



## University of New Hampshire's Complex Research Center

### Full Mitigation Best Practice Story

#### *Multiple Counties, New Hampshire*



**Rockingham and Strafford Counties, NH** - On September 29, 1999, the Complex Systems Research Center (CSRC), a branch of the University of New Hampshire, signed a pilot agreement with FEMA under the Cooperating Technical Communities (now Cooperating Technical Partners [CTP]) initiative.

The objective of the agreement was to convert effective Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for three New Hampshire communities into a digital format that conforms to FEMA's new Digital FIRM (DFIRM) specifications. The agreement covered the digitization of 10 FIRM panels for the communities of Salem, Windham and Atkinson - all in Rockingham County. Under the agreement, CSRC also incorporated the results of Letters of Map Change (LOM-C) that had been issued by FEMA since the publication of the effective FIRMs for the three communities.

In 2000, CSRC and FEMA entered into a new DFIRM preparation agreement. This new agreement is for the digitization of 81 FIRM panels for Rockingham County, and 70 FIRM panels for Strafford County.

Overall, the digital format would make the maps easier to obtain and use. For communities with digital mapping capabilities, the DFIRMs will support floodplain management and preparedness programs. In addition, the base maps for the DFIRMs will be U.S. Geological Survey Digital Orthophoto Quarter Quadrangles (DOQQ), which are more accurate and up to date than the base maps used for the effective FIRMs.

The project will enable the CSRC, which is highly respected for its mapping capabilities throughout New England, to expand its expertise into new types of mapping. In addition, the project will help FEMA meet two of the goals of its Map Modernization Program: converting the map inventory to a digital format and increasing local involvement in the mapping process.

According to Steve Colman, Deputy Director of the Mitigation Division at FEMA's Region I office in Boston, MA, "The partnership formed with the University of New Hampshire's Complex Systems Research Center and FEMA under the CTP initiative has clearly demonstrated that by forming partnerships at the local level with qualified organizations we can improve our FIRMs and move forward with FEMA's Map Modernization Program."

#### Activity/Project Location

Geographical Area: **Multiple Counties in a State**

FEMA Region: **Region I**

State: **New Hampshire**

County: **Rockingham County; Strafford County**

## Key Activity/Project Information

Sector: **Public**  
Hazard Type: **Flooding**  
Activity/Project Type: **Cooperative Technical Partner Activity**  
Activity/Project Start Date: **09/1999**  
Activity/Project End Date: **Ongoing**  
Funding Source: **Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP); Map Modernization**  
Funding Recipient: **Academic**  
Funding Recipient Name: **University of New Hampshire**

## Activity/Project Economic Analysis

Cost: **Amount Not Available**

## Activity/Project Disaster Information

Mitigation Resulted From Federal  
Disaster? **Unknown**  
Value Tested By Disaster? **Unknown**  
Repetitive Loss Property? **Unknown**

## Reference URLs

Reference URL 1: <http://www.csrc.sr.unh.edu/>  
Reference URL 2: [http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/ctp\\_main.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/ctp_main.shtm)

## Main Points

- The Complex Systems Research Center (CSRC), a branch of the University of New Hampshire, signed a pilot agreement with FEMA under the Cooperating Technical Communities (now Cooperating Technical Partners [CTP]) initiative.
- The objective of the agreement was to convert effective Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for three New Hampshire communities into a digital format that conforms to FEMA's new Digital FIRM (DFIRM) specifications.
- Overall, the digital format would make the maps easier to obtain and use.