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State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA)
Floodplain Management Section

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Issue 7- Floodplain Management E-Bulletin

It's the end of Fiscal Year 2018 and time for the final *Missouri Floodplain Management E-Bulletin* for FY17! As you can imagine, the entire Floodplain Management staff at the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency has been very busy helping our NFIP-participating communities since flooding began in March. Because of the multiple events, the E-Bulletin will focus on our state's 2019 disasters: Flooding and tornadoes are the order of the day in this E-Bulletin titled: ***The Good, the Bad and the Ugly.***

Photo by Karen McHugh—SEMA
Clark County, Missouri May, 2019

As always, we're looking for flooding photos, elevated structure photos, projects demonstrating stormwater techniques and "green" projects, so please share them with us! Be sure to include your name, the location, and the date of the photo. Send photos to: karen.mchugh@sema.dps.mo.gov



The Good:

The Missouri State Emergency Management Agency Floodplain Management Section hosted two **FREE** Elevation Certificate Workshops on April 30th in St. Charles and on May 1st in Jefferson City. This course provided detailed training on completing a FEMA Elevation Certificate (EC) accurately and completely. The two EC workshops provided six (6) Continuing Education Credits (CECs) for Certified Floodplain Managers (CFMs).

The Workshop welcomed approximately sixty Floodplain Administrators, Missouri Professional Land Surveyors and Missouri Professional Engineers. Both EC workshops were well attended, and plans are being made to once again present the Elevation Certificate workshop during FY19, this time in the Kansas City and Springfield areas.

We would like to thank our hosts who made it possible to hold the workshops in such wonderful venues: The St. Charles County Administration Building and the Cole County Emergency Services Building.

Del Schwalls, P.E., CFM, President, Schwalls Consulting, LLC is a subject matter expert, and willingly shared his experience and expertise in elevation certificates answering many questions thought-out the workshops.



Photo: Instructor Del Schwalls, P.E., CFM
St. Charles County Administration Building
April 30, 2019

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Mission Statement of the Floodplain Management Section:

The mission of Missouri's comprehensive floodplain management program is to make the State and its citizens less vulnerable to the impact of flooding through the effective administration of statewide floodplain management and to provide local communities with the tools and resources for managing, assessing, and planning for development in floodprone areas; to save lives; and to protect property.

Congratulations to the City of Blue Springs! On October 1, 2018 the city entered the Community Rating System program as a CRS Class 9!



Floodplain Administrator Nathan Jurey receives the City of Blue Springs' CRS Plaque.

For more information, about the CRS program, contact the following CRS experts:

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The Good...continued:

Since 2009, during each year's MfSMA Annual Conference, the *George Riedel Management Award* is presented to an outstanding individual for their contributions to the National Flood Insurance Program. This award seeks to recognize those individuals who have made a difference in the State of Missouri by their dedication to public service. This year's recipient was Cape Girardeau's Floodplain Administrator **Ken Eftink**. Congratulations Ken! An honor well deserved!



George Riedel and Ken Eftink
2019 MfSMA
Conference
March 28, 2019

Past George Riedel Management Award Winners

- 2009: Roger Connell – SEMA, Retired
- 2010: Stan Salva – Jackson County Stormwater Commission
- 2011: Teya Stice – Marion County Floodplain Administrator
- 2012: Rick Garner – City of Springfield Floodplain Administrator
- 2013: Scott Samuels – SEMA, Retired
- 2014: Trent Bowers – City of Hollister Floodplain Administrator
- 2015: Seth Wollard – City of Republic Floodplain Administrator
- 2016: Dan Rahn – City of Pacific Floodplain Administrator
- 2017: - ASFPM Conference
- 2018: James Knoll – St. Louis County Floodplain Administrator
- 2019: Ken Eftink – Cape Girardeau Floodplain Administrator

Visit the Floodplain Management portion of the State Emergency Management Agency's website. It is loaded with valuable information!

<https://sema.dps.mo.gov/programs/floodplain/>

The Good...continued:



Flooded restrooms.
Photographer: Steve Samuelson

“I hope Congress will work with FEMA to reduce disaster costs in the future.”

Brock Long, former FEMA Administrator



During the 2019 ASFPM Conference held in Cleveland, Ohio, our good friend Steve Samuelson, Kansas State NFIP Coordinator, was honored for his hard work making a difference in the flood-risk world. Steve is always willing to help everyone, including SEMA Floodplain Staff and all other Missourians, with floodplain management questions.



Photo: ASFPM Executive Director, Chad Berginnis, CFM and Steve Samuelson, CFM

ASFPM’s June, 2019 *News and Views*: The **Jerry Louthain Award for Distinguished Service to ASFPM** is reserved for individuals who clearly support and advance ASFPM’s work. The path **Steve Samuelson** took to this organization is doubtless similar to how many of us came to ASFPM. Several years ago he

wanted to attend our national conference and get his CFM designation, so he became a member. He will admit, with a bit of embarrassment, that it wasn’t until about three years later that he read ASFPM’s mission statement, which resonated with him, especially the part about reducing human suffering. So he decided to get more involved with ASFPM. Samuelson was an elections chair for ASFPM and a Region 7 director. He voluntarily stepped in to serve as a temporary Flood Insurance Committee co-chair, and now IS the co-chair. He regularly contributes flood insurance training and outreach articles to ASFPM’s newsletters. Samuelson, who by the way is the Kansas state floodplain manager, also provides his expertise on national policy matters. Recently he conducted an analysis of FEMA’s proposed rules and their implications on agriculture structures in floodplains. ASFPM used that analysis to draft comments on that rule.



Larry Lacy, P.E., CFM, Public Works Director and Floodplain Administrator for the City of Farmington, was awarded a \$2,000 scholarship to attend the 2019 ASFPM Conference in Cleveland, Ohio. This ASFPM Conference Scholarship award opportunity was intended to help Missouri local Floodplain Management Officials attend the 2019 ASFPM Conference. The State Floodplain Management Section offered three (3) scholarships through its Community Assistance Program—State Support Services Element (CAP-SSSE) grant. Congratulations Larry!

“It was a great opportunity and I have had occasion to use some information from the conference to solve a problem this week.” Larry Lacy

The 2020 ASFPM Annual Conference is scheduled for June 7—11, 2020 in Forth Worth, Texas. It is not too early to start planning for the next ASFPM Conference!

<https://www.floods.org/index.asp?menuID=223&firstlevelmenuID=181&siteID=1>

The Bad...

The State of Missouri has been experiencing major floods since mid-March 2019, especially along the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers and their tributaries. At the time of writing, **Flood Warnings** are still being issued for many parts of the State. The Missouri River is expected to rise into a major flood stage again.



To ensure compliance with the NFIP, an NFIP-participating community must conduct a damage assessment of all flood disaster-damaged properties identified in the FEMA mapped SFHA. If you have not heard from the State floodplain management section and your community was part of a flooding event, contact Karen, Lori or Linda immediately. Our contact information is on page #1.

The Bad...continued:

After the flooding event is over, the next disaster could be from MOLD! Mold can create serious health problems for residents recovering from flooding. The following article about mold was written by Steve Samuelson and shared with his permission:

“The function of mold is to break down organic material. It breaks down plant and animal matter and returns them to soil. Mold is the ultimate recycler and serves a useful function. Mold is also used beneficially in the making of cheese and wine. Though mold has benefits we don’t want mold growing in our homes.

Mold needs moisture. Different types of molds thrive at different levels of moisture. When a home is flooded the flood water adds a lot of moisture to the home environment. Floodplain Managers must deal with damage estimations, permits, assisting citizens and also mold after a flood.

Mold can grow within 48 to 72 hours after a flood. Floodplain Managers entering flooded areas and flooded homes to do damage estimations 48 hours after a flood may come in to contact with mold. There are different ways to protect yourself from mold. Some of the simpler and least expensive protections are to wear nonporous gloves, rubber gloves instead of cotton gloves. Goggles will protect your eyes from airborne particles and mold spores. Many hardware stores sell inexpensive respirators. The least expensive are the paper filter mask type of respirators often used by woodworkers to prevent them from breathing sanding dust. The problem with the respirator masks are that they don’t always make a good seal around your face and you can breathe mold spores in around the edges. Look for the respirator mask with an N-95 rating. Get the kind that has at least two straps. One strap goes around your head up high and the other strap goes around low. This makes a better snugger fit than a single strap. There should be an aluminum strip molded around the nose. Pinch that strip down so that it forms to fit your own nose and makes a proper seal.

Mold can emit mycotoxins, toxic chemicals, that can be released into the air attached to spores or as a gas. Mycotoxins can cause serious health problems. Some people are more susceptible to mold than others. People with asthma, for example, may be more sensitive to mold. Open the doors and windows to allow fresh air in to help flush out any mycotoxins in the air when entering flooded buildings. Close doors and windows in the evening. As temperatures drop over night the humidity levels rise and mold likes moisture.

Watch out for the presence of mold. You may have heard a lot about black mold as being the most dangerous. All colors of mold could be dangerous if a person is sensitive to mold. A musty smell is also a sign that ***mold may be present even if you*** can’t see discoloration on walls or surfaces.

You could end up taking mold spores with you after inspecting a flooded property. Wash your clothes as soon as you can. Clean the seats of your vehicle and any furniture your clothes may come in to contact with. You don’t want to take mold spores back to your office or your home.

Floodplain Managers should learn some simple things about mold in order to advise the citizens of their communities. Mold grows within 48 to 72 hours, to stop the growth of mold, dry things out before 48 hours. Hire a professional bonded company to do the work of drying out the property or invest in a moisture meter to make certain that moisture is removed. Carpets may feel dry on the surface but the carpet pad could have enough moisture in it to be growing mold beneath your feet. Drywall surfaces may feel dry to the touch but have moisture wicking up inside the walls. Thoroughly clean and dry or remove all porous materials. Hard surfaces may be cleaned with a solution of a cup of bleach added to a gallon of water.

People have accidentally spread mold in their own homes after a flood. The impulse is to grab a hammer and start breaking down sheetrock that has signs of mold. As anyone who has done that type of work knows, you’ll get sheetrock dust everywhere. Along with that drywall dust there will be mold spores floating in the air. A better method is to tape off bad areas in plastic and then carefully cut and remove the sheetrock.

A stuffy nose, rash, itchy eyes, headaches and breathing problems could all be signs of health problems related to mold. Don’t take risks with mold. Stay healthy and safe because your citizens need you after a disaster. “

Please follow this link on our Floodplain Management website for help with Mold Cleanup:

<https://sema.dps.mo.gov/programs/floodplain/documents/MoldCleanup.pdf>

And the Ugly...

A series of destructive tornadoes left extensive damage across several parts of Missouri eight years to the day after the devastating Joplin tornado. These photos were taken in Jefferson City, Missouri.



A special thank you to the Floodplain Management staff for their tireless efforts to help our Missouri NFIP communities! If you are a community that had been flooded and you have not heard from us, please contact Karen, Linda or Lori immediately. Our contact information is listed on the front page of the E-Bulletin.