



## **HUDs Proposes “Resilience Standard” to Protect Communities and Taxpayer-Funded Investments from Flooding**

To improve the nation’s resilience to flooding and better prepare the nation for the impacts of climate change, the [President’s Climate Action Plan \(June 2013\)](#) directs federal agencies to take the appropriate actions to reduce risk to federal investments, specifically to “update their flood-risk reduction standards.”

To further the Climate Action Plan, the President released Executive Order 13690, [Establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard and a Process for Further Soliciting and Considering Stakeholder Input](#).

Below is a proposed rule, where to find additional information and how to provide comments:

### **DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT 24 CFR Parts 50, 55, 58, and 200**

#### **Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands; Minimum Property Standards for Flood Hazard Exposure; Building to the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard**

**AGENCY:** Office of the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, HUD.

**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** This proposed rule would revise HUD’s regulations governing floodplain management to require, as part of the decision making process established to ensure compliance with Executive orders on Floodplain Management and Federal Flood Risk Management, that a HUD assisted or financed (including mortgage insurance) project involving new construction or substantial improvement that is situated in an area subject to floods be elevated or floodproofed between 2 and 3 feet above the base flood elevation as determined by best available information.

The proposed rule would also revise HUD’s Minimum Property Standards for one-to-four unit housing under HUD mortgage insurance and low-rent public housing programs.

Building to the proposed standards will, consistent with the Executive orders, increase resiliency to flooding, reduce the risk of flood loss, minimize the impact of floods on human safety, health, and welfare, and promote sound, sustainable, long-term planning informed by a more accurate evaluation of flood risk that takes into account possible sea level rise and increased development associated with population growth.

This document also proposes to revise a categorical exclusion available when HUD performs the environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and related Federal laws by making it consistent with changes to a similar categorical exclusion that is available to HUD grantees or other responsible entities when they perform these environmental reviews. This change will make the review standard identical regardless of whether HUD or a grantee is performing the review.

Comments on this proposed rule are due: **December 27, 2016**.

Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposed rule to the Regulations Division, Office of General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW., Room 10276, Washington, DC 20410-0500. Communications must refer to the above docket number and title. There are two methods for submitting public comments. All submissions must include the following docket number and title: **Docket No. FR-5717-P-01 and Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands; Minimum Property Standards for Flood Hazard Exposure; Building to the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard**

1. *Submission of Comments by Mail.* Comments may be submitted by mail to the Regulations Division, Office of General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW., Room 10276, Washington, DC 20410-0500.

2. *Electronic Submission of Comments.* Interested persons may submit comments electronically through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). HUD strongly encourages commenters to submit comments electronically. Electronic submission of comments allows the commenter maximum time to prepare and submit a comment, ensures timely receipt by HUD, and enables HUD to make them immediately available to the public. Comments submitted electronically through the [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) Web site can be viewed by other commenters and interested members of the public. Commenters should follow the instructions provided on that site to submit comments electronically.

**Note:** To receive consideration as public comments, comments must be submitted through one of the two methods specified above. Again, all submissions must refer to the docket number and title of the rule: Docket No. FR-5717-P-01 and Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands; Minimum Property Standards for Flood Hazard Exposure; Building to the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard.

This document is published in the Federal Register as of 10/28/2016 and available online at <https://federalregister.gov/d/2016-25521>, and on [www.FDsys.gov](http://www.FDsys.gov)

### **Floodplain Management and Flood Risk Management Standards (FFRMS) – a tutorial**

- Floods have the greatest damage potential of all natural disasters worldwide and affect the greatest number of people. **Approximately 73 percent of major U.S. disaster declarations from 2006-2015 relate to events that included flooding.**
- On January 30, 2015 the President signed Executive Order 13690, [Establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard and a Process for Further Soliciting and Considering Stakeholder Input](#). The Executive Order is consistent with the [President’s Climate Action Plan \(June 2013\)](#) which directed Federal agencies to take appropriate actions to reduce risk to Federal investments, **specifically to “update their flood-risk reduction standards.”**
- **The FFRMS is a flexible framework** to increase resilience against flooding and to help preserve the natural values of floodplains.
- **FEMA would incorporate the FFRMS** into its existing processes to:
  - Improve the chances that communities affected by future flood disasters are less vulnerable to the loss of life and property.
  - Improve the resilience of FEMA Federally Funded Projects against the impacts of flooding so that such projects will last as long as intended.
  - Provide additional protection against flooding for critical FEMA Federally Funded Projects by using actionable climate science as a preferred approach, where available and at the election of the applicant.
- As proposed, the major provisions of this rule would affect new construction and substantial repair projects that FEMA funds for individuals and communities, including some of the projects that FEMA funds in the aftermath of a disaster for State, local, and Tribal governments, private nonprofits, and individuals.
  - The restriction to new construction and substantial repair means that as proposed, the major provisions of this rule would not only affect FEMA-funded repair projects, if the cost of the damage or repair is at or above 50 percent of the market value of the structure or replacement cost of the facility.
- This rule would not directly affect the availability or price of flood insurance.

- **If FEMA were to implement the rule and Supplementary Policy as proposed, FEMA would:**
  1. Amend the definition of a floodplain, expanding it for FEMA Federally Funded Projects, which are actions involving new construction, substantial improvement, or to address substantial damage to a structure or facility.
  2. Use the Freeboard Value Approach (FVA) or the Climate-Informed Science Approach (CISA) to establish a higher vertical elevation and expanded corresponding horizontal floodplain for FEMA Federally Funded Projects.
  3. Direct, where possible, natural systems, ecosystem processes, and nature-based approaches to be used when developing alternatives to locating Federal actions in the floodplain.

When FEMA Federally Funded Projects involve more than one Federal Agency, FEMA would use the Unified Federal Review ([UFR](#)) to coordinate application of the FFRMS to those projects. The UFR Process also recognizes the important role of Federal Agencies, Tribes, States, localities, and the public in environmental and historic preservation reviews.

### **Environmental and Historic Preservation & Programmatic Agreements: FAQs & Answers**

#### **What is an Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) Programmatic Agreement?**

An EHP Programmatic Agreement (PA) is an agreement between FEMA Region 6, a State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the State Emergency Management Agency, and invited Tribes who wish to participate in the agreement. The PA's allow FEMA to expedite its historic preservation compliance responsibilities set forth in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) for a large portion of projects. PA's serve to streamline reviews so that effects of FEMA funded actions on historic properties are considered while minimizing delays to the delivery of FEMA assistance.

#### **Who do we have PA's with?**

As of May, 2016, Region 6 EHP has a Programmatic Agreement with all five of our states. Four of these PA's (AR, NM, OK, TX) are based on a national prototype which was developed by FEMA HQ and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP). We are currently in negotiations with Louisiana to update their current PA to reflect the national prototype, and projected to be signed by the end of 2016.

#### **How is it used in peacetime and/or disaster?**

PA's are extremely useful both in peacetime, and during an active disaster. Per 36 CFR part 800, the Section 106 regulations, SHPOs have 30 days to review any standard consultations. A PA between FEMA Region 6, the SHPO and the State Emergency Management allows FEMA to expedite its historic preservation compliance responsibilities set forth in Section 106 of the NHPA while adhering to applicable laws and regulations. These agreements hold multiple functions including: clarifying roles and responsibilities of FEMA, the State, and the SHPO; expanding the applicability to include FEMA non-disaster programs; enhancing existing procedures and protocols; eliminating further review of certain routine activities with little potential to adversely affect historic properties; and streamlining reviews so that effects of FEMA funded actions on historic properties are considered while minimizing delays to the delivery of FEMA assistance.

#### **Who needs to be aware of this agreement?**

While awareness of a PA may be valuable to a variety of divisions, it should be noted that the ability to use a PA is tied to a set of qualification standards defined within the agreement, and agreed upon by the FEMA, the State, and the SHPO. In Region 6, individuals who possess the qualifications to utilize the existing PA's can be found within EHP.

#### **How do the PA's contribute to overall success of EHP reviews?**

No other proactive initiative by EHP has a greater impact on expediting EHP reviews than the execution of Programmatic Agreements. An estimated 80% of projects are able to receive an accelerated review under the PA's, potentially resulting in expediting funds to applicants by at least 30 days.

### **Flood Mapping Mail Box—an Update**

On August 21, 2015, FEMA issued a memorandum providing guidance on using best available flood hazard information in areas effected by DR-4223-TX. This guidance requires FEMA to evaluate all available data sources in order to determine which source provides the "best available" flood hazard information. In turn, the "best available" flood hazard information then serves as the basis for the standards that govern construction and repair, the elevation of structures, and other FEMA-funded actions in a floodplain.

Since that time, staff created over 6,000 maps for the six Texas disasters. Mitigation deployed the model in Louisiana to respond to DR 4263 and 4277.

Taking the model a step further, Mitigation embedded a Floodplain Management and Insurance Specialist with the Individual Assistance (IA) branch. Because of the implementation of a housing mission, this role proved critical to the planning and eventual placement of mobile homes.

To date over 10,000 maps have been created as a result of this program.

The Floodplain Mapping Mailbox (FMM) was developed in response and serves as a unified approach to floodplain compliance spanning multiple programs; resulting in expedited project reviews and funding.

The FMM has proven to streamline the project review process by ensuring: 1.) Use of the best available flood hazard information throughout the disaster; 2.) Production of accurate flood maps; and 3.) Informed decision making whenever location within the floodplain is the only practicable alternative. This effort has unified FEMA's decision-making processes; continues to promote the overarching goal of risk management by properly identifying and addressing floodplain risk early on in the project-planning phase.

The mailbox allows Region 6 to enhance the process through which Mitigation serves the public and advances the key aims of EHP, NFIP, PA, IA, and HMA.

The goal of the mapping mailbox is to strengthen the floodplain review process; posturing the Region for future changes associated with major Federal initiatives such as the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard.

Do you have questions about the Flood Mapping Mailbox? Contact Ms. Sarah Carrino, 904-297-0133, or email her at [Sarah.Carrino@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Sarah.Carrino@fema.dhs.gov)

### **The State Mitigation Planning Key Topics Bulletin: Mitigation Strategy**

<https://www.fema.gov/medialibrary/assets/documents/115780>.

This document outlines a five-step process states can use to update the mitigation strategy in their state hazard mitigation plans. These steps include validating mitigation goals, evaluating and updating existing mitigation actions, identifying new mitigation actions, prioritizing mitigation actions, and identifying current and potential funding sources. Considerations for linking local and tribal mitigation strategies with the state mitigation strategy are also provided.

The Mitigation Strategy Key Topics Bulletin completes a series of four brief documents aimed at providing states, the District of Columbia and five U.S. Territories with various approaches and resources to meet the regulatory and policy requirements in the [State Mitigation Plan Review Guide](#), which became effective on March 6, 2016. The Guide presents FEMA's official policy on and interpretation of the natural hazard mitigation planning requirements for states established in the Code of Federal Regulations (44 CFR Part 201). The other three [Key Topics Bulletins](#) cover the Risk Assessment, Planning Process, and Mitigation Capabilities.

For more information and updates on FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Planning Program, please visit <https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-planning>.

**State Mitigation Planning Key Topics Bulletin: Mitigation Capabilities**

<https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/115780>.

This document provides a framework states can use to inventory and assess their hazard mitigation capabilities, including the authorities, policies, programs, staff, funding, and other resources available to accomplish mitigation and reduce long-term vulnerability. The bulletin also provides approaches for analyzing local and tribal mitigation planning capabilities for incorporation into the State Mitigation Plan.

The Mitigation Capabilities bulletin is the third document to be released in the State Mitigation Planning Key Topics Bulletins series covering the components of state mitigation planning, including risk assessment, the planning process, mitigation capabilities and mitigation strategy.

The bulletins are brief documents that provide states, the District of Columbia, and five U.S. Territories with various approaches and resources that can be used to update their plans and meet the regulatory and policy requirements described in the [State Mitigation Plan Review Guide \(Guide\)](#), which became effective on March 6, 2016. The Guide presents FEMA's official policy on and interpretation of the natural hazard mitigation planning requirements for states established in the Code of Federal Regulations (44 CFR Part 201).

For more information and updates on FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Planning Program, please visit <https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-planning>.

**FEMA Policy: Guidance on the Use of Available Flood Hazard Information: FEMA Policy #104-008-2**

FEMA has been working to update this policy guidance on the use of available flood hazard information after a disaster. Below is a summation and key elements of the policy. It is not yet available on FEMA.gov but will be sent in a separate email.

This is guidance for FEMA Headquarters, Regional program staff, and for the Field Staff at the Joint Field Office (JFO) interacting with states, tribal, and local officials, and other federal agencies and grantees following a Presidential declared disaster. This policy is also for states, tribal, and local officials following a Presidential declared disaster.

This policy supersedes Policy 108.024.5 Issuance and Use of Advisory Base Flood Elevations in the Implementation of FEMA Assistance issued December 18, 2013.

The purpose of this policy is fourfold:

**Section 1:** To provide available and Advisory Flood Hazard Information for state, tribal, and local officials in order to mitigate future flood damages;

**Sections 2, 3, and 4:** To provide guidance on the use of work maps, Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and a Flood Insurance Study (FIS) or when Advisory Base Flood Elevations (ABFEs) are available to communities for new and substantially improved/substantially damaged structures. The purpose is also to describe the insurance implications of using this information and using it for Increased Cost of Compliance. (See the Definitions section for the definition of "community.")

**Section 5:** To provide guidance for FEMA in complying with requirements in 44 CFR Section 9.7(c) and Executive Order (EO) 11988 Sec. 2(a)(1) on the use of best available flood hazard information in making FEMA mitigation and recovery decisions in areas impacted by the severe storms and flooding;

**Section 6:** To acknowledge the coordination responsibilities under the Unified 2 Federal Review Process for federal agencies to communicate and allow for an informed and collaborative approach to unifying environmental and historic preservation compliance reviews for disaster recovery work.

**PRINCIPLES**

- A. Principle 1. FEMA has the responsibility to help ensure that communities affected by disaster events become less vulnerable to the loss of life and property from future disasters.
- B. Principle 2. FEMA is committed to providing flood hazard information to guide recovery. FEMA will identify available flood hazard information and develop Advisory Flood Hazard Information in situations where the Effective FIRMs and FIS and Preliminary FIRMs and FIS may not be adequate.
- C. Principle 3. FEMA is committed to coordinating across program areas and between and among FEMA Headquarters staff, FEMA Regional staff, and the staff at the JFO.
- D. Principle 4. FEMA is committed to implementing objective 4.1 of the FEMA Strategic Plan by ensuring communities use available and Advisory Flood Hazard Information and analytic tools to make better risk-informed decisions before, during, and after disasters.

The above is only a portion of the policy as the document is 36 pages in length, providing more in-depth information.

**Highlights from the NFIP/CRS Update for September/October 2016**

The full newsletter is available at <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/126882>

A new **Community Rating System (CRS) Coordinator’s Manual for 2017** is coming soon! It is expected release date is January 1, 2016 and will be available for download at <http://www.crsresources.org/>.

Four things that will be different:

- a) The CRS repetitive loss categories will be changing.
- b) The three special flood-related hazards supplements (dealing with coastal erosion, tsunami hazards, and inland hazards) to the Coordinator’s Manual are being discontinued.
- c) With the 2017 Coordinator’s Manual, credit for being a Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP) is being retired and credits within other floodplain mapping elements are being increased to offset that loss.
- d) The freeboard prerequisite for becoming a CRS Class 4 community is being clarified.

**The University of New Orleans-Center for Hazards Assessment Response and Technology (UNO-CHART) asks for assistance**

The University of New Orleans’ Center for Hazards Assessment, Response and Technology (UNO-CHART) is developing a State CRS Strategy for Louisiana. The Strategy will review how state agencies and state-wide organizations can help communities with the CRS and/or with specific creditable activities and elements.

As part of this effort, CHART would like to review what agencies and organizations in other states are doing to help communities—not just with open space, but any and all CRS-related activities. If you have experience with a state agency or statewide or regional organization that has helped a community with CRS credit or documentation, please notify Dr. Monica Farris, Director, UNO-CHART, at [mateets@uno.edu](mailto:mateets@uno.edu) or (504)280-4016. The staff researchers look forward to hearing from you about your CRS experience.

**Online Resources for CRS**

1. Check frequently at [www.CRSresources.org](http://www.CRSresources.org) to see what’s been added in the way of CRS materials. All documents referred to in the Coordinator’s Manual are posted here as soon as they are available. If you cannot find a piece of information or document, please notify your ISO/CRS Specialist or [NFIPCRS@iso.com](mailto:NFIPCRS@iso.com). Here are some recent additions to the website.
  - a) Success with CRS is a new tab on the [www.CRSresources.org](http://www.CRSresources.org) website, featuring short articles about the many different ways in which communities have found their own types of success through the CRS.
  - b) Webinar Schedule—A schedule for the rest of 2016 and early 2017 is posted under the Training & Videos tab at [www.CRSresources.org/training](http://www.CRSresources.org/training). This link has registration information. Also, see the webinar schedule below.

- c) The most recent issue of the NFIP/CRS Update newsletter, in case you missed it (July/August 2016), along with all other past issues, can be found at [www.CRSresources.org/100](http://www.CRSresources.org/100).
2. Remember that the CRS pages of the FloodSmart website: [https://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/pages/crs/community\\_rating\\_system.jsp](https://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/pages/crs/community_rating_system.jsp) are the place to go for people new to the CRS, elected officials, newly hired CRS Coordinators, and the public. It is designed for those who don't need the full technical details posted elsewhere.

**October 2016 Revisions to the NFIP Flood Insurance Manual (FIM) Posted Online**

The revisions to the NFIP Flood Insurance Manual that became effective on October 1, 2016, are posted for your reference here: <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/127010>. Current and past editions of the FIM can be found in the [Flood Insurance Manual library](#).

Significant revisions include the following:

- Guidance for policies issued or renewed in error on or after a community suspension (GR Section).
- Expansion of zones eligible for the Preferred Risk Policy (PRP) and the Newly Mapped procedure to include A99 and AR Zones that meet the PRP loss history requirements (GR, RATE, PRP, and Newly Mapped Sections).
- Policy effective date clarifications (GR Section).
- Clarified guidance for duplicate coverage (GR, PRP, and Newly Mapped Sections). Revised Emergency Program building coverage limits for non-residential buildings in Alaska, Guam, Hawaii, and U.S. Virgin Islands (RATE Section).
- Further guidance for policies eligible for Pre-FIRM subsidized rates, continuous coverage grandfathering, or the Newly Mapped procedure that lapse and are reinstated (RATE, CONDO, and Newly Mapped Sections).
- Revised instruction regarding the use of the current NAVD datum (LFG Section).
- Reformatted Elevation Certificate and Instructions (CERT Section).
- Additional guidance for the conversion of a standard-rated policy to a PRP or Newly-Mapped-rated policy due to misrating (PRP, Newly Mapped, and END Sections).
- Revised endorsement refund rules and administrative cancel/rewrite procedures to allow for rate adjustment up to a maximum of 5 policy years (END and CN Sections).
- Revised documentation requirements and sample verification letter for cancellation reasons involving a lender release (CN Section).
- Expanded use of Cancellation Reason 9 to allow cancellation due to the lender's determination that coverage is no longer required for certain detached structures (CN Section).
- Revised use of Cancellation Reason 25 to address HFIAA Section 28 re-underwriting (CN Section).
- Updates to the Community Rating System Eligible Communities list (CRS Section).
- Updates to the Definitions, Table of Contents, and Index.

Please contact Mr. Mark Lujan, R6 Insurance Specialist, 940-383-7327 or at [Mark.Lujan@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Mark.Lujan@fema.dhs.gov) if you have questions.

**FEMA Announces the Release of the 2015 National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) P-1050 DVD**

The 2015 NEHRP Provisions marks the ninth edition of this knowledge-based technical resource document since its first publication in 1985. The FEMA P-1050 DVD is a collection of technical resources bearing on the two-volume 2015 NEHRP Recommended Seismic Provisions for New Buildings and Other Structures, which is developed for improving the current US seismic design standards and codes.

The DVD not only includes the 2015 NEHRP Provisions, but also additional code-related resources derived from the new edition of the 2015 NEHRP Provisions: updated seismic design maps proposed for the ASCE/SEI 7-16 Minimum Design Loads and Associated Criteria for Buildings and Other Structures and the 2018 International Building Code (IBC); revised seismic design category maps proposed for the 2018 International Residential Code (IRC); issues and research needs recommended by the 2015 Provisions Update Committee (PUC); presentations of NEHRP Provisions topics from the

2015 Building Seismic Safety Council (BSSC) Colloquium; and, a description of the USGS web tools for obtaining seismic design spectral values.

The new changes in the 2015 NEHRP Provisions have incorporated extensive results and findings from recent research projects, problem-focused studies, and post-earthquake investigation reports conducted by various professional organizations, research institutes, universities, material industries and the NEHRP agencies. For the convenience of users, a list of the changes with their corresponding code language and commentary section numbers in the document is provided in the introduction of the Provisions. Most of the changes in Part I of the Provisions have been adopted in ASCE/SEI 7-16 with further modifications.

To review the information found on this DVD visit <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/107646>.

Please reach out to Mr. Bart Moore, R6 Risk Analysis Team Lead and Earthquake Program Manager, 940-898-5363 or at [Bart.Moore@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Bart.Moore@fema.dhs.gov) if you have questions.

### **New Public Assistance Policy and Guidance**

The PAPPG is a comprehensive, consolidated program and policy document for the Public Assistance Program. The PAPPG supersedes all previous publications and the majority of previous policies. Any policy or guidance document not superseded by the PAPPG is provided below. The PAPPG is applicable for disasters declared on or after January 1, 2016.

<https://www.fema.gov/public-assistance-policy-and-guidance>

### **R6 Hazard Mitigation Assistance Workshop for State Hazard Mitigation Officers**

FEMA Region 6 is excited to announce the 2017 Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) workshop will held at the Region Campus in Denton, TX January 31st – February 1st. We are planning for two full days of interactive discussions that will focus on HMA specific topics. The intent of this workshop is to have interactive discussions with our state and tribal partners regarding specific HMA topics. Potential discussion topics include EHP Updates, Quarterly Reports and Score Cards, State Management Costs, and State/Tribal brief outs.

Following along the lines of the Community Assistance Program (CAP) meeting sponsored by the R6 Floodplain Management and Insurance Branch, this workshop will facilitate conversations about best practices and strengthen relationships among partners.

### **Introducing the Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Closeout Team**

As part of FEMA's continued commitment to closing out disasters and improving the management of the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) our Regional Administrator, Tony Robinson, in coordination with the Hazard Mitigation Assistance and Public Assistance Branches has initiated a closeout priority list for FY17.

As of December 2, 2016 HMGP has 11 HMGP Disaster Grants on this list and these grants carry \$4,637,182 in unliquidated Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) obligations. The Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Branch has structured and staffed an HMA Closeout Team. The Team supports the Regional Administrator's initiative and their actions reduce a very real strain on the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF).

Brianne Schmidtke is the Team Lead and three closeout specialists who will focus on closing 11 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Disaster Grants will join her. These projects are on Mr. Robinson's Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 priority list. The team will also assess Headquarters' Disaster Closeout Initiative (DCI) List.

The HMA Closeout Team will assist the States in this joint mission; providing technical assistance, continued training and thorough closeout reviews. The HMA Closeout Team looks forward to the challenge.

For questions please call Ms. Schmidtke, 940-383-7309.

### **HMA Job Aid Available Now!**

In 2015, FEMA created and released a Job Aid entitled, Using Contract Support for the Development of Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Grant Applications.

We want to make sure everyone knows about this Job Aid as they develop their HMA applications. This Job Aid presents eight common Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) application development scenarios and provides guidelines to address procurement issues related to non-Federal entity use of contracted support for the development of HMA application elements. The scenarios were developed to address frequently asked questions and ensure compliance with procurement regulations found in the “Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards” (2 C.F.R. Part 200). Download the Job Aid from the FEMA website at the following link:

[https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1437077183497-98463038d392d19535c084597bc53d1f/Using\\_Cntrct\\_Supp\\_DevHMA\\_Grant\\_Apps\\_508.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1437077183497-98463038d392d19535c084597bc53d1f/Using_Cntrct_Supp_DevHMA_Grant_Apps_508.pdf)

### **How FEMA Flood Maps Helped a Man Evacuate Safely – a Best Practice**

FEMA flood-insurance rate maps identify areas subject to flooding and establish various zones in a community on which to base premiums. But they can do something else: help first responders, government officials and others prepare for an oncoming deluge.

It was these maps that kept an older gentleman from being trapped during the floods of August. William Wilson grew concerned as the rains fell heavily in the area around his southern Louisiana home, between the Amite River and Jones Creek. Wilson’s son, Houston landscape architect Kirk Wilson, routinely uses FEMA flood maps in his work. He knew the maps might be critical in assessing his father’s looming problem.

“My dad called to tell me that local authorities expected the Amite to crest at 46 feet, higher than the devastating 1983 flood, and he feared his home would be inundated.”

Kirk Wilson, who vividly remembered the devastating ‘83 floods from his childhood, shared his father’s concerns. He told his dad to go online to the Louisiana State University’s AgCenter’s online map center. They studied the maps, with Kirk guiding his father through the data by phone.

He explained to his father how to determine his property’s Base Flood Elevation (commonly called BFE). Once they had that number, the Wilsons looked at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s projections for the rising waters. “So we estimated the crest would be 36 feet, two feet higher than dad’s BFE,” said Wilson.

Wilson warned his father that while the house itself might not be in danger, his evacuation routes would almost surely be under water. A small, narrow bridge over Jones Creek was William’s only route to higher ground. Kirk told his father he was certain the bridge would be flooded and impassable, urging him to get out as soon as possible. The elder Wilson took the advice. The floodwaters lapped up just short of the house; the bridge was swamped.

Anyone can call FEMA’s Map Information Exchange and talk to an expert (877-336-2627, open 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., EST). The specialist will explain the basics of reading and interpreting maps. The website is [www.msc.fema.gov/portal](http://www.msc.fema.gov/portal). The LSU AgCenter website is [www.lsuagcenter.com](http://www.lsuagcenter.com) (scroll down to “flood maps”).



**R6 Mitigation Staff Update**

R6 Mitigation is pleased to welcome **new staff** to the Division:

**Risk Analysis (RA) Branch**

- Jamie Price, Community Planner
- Ben Buchanan, Community Planner
- Jeremy Hughes, GIS Risk Analyst
- Derek Duskin, GIS Risk Analyst

**Floodplain Management Insurance (FMI) Branch**

- Darrin Dutton, Floodplain Specialist
- Pedro Perez, Floodplain Specialist

**Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Branch**

- Camille Crain, HMA Branch Chief
- Katrina Alexander, LRO Closeout Specialist
- Celu Bering, LRO Closeout Specialist
- Quviona Sanford, LRO Closeout Specialist
- Reginald Jefferson, LRO Closeout Specialist
- Christy King, HMA Closeout Specialist

R6 Mitigation Staff who have **changed positions**:

**Risk Analysis (RA) Branch**

- Diane Howe, RiskMAP Team Lead

**Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Branch**

- Brianne Schmidtke, Closeout Team Lead
- Peggy Johnson, Louisiana HMGP Team Lead
- Stacy Boes, Closeout Specialist

R6 Mitigation Staff who are **retiring**

- Mayra Diaz, Floodplain Management Specialist

**Partner Profiles**

Each quarter our goal is to interview a FEMA Mitigator and one of our State Partners. We ask each person the same three questions: 1) How did you get involved with Mitigation? 2) What do you consider to be the favorite part of your job? 3) If you had unlimited money, unlimited power, and complete support, what is one thing you would do for the citizens of Region 6? Why?

**John Bowman, Floodplain Management and Insurance Specialist**

**How did you get involved with Mitigation?**

In April of 2006 I had an opportunity to work at FEMA Region 6 as a local hire. Post disaster activity following Hurricane Katrina had gathered a large amount of repetitive loss data and I was brought in to assist with organizing the data. A few months later I became a disaster assistance employee and worked on a repetitive loss data collection project in the Harris County Texas. Awarded a CORE appointment in March of 2007, I have been working in the Floodplain Management & Insurance Branch ever since.



**What do you consider the favorite part of your job?**

Every action we take emphasizes reducing or eliminating long-term risk to life and property.

**If you had unlimited money, unlimited power, and complete support, what is one thing you would do for the citizens of Texas?**

Mitigate all repetitive loss properties by either acquisition or relocation to break the cycle of repetitive flooding.

**Why?**

To provide protection by removing people and property from high-risk flood areas thus protecting the flood insurance fund and mitigating the “worst of the worst”!

**Matt Rollins, Oklahoma State Hazard Mitigation Officer**

**How did you get involved with Mitigation?**

I became involved in Mitigation through experience in environmental monitoring and floodplain management. With the advancement of Geographic Information Systems into our modern digital culture, data that would have been difficult to intercept in the past is now readily available and needed in our communities. After experiencing record flooding in 2015, and the response and recovery, led me to begin exploring ways to convey the information rapidly to our customers.

**What do you consider the favorite part of your job?**

My favorite part of my job so far is being able to translate community requests into mitigation projects. Understanding our communities and moving to be more resilient while thinking outside the box is my daily goal.

**If you had unlimited money, unlimited power, and complete support, what is one thing you would do for the citizens of Oklahoma? Why?**

If I were king for a day....Evaluate the risks that our citizens, communities and partners in a holistic way, then use the power of mapping to convey those risks. Look at all hazards, and how we are able to respond and mitigate for those risks.

**Training Opportunities**

**Emergency Management Institute (EMI) Classes - <https://training.fema.gov/emicourses/>**

E0202: Debris Management Planning for State, Tribal and Local Officials	1/9/2017	1/12/2017	Emmitsburg	MD	Response and Recovery
E0101: Foundations of Emergency Management	1/23/2017	2/3/2017	Emmitsburg	MD	Emergency Mgmt. Professional Program
E0176: Hazus-MH for Floodplain Managers	3/27/2017	3/30/2017	Emmitsburg	MD	Mitigation
E0194: Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts	1/30/2017	2/2/2017	Emmitsburg	MD	Mitigation
E0210: Recovery from Disaster: The Local Community Role	4/10/2017	4/13/2017	Emmitsburg	MD	Response and Recovery
E0214: Unified Hazard Mitigation Assistance Project Implementation and Programmatic Closeout	2/22/2017	2/23/2017	Emmitsburg	MD	Mitigation
E0241: Cooperating Technical Partners: Special Topics	3/13/2017	3/16/2017	Emmitsburg	MD	Mitigation
E0248: Environmental & Historic Preservation (EHP) Management Information System	4/5/2017	4/6/2017	Emmitsburg	MD	Mitigation
E0253: Introduction to Environmental and Historic Preservation Compliance	4/3/2017	4/4/2017	Emmitsburg	MD	Mitigation
E0272: Managing the Floodplain Post-Disaster	2/13/2017	2/15/2017	Emmitsburg	MD	Mitigation
E0274: National Dam Safety Program Technical Seminar (NDSPTS)	2/22/2017	2/23/2017	Emmitsburg	MD	Mitigation
E0276: Benefit-Cost Analysis: Entry-Level	1/18/2017	1/19/2017	Emmitsburg	MD	Mitigation
E0278: NFIP/Community Rating System	3/20/2017	3/23/2017	Emmitsburg	MD	Mitigation
E0282: Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts II	4/24/2017	4/27/2017	Emmitsburg	MD	Mitigation
E0313: Basic Hazus-MH	4/3/2017	4/6/2017	Emmitsburg	MD	Mitigation
E0361: Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning for Schools	3/6/2017	3/9/2017	Emmitsburg	MD	Mitigation
E0580: Emergency Management Framework for Tribal Governments	3/13/2017	3/16/2017	Emmitsburg	MD	Preparedness
E0581: Emergency Operations for Tribal Governments	4/24/2017	4/27/2017	Emmitsburg	MD	Preparedness
E0364: Multihazard Emergency Planning for Schools	4/3/2017	4/5/2017	Emmitsburg	MD	Mitigation
E0791: Interagency Consultation for Endangered Species	3/28/2017	3/30/2017	Emmitsburg	MD	Mitigation

E0871: Maximizing Mitigation: HMGP/PA 406 Hazard Mitigation Integration	3/13/2017	3/16/2017	Emmitsburg	MD	Mitigation
E9005: Focus Group: Managing Floodplain Development thru the NFIP	2/27/2017	3/3/2017	Emmitsburg	MD	Mitigation

**Oklahoma Water Resources Board** – to register visit: <http://www.owrb.ok.gov/util/commentsFP.php%20>

Jan 30 - Feb 3, 2017	L-273 (Certified Floodplain Manager)	<a href="#">Oklahoma City</a>
February 14, 2017	OFMA Advanced Course	<a href="#">Edmond</a>
February 22, 2017	FPM 303 - Survey/High Water Mark App	<a href="#">Oklahoma City</a>
March 9, 2017	OFMA Advanced Course (2)	<a href="#">Clinton</a>
March 16, 2017	FPM 202/OFMA Advanced Course	<a href="#">Broken Arrow</a>
March 29, 2017	FPM 303 - SD Training/OFMA Advanced	<a href="#">McAlester</a>
April 19, 2017	OFMA Advanced Course	<a href="#">Langley</a>
April 20, 2017	FPM 101	<a href="#">Oklahoma City</a>

**Useful Web Pages:**

Region 6 Mitigation Division: <http://www.fema.gov/region-vi-mitigation-division>

Region 6 Mitigation Partners: <http://www.fema.gov/region-vi-mitigation-partners>

Region 6 Mitigation Contacts: <http://www.fema.gov/who-can-we-contact-region-vi-about-mitigation-programs>

Region 6 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP): <http://www.fema.gov/region-vi-hazard-mitigation-grant-program-hmgp>

Risk MAP for Region 6: <http://riskmap6.com/> or <http://maps.riskmap6.com>

FEMA Map Service Center: <http://msc.fema.gov/portal>

Texas CHART: <http://txchart.com/>

Homeowner’s Flood Insurance Affordability Act (HFIAA) Updates: <http://www.fema.gov/flood-insurance-reform>

FloodSmart: [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov)

Preparedness Information: [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

ShakeOut - Earthquake Information - [www.shakeout.org](http://www.shakeout.org)

**Disaster Web Pages:**

Arkansas:

- <http://www.fema.gov/disaster/4254>
- <http://www.fema.gov/disaster/4226>
- <http://www.fema.gov/arkansas-disaster-mitigation>

Louisiana:

- <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4277>
- <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4263>
- <http://www.fema.gov/louisiana-disaster-mitigation>

Oklahoma:

- <http://www.fema.gov/disaster/4274>
- <http://www.fema.gov/disaster/4222>
- <https://www.fema.gov/oklahoma-disaster-mitigation>

Texas:

- <http://www.fema.gov/disaster/4272>
- <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4269>
- <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4266>
- <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4255>
- <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4245>
- <http://www.fema.gov/disaster/4223>
- <http://www.fema.gov/texas-disaster-mitigation>

**Keeping Current** is a newsletter for our partners and intends to be a “one stop” information resource.

If you have any ideas, concerns, thoughts on how we can improve this product please contact us at [R6-Mitigation-Outreach@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:R6-Mitigation-Outreach@fema.dhs.gov)