Channel meteorologist and storm tracker Jim Cantore.

Ottawa was recognized for its floodplain development project that moved buildings and people out of harm's way so that the city's natural river floodplain could flow freely.

For the complete story, visit the Ottawa Times online at <http://tinyurl.com/OttawaAwardStory2>.



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## New Report Examines Issues, Strategies for Dealing with Urban Flooding

~IDNR Press Release, July 7, 2015

The prevalence and costs associated with urban flooding in Illinois, along with strategies and recommendations for minimizing damage to property from urban flooding are examined in a new report published by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR).

The IDNR prepared the report, in collaboration with other state agencies, at the direction of the Illinois General Assembly to detail the extent, cost, prevalence, and policies related to urban flooding in Illinois and to identify resources and technology that may lead to mitigation of the impacts of urban flooding.

Documented damages from flooding in urban areas in Illinois totaled more than \$2.3 billion between 2007 and 2014, of which more than \$1.2 billion were private claims typically representing basement flooding and sewer backups.

The report found that urban flooding is most common in older sections of communities with older sewer systems, and that urbanization and climate trends have increased stormwater runoff. The report suggests improving data collection and analyses on urban flooding to guide programs and policies to reduce flood damages.

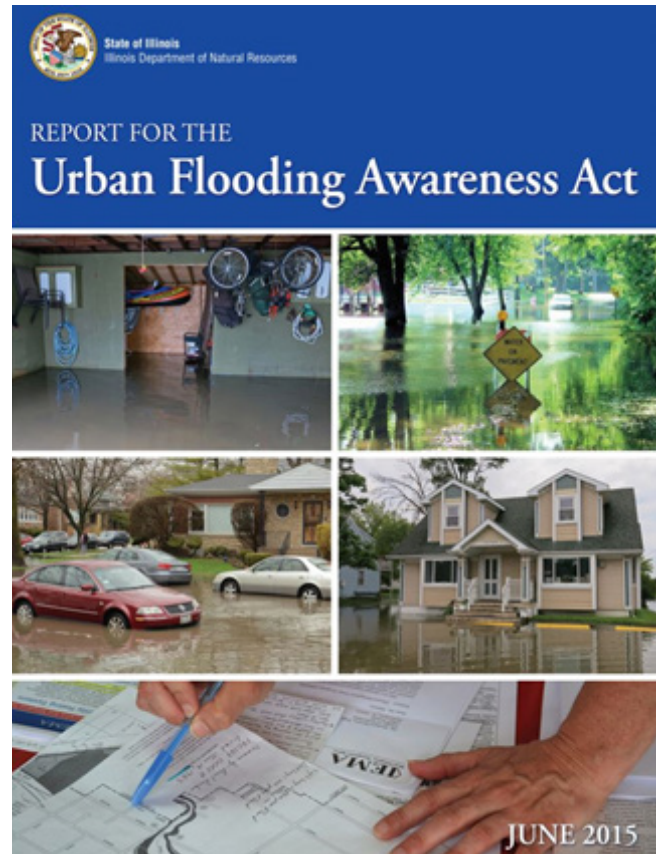
The report also suggests pursuing options to mitigate urban flood damages, such as green and gray infrastructure, increasing open areas in areas of redevelopment, and updating aging, undersized storm sewer systems. The report also recommends that communities implement programs to reduce urban flooding risk and damages, while individuals can purchase sewer and basement riders from private insurance providers and flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program. The state can provide incentives to communities, including access to grants and revolving funds to address flooding issues.

The research presented in the report has led to 33 recommendations, some of which the IDNR is already working on with other key state agencies: developing a draft state model stormwater ordinance for local communities; determining how best to appropriate expenditures of state revolving funds for stormwater management measures; and, coordinating federal and state mitigation grant programs and projects potentially addressing urban flood measures through the Illinois Mitigation Advisory Group. The remaining recommendations in the report address the need for authorities, education and awareness, local regulations, collaboration between government agencies and communities, and funding for programs and data collection efforts to reduce future flood damage costs in Illinois.

The Illinois Urban Flooding Awareness Act Report is posted on the IDNR website at these links:

[http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/WaterResources/Documents/Final\\_UFAA\\_Report.pdf](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/WaterResources/Documents/Final_UFAA_Report.pdf)

[http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/WaterResources/Documents/Final\\_UFAA\\_Appendices.pdf](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/WaterResources/Documents/Final_UFAA_Appendices.pdf)





## Bachelor's and Master's Degrees Now Available in Floodplain Management

The ASFPM Higher Education Committee is pleased to announce there are now two U.S. universities offering degrees in Floodplain Management:

- [Western Kentucky University](#) offers a Bachelor's of Interdisciplinary Studies degree with concentration in Floodplain Management. For more information contact Warren Campbell at [warren.campbell@wku.edu](mailto:warren.campbell@wku.edu)
- The [University of Washington in Seattle](#) offers a Master's degree in Infrastructure Planning and Management with a Floodplain Management Degree Option. The program is a hybrid distant learning program and the majority of the courses taken online with the exception of 2 summer Seattle based resident sessions. For more information contact Bob Freitag at [bfreitag@uw.edu](mailto:bfreitag@uw.edu).




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## From the Chair

~E. Stuart Richter, Whiteside County

I officially became Chair of IAFSM in May and on the 20th, participated in my first board meeting since March, 2011. Having been Chair from 2007 to 2009, I found that this time was totally different and yet totally the same. There were a few new faces around the table, but all are doing the same, exemplary work for the Association. It was almost like I had never left except now there is this older guy chairing the meeting.

After I left the position of Immediate Past Chair in 2011, I participated in a committee to find someone to prepare a new web site for IAFSM. The committee did its work and made a recommendation to the IAFSM Board who went with the recommendation. Sorry to say that due to one delay or another, the project is still in the works. The board, with the help of Ron Davis, SHMO at IEMA, applied for a FEMA grant and we are still negotiating with FEMA at present. Should the grant request fall through the board indicated, at the May 20th meeting, that we would pursue the new web site with our own funds. We might have to scale down the proposed features at first and work them in over time. First and foremost: our goal will be to meet the needs of our association members.


The budget process has become more intricate and we are approaching new levels as a not-for-profit organization. ASFPM has added to this by suggesting that we obtain new insurance for "Errors and Omissions" by our officers and Bonding for the same. More research is being done on these fronts as they will better protect the association in the future.

Also at the May 20th meeting, the board accomplished some housekeeping with our By-laws and policies. We did not finish, as the hour grew late, so it will be finished at the July 15th meeting. We allowed the dues to be set by the board as needed without having to change the By-laws each time, set terms of office for officers and committee chairs and established July 1 as the start of our fiscal year. We also made some changes to the policy for travel to the ASFPM conference. Yet to go is action on our "Email Voting" and "Watershed Model" policies.

We had a great time at the AFSPM conference in Atlanta, learned much about the coming change in the charges for flood insurance policies and even conducted some business on behalf of IAFSM with our bank. Loren Wobig, our Immediate Past Chair, gave a great presentation on our Symposium at the "Chapters Meeting". Mike Sutfin, our Floodplain Management Chair, and State Senator Sue Rezin, 38th District, presented at the Thursday Plenary on their efforts to improve flood plain management throughout her district. It was well done and well received. I would like to report that IAFSM was selected as "Chapter of the Year", but unfortunately that went to Oklahoma. As Loren put it, AFSPM is tired of giving it to us every year.

I am going to try an experiment in future editions of "From the Chair" by asking other officers to join in this column. They can relate to you what is going on with their work for the association. As I said, it will be an experiment as they may have no interest in doing so, but at some point they will be asked to write this column themselves and will already have some experience.

I shall close for now with another quote from the famous "Anonymous": *The real defeat is falling off the bottom.*



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## Report Summarizes the Urban Flooding Symposium

In February, IAFSM and the ASFP Foundation hosted the first Illinois Flood Risk Symposium in Chicago, Illinois. The focus of the Symposium was urban flooding, based on the wide spread flood damages caused by urban flooding and the recent Illinois Urban Flooding Awareness legislation. The Symposium has been documented in a report that captures the discussion topics, consensus items and proposed action items. The report is planned to be included with the Urban Flood Awareness Act report as an appendix. The report is available on the IAFSM website at [www.illinoisfloods.org](http://www.illinoisfloods.org).

## One World. One Water. One Stormwater Congress.

WEFTEC 2015 Stormwater Congress, September 26-30, in Chicago, is a national event for stormwater professionals and innovative companies from around the world to gather in one location, at the largest water quality conference and exhibition in the world, to learn from the very best thought-leaders in the stormwater industry.

The WEFTEC Stormwater Congress offers high quality, comprehensive education on topics important to the stormwater professional, including:

- Regulations and policies
- Flooding impacts and mitigation
- Benefits of green infrastructure
- Stormwater and transportation systems
- Operations and maintenance
- Research in stormwater
- Stormwater financing and funding strategies

Stormwater Congress attendees also have full access to attend:

- All WEFTEC technical sessions, covering the entire water industry
- WEFTEC Exhibition, featuring more than 1,000 exhibiting companies
- The Stormwater Pavilion – located on the WEFTEC exhibition floor, filled exclusively with stormwater exhibitors, and includes numerous presentations, discussions and networking events

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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.

### EMI Training Opportunities:

EMI provides a wide range of training opportunities and upcoming training includes:

- Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts II August 3-6
- Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts III, August 24-27
- NFIP/CRS, July 27 -30 and August 31-September 3
- Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP June 22-25, and August 21-24
- EMI courses are free for local and state government employees. Learn more at the EMI website.
- <http://training.fema.gov/EMI/>

### Webinars/ Online:

STARR/FEMA, [atkinsglobalna.webex.com](http://atkinsglobalna.webex.com) and search by title, free-registration required:

- Introduction to CRS: July 21
- Elevation Certificates: July 9
- CRS Webinar Series: Preparing and Impact Adjustment Map, July 22
- CRS Webinar Series: Preparing and Annual Recertification, August 18, August 19

Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM), **Developing and Implementing Dam Removal Projects**, September 24.

Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM), **Finding that Base Flood Elevation (BFE)!** October 6.

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

### Save the Dates! 2016 IAFSM Conference and National Conference

The 2016 Annual Conference will return to Tinley Park and be held Wednesday and Thursday, March 9 and 10, 2016, at the Tinley Park Convention Center. The 2016 National Conference will be held in our region next year, on June 19 – 24 in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

### 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 two 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 keeps one in Springfield and the other in northeast Illinois. Contact Sarah at [IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org](mailto:IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org) to make arrangements.

### Next Board Meeting

The next IAFSM Board Meeting will be held on July 15 at 10:00 a.m. at the City of Ottawa. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend Board meetings. See you there!

### Jobmart

Visit our Jobmart at <http://www.illinoisfloods.org/jobmart.html>. Jobmart is a free service to members of IAFSM. If you would like to post a position, send complete information to [IAFSM@sbcglobal.net](mailto:IAFSM@sbcglobal.net).

### 2015 CFM Exam Schedule


To view 2015 exam dates and register, visit [www.illinoisfloods.org/certification.html](http://www.illinoisfloods.org/certification.html).

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Illinois Association for  
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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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