



NFIP/CRS UPDATE

April 2009

New CRS Credits for State Dam Safety Programs

Over the past year the CRS initiated a new approach to verify the credit awarded to CRS communities for the dam safety programs operated by their states. This has been the first comprehensive review of those scores since 1999.

Under CRS Activity 630 (Dam Safety) (Section 631.a in the CRS Coordinator’s Manual), a CRS community may receive up to 75 CRS credit points for its state’s dam safety program (SDS). A state’s score is based on standards outlined in the Model State Dam Safety Program developed by the Association of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO).

Each year, the National Dam Safety Review Board and ASDSO request information from the state organizations that regulate dam safety about their programs, using an online survey tool developed through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, known as the Dam Safety Program Management Tool (DSPMT). In 2008, additional information—pertaining to the CRS—was requested from the states through the DSPMT. Every state responded to the survey, and their answers were evaluated to assign more accurate CRS credit for each state’s program.

All 50 states were reviewed, plus Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia. Their old (1999) CRS scores and the new ones are shown in the table on the next page. Notice that

- 3 state programs are receiving credit for the first time (Delaware, Rhode Island, and West Virginia).
- 28 states’ scores dropped, some by less than one point but ranging up to a 28-point loss for one state.
- 11 states’ scores increased, from less than one point to 9.5 points.
- 11 state programs continue to get no credit under the CRS. This time, however, it is clear that the absence of credit is not due to missing information, but because there is a known shortcoming in the state’s program.

Under the 1999 scoring, six states had received the maximum CRS credit of 75 points; two states had 74 points; and 12 had more than 70 points. Under the new 2008 scoring, the highest score is 73.7 (New Jersey) and only 6 states have more than 70 points.

Using the DSPMT has proven very beneficial to the CRS. The DSPMT staff paired the SDS credit criteria of the CRS to the sub-elements of the ASDSO program that are evaluated in the DSPMT. As a result, it is

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relatively easy to see the areas in which a state has a strong performance and where it is lacking. For example, there is a score for requiring a dam safety permit. Some states require much more information on the permit application, along with a more rigorous evaluation of the dam's design and operation. The DSPMT's scoring reflects these differences, which are translated to the CRS scoring as appropriate.

All the states' dam safety staffs are being sent the new scores for comment. Any CRS community that has questions about why its CRS score for SDS changed should contact its state dam safety office.

The DSPMT undertakes this data collection effort annually for reporting to the National Dam Safety Review Board and ASDSO, so it is anticipated that the CRS scores will always be an accurate reflection of the current quality of the state's dam safety program, and give appropriate credit to CRS communities for the accompanying reduction in their risk of flood losses.

CRS communities that receive credit under Activity 630 will see the new state scores for their dam safety programs take effect on October 1, 2009.

CRS Credit Points provided for State Dam Safety Programs								
State	1999	2008	Change		State	1999	2008	Change
Alabama	0	0.0	0.0		Nebraska	68	59.2	-8.8
Alaska	58	67.5	9.5		Nevada	60	50.9	-9.1
Arizona	72	68.5	-3.5		New Hampshire	75	72.3	-2.7
Arkansas	75	53.4	-21.6		New Jersey	67	73.7	6.7
California	74	63.8	-10.2		New Mexico	57	63.0	6.0
Colorado	75	70.8	-4.2		New York	56	60.0	4.0
Connecticut	56	50.9	-5.1		No. Carolina	58	52.0	-6.0
Delaware	0	0.0	0.0		No. Dakota	68	57.7	-10.3
Dist. Columbia.	0	0.0	0.0		Ohio	63	59.7	-3.3
Florida	67	71.0	4.0		Oklahoma	56	52.1	-3.9
Georgia	64	61.9	-2.1		Oregon	0	0.0	0.0
Hawaii	68	69.8	1.8		Pennsylvania	75	69.6	-5.4
Idaho	71	65.0	-6.0		Puerto Rico	0	69.4	69.4
Illinois	59	56.8	-2.2		Rhode Island	0	67.0	67.0
Indiana	0	0.0	0.0		So. Carolina	57	39.9	-17.1
Iowa	0	0.0	0.0		So. Dakota	71	43	-28.0
Kansas	64	71.5	7.5		Tennessee	0	0.0	0.0
Kentucky	69	45.8	-23.2		Texas	55	46.1	-8.9
Louisiana	74	67.6	-6.4		Utah	68	57.9	-10.1
Maine	0	0.0	0.0		Vermont	0	0.0	0.0
Maryland	75	72.5	-2.5		Virgin Islands	0	0.0	0.0
Massachusetts	52	51.6	-0.4		Virginia	75	55	-20
Michigan	57	57.6	0.6		Washington	63	68.9	5.9
Minnesota	61	60.8	-0.2		W. Virginia	0	51.8	51.8
Mississippi	68	51.6	-16.4		Wisconsin	68	69.5	1.5
Missouri	0	0.0	0.0		Wyoming	54	57.3	3.3
Montana	72	66.8	-5.2					

ISO/CRS Specialists Changes

The ISO/CRS Specialists are an invaluable resource for CRS communities. They are responsible for reviewing community applications for CRS classification and verifying implementation of activities credited by the CRS, and they also provide other guidance and answer questions as needed. The 15 ISO/CRS Specialists and their assignments are listed in Appendix G of the *CRS Coordinator's Manual*. Those pages have been revised to show a slight realignment of the territory covered by each staff person, along with some changes in their contact information. Replacements for those two pages of the *Manual* are included at the end of this newsletter.

Get Ready for a Cycle Verification

CRS communities that are scheduled for a cycle review and that are receiving credit under Activity 450 (Stormwater Management) or Activity 610 (Flood Warning Program) will receive a questionnaire in advance of the visit. These questionnaires ask for information about the work the community has been doing that is covered under those activities. The information helps the technical reviewer identify all the credits to which the community is entitled. Without the completed questionnaire, the reviewer may simply search for the minimum requirements or confirm that previously awarded credits are still warranted.

So, if you want to be sure you receive all the credit you deserve under Activity 450 or Activity 610, don't forget to complete these questionnaires.

A Few New Regional CRS Coordinators

A community's first point of contact on the CRS is the ISO/CRS Specialist for the area (listed on the last two pages of this newsletter and in Appendix G of the *CRS Coordinator's Manual*). Another point of contact and source of assistance that should not be overlooked, however, is the FEMA Regional CRS Coordinator. There is one coordinator in each FEMA Regional Office. A Regional Office directory can be found at <http://www.fema.gov/about/regions>.

Region 1	David Knowles—617/956-7570, David.Knowles@dhs.gov
Region 2	Richard Einhorn—732/427-1543, Richard.Einhorn@dhs.gov
Region 3	David Odegard—215/931-5506, David.Odegard@dhs.gov
Region 4	Robert Durrin—770/220-5428, Robert.Durrin@dhs.gov
Region 5	Eric Kuklewski—312/408-5230, Eric.Kuklewski@dhs.gov
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Region 7	Roger Benson—816/283-7031, Roger.Benson@dhs.gov
Region 8	Bonnie Heddin—303/235-4739, Bonnie.Heddin@dhs.gov
Region 9	Cynthia McKenzie—510/627-7190, Cynthia.McKenzie@dhs.gov
Region 10	John Graves—425/487-4737, John.Graves1@dhs.gov

Reminder: Take Advantage of Courtesy Reviews

If your community will be requesting CRS credit for new activities you have undertaken since joining the CRS, be sure to contact your ISO/CRS Specialist (listed on the last two pages of this newsletter) to request a “courtesy review.”

Under this process, your ISO/CRS Specialist will take an informal look at your ordinance language, outreach project, or other product and suggest minor changes that may result in a better score. Do this any time, but in advance of your request for credit so there won't be any delay in getting the points you deserve.

Technical Coordinator sought for CRS Program

Insurance Services Office (ISO), which provides FEMA with technical support for administering the Community Rating System, is looking for a person to help manage internal work related to the CRS as a Technical Coordinator, Community Hazard Mitigation Programs. The person hired may choose to work at ISO's home office in Jersey City, New Jersey, or in one of the Regional Processing Centers located in Marlton, New Jersey (outside Philadelphia) or Chicago, Illinois. The opening is in ISO's Flood Program, and will be responsible for

- Coordinating activities among the Community Rating System (Flood) Program and other ISO mitigation programs (Building Code Evaluation and Public Protection);
- Providing technical support for the Flood Program;
- Coordinating the distribution of flood publications;
- Providing program support to information technology staff for software development and testing; and
- Providing technical support to ISO corporate communications for marketing and advertising flood program products and services (brochures, displays, booths, etc.).

The successful candidate will have a combination of the following knowledge, skills, and/or experience:

- College degree with 4–6 years experience in floodplain management, emergency management, evaluation of community building codes, and/or municipal fire protection analysis;
- An undergraduate or graduate degree in fire protection, occupational/industrial safety, risk management, homeland security, engineering, or an insurance-related field;
- Thorough understanding of building construction, hazards associated with building occupancies, municipal fire department administration, and loss mitigation techniques;
- A working knowledge of computers including Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, and Power Point; and of hydrology and hydraulics, geographic information systems (GIS), topographic mapping and map reading, surveying, planning, construction plan review, and stormwater regulations;
- Excellent skills in verbal and written communication, public speaking, math, and customer service;
- Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) status will be required within one year of employment.

Those interested in the position can visit <http://www.jobs-isofamily.icims.com> and insert 18868 into the keyword search block. ISO is an equal opportunity employer and offers a competitive salary and a solid benefits package with medical, dental, 401(k) and ESOP.

Opportunities for NFIP and CRS Training

Western Colorado CRS Workshop

The Colorado Association of Stormwater and Floodplain Managers is hosting a one-day workshop, “Introduction to the Community Rating System,” which will give an overview of the CRS and how to begin the application process. It is open to anyone inside or outside Colorado who is interested in the CRS, but is specifically geared toward local officials and private consultants who help communities with stormwater and floodplain management issues. The workshop will be in Grand Junction, Colorado, on June 30, 2009. You need not be a CASFM member to attend. Registration will be approximately \$20. Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM[®]) continuing education credit will be offered. The CASFM will post registration details on its website soon, at <http://www.casfm.org/>. In the meantime, get information by emailing cristina.martinez@state.co.us.

Courses at the Emergency Management Institute

FEMA’s Emergency Management Institute (EMI) conducts courses on floodplain management and CRS-related topics. These are oriented to local building, zoning, planning, and engineering officials. Tuition is free for state and local government officials and travel stipends are available. Call the training office of your state emergency management agency, see <http://training.fema.gov/>, or call EMI at (301) 447-1000.

Here’s the schedule for EMI’s week-long classes of interest to CRS communities. For more information on these courses, see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMICourses/EMICourse.asp>.

- **The Community Rating System (E278)** July 6–9, 2009, August 31—September 3, 2009, April 19–22, 2010, June 14–17, 2010, August 9–12, 2010

The Community Rating System course is also offered at other sites upon request. It will be held in Pocatello, Idaho (FEMA Region 10), July 27–30, 2009. Get information from the Idaho State NFIP Coordinator, Mary McGown, at (208) 287-4928. It will also be taught in Tuckerton, New Jersey (FEMA Region 2), May 11-14, 2009, but that course is filled to capacity.

People interested in having the week-long CRS course held closer to home should contact their ISO/CRS Specialist (see Appendix G of the *CRS Coordinator’s Manual*, or the last pages of this newsletter).

- **Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP (E273)** May 18–21, 2009 & July 20–23, 2009
E273 is also field deployed periodically. Contact your State NFIP Coordinator for more information. Your State Coordinator can be found at <http://www.floods.org/StatePOCs/stcoor.asp>.
- **Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts (E194)** May 4–8, 2009 & August 10–13, 2009
- **Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts II (E282)** September 14–17, 2009
- **Basic HAZUS Multi-Hazards (E313)** July 13–16, 2009
- **Advanced HAZUS Multi-Hazards for Flood (E172)** (prerequisite is E313) July 27–30, 2009
- **HAZUS Multi-Hazards for Mitigation Planning (E296)** August 3–6, 2009
- **Unified Mitigation Assistance Program (E212)** June 15–19, 2009
- **Residential Coastal Construction (E386)** August 17-21, 2009

Under the 2007 *CRS Coordinator’s Manual* five points are provided under Section 431.n, Staffing (STF), for each member of the floodplain permit staff who graduates from courses E194, E273, E278, E282, or E386. The maximum credit for training under Section 431.n is 25 points.

Appendix G

ISO/CRS SPECIALISTS

Alabama – Carl Barkalow	Montana – Kerry Redente
Alaska – Linda Ryan	Nebraska – Scott Cofoid
Arizona – Kerry Redente	Nevada – Dave Arkens (N), Kerry Redente (S)
Arkansas – Carl Barkalow	New Hampshire - Jimmy Chin
California – Dave Arkens	New Jersey – Ron Mielnicki
Colorado – Kerry Redente	New Mexico – Kerry Redente (W), Janine Ellington (E)
Connecticut - Jimmy Chin	New York (Long Island) – Jimmy Chin
Delaware – Tom Brett	New York (Upstate) – David Van Troost
Florida - Sherry Harper, Sue Hopfensperger, Heidi Liles, Lori Lehr	North Carolina – Mandy Todd
Georgia – David Van Troost	North Dakota – Scott Cofoid
Hawaii – Linda Ryan	Ohio – Tom Brett
Idaho – Linda Ryan	Oklahoma – Janine Ellington
Illinois – Scott Cofoid	Oregon – Dave Arkens (S), Linda Ryan (N)
Indiana – Scott Cofoid	Pennsylvania - Tom Brett
Iowa – Scott Cofoid	Rhode Island - Jimmy Chin
Kansas – Scott Cofoid	South Carolina – David Van Troost
Kentucky – Carl Barkalow	South Dakota – Kerry Redente
Louisiana – Janine Ellington	Tennessee – Carl Barkalow
Maine - Jimmy Chin	Texas - Janine Ellington
Maryland – Tom Brett	Utah – Kerry Redente
Massachusetts - Jimmy Chin	Vermont - Jimmy Chin
Michigan – Scott Cofoid	Virginia - Tom Brett
Minnesota – Scott Cofoid	Washington – Linda Ryan
Mississippi – Carl Barkalow	West Virginia – Tom Brett
Missouri – Scott Cofoid	Wisconsin – Scott Cofoid
	Wyoming – Kerry Redente

Telephone numbers are for both voice and fax unless noted otherwise.

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