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State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA)  
Floodplain Management Section

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## Issue 4 - FY 2019 - Floodplain Management E-Bulletin

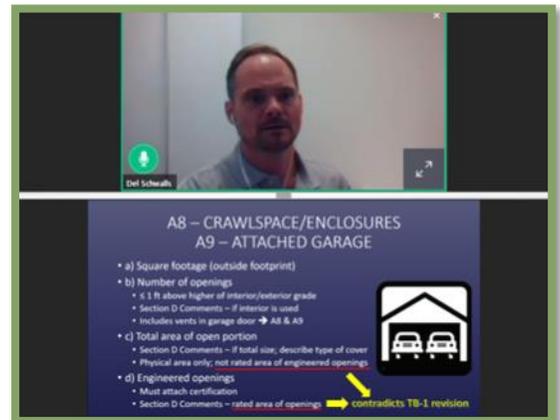
It's the last quarter of Fiscal Year 2019 and time for the fourth FY19 *Missouri Floodplain Management E-Bulletin!* The entire Floodplain Management staff at the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency has been very busy this quarter working from home and from SEMA headquarters. Travel restrictions from the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic did not keep the Floodplain Management staff from doing our best to serve our NFIP communities every day! We, (Karen, Linda, and Lynn) are looking forward to getting back to normal, and serving our NFIP communities to the best of our ability!

We're always looking for flooding photos, elevated structure photos, projects demonstrating stormwater management 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



## Our First Virtual Elevation Certificate Workshop!

The State Floodplain Management Section was determined to not let coronavirus pandemic state travel restrictions keep us from our scheduled May 28th and May 29th Elevation Certificate Workshops! Fortunately, our Elevation Certificate workshop instructor Del Schwalls was able to convert his workshop into two virtual Elevation Certificate Workshops. And what a success they were! With 74 attendees from Missouri, Nebraska, Minnesota and Kansas, Floodplain Administrators, Engineers, Land Surveyors and Architects received outstanding instructions on how to accurately complete the FEMA Elevation Certificate form.



The Floodplain Management Team looks forward to working with Del to plan future Elevation Certificate workshops, especially since another new version is expected to be published soon! The 2019 edition of the Elevation Certificate is available for downloading on the SEMA Floodplain Management Website: [sema.dps.mo.gov/programs/floodplain/forms.php](http://sema.dps.mo.gov/programs/floodplain/forms.php)

## ***Something a Little Different.***



When I was young, I was traveling in our car with my parents and my best friend for a weekend camping trip. To entertain ourselves, we were singing songs. I began to sing the popular American Gospel song “Bringing in the Sheaves,” only I misheard the lyrics as “Bringing in the Cheese.” After loud laughter from my friend, she said, “No, it’s “Bringing in the Sheets!” My parents were hysterical with laughter at both of us. I couldn’t help but remember that fun childhood tale when a Floodplain Administrator shared the above photo with me this week.

The Floodplain Administrator discovered a fence that was being built in the regulatory floodway in his city. Doing his duty, the floodplain administrator explained to the homeowner that he could not build a fence in the floodway without an Engineering “No-Rise” Certificate and an approved Floodplain Development Permit. The homeowner proceeded to slowly remove the fence and install these sheets (or perhaps modesty curtains?) instead.

What now? Is this project a development, and does it need a floodplain development permit? An engineering “no-rise” certificate? When these unusual situations come up, I like to break them down, one piece at a time:

First, is the development in the FEMA-mapped special flood hazard area (SFHA)? If yes, is it also in a regulatory floodway? The Floodplain Administrator determined that this fence is in the regulatory floodway according to the effective FIRM panel.

Next, is the project a manmade change? The answer is yes, because fence posts have been installed. We know that all manmade changes in the FEMA-mapped regulatory floodway must have a community-approved floodplain development permit, after the engineering “no-rise” is presented to the local floodplain administrator. This must take place prior to the start of the fence project. Otherwise, it is considered to be a violation of the community’s floodplain regulations.

Floodplain Management Section Staff developed a handy Floodplain Development Application/Permit Flow Chart to help floodplain administrators with similar unusual situations. It can be found by following this link:

**<https://sema.dps.mo.gov/programs/floodplain/documents/development-flowchart.pdf>**

We consider building fences to be “development” (a manmade change) and fences placed in the SFHA need an approved floodplain development permit. Although not eligible for flood insurance, a fence can have a negative impact on existing flood heights, depending on how they are constructed, and can act as a “levee” or “dam” during a flooding event. This might cause an increase in the Base Flood Elevation upstream, potentially causing flood damage to an existing structure.

### ***Guidance for Debris Cleanup on Levees After a Flooding Event:***

Recent issues with debris cleanup on levees after flooding events caused the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) State NFIP Coordinator to seek guidance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region VII Office in Kansas City and FEMA Headquarters. Please take time to read the explanation below. It clearly defines the NFIP-participating community's role in debris cleanup after a flooding event.

#### **Burning Debris and Ash Removal in the Regulatory Floodway:**

Although a community may determine that staging and burning debris followed by ash removal in the regulatory floodway is a minor project, a Floodplain Development Permit is still required. The permit should note all the details of the activity, and that the project has been determined to be minor by the community. This is after it has made a conscious effort to identify potential risks and impacts to the floodway using standard floodplain management analysis practices.

Recommendation: The State Floodplain Management Section highly recommends that the community spell out in its administrative procedures which "minor development" projects will not cause an obstruction. This documentation, when followed systematically, will create consistency.

#### **Burying Debris in the Regulatory Floodway:**

It must be demonstrated through hydrologic and hydraulic analyses that a proposed project including burying debris in the regulatory floodway will not result in any increase in flood levels during the occurrence of the base flood discharge. An Engineering "No-Rise" Certificate must be signed and sealed by a Missouri Professional Engineer. If an Engineering "No-Rise" Certificate is obtained and presented to the local floodplain administrator, they will then need to evaluate the project to determine if the requirements of the community's floodplain management ordinance are being met. If so, the floodplain administrator may then approve a Floodplain Development Permit for burying debris in the regulatory floodway.

#### **Repairing a Levee, Building a Levee, or Levee Buildup:**

Levees and levee systems are regulated development in the FEMA-mapped SFHA. The vast majority of all levees are located in a regulatory floodway. It must be demonstrated through hydrologic and hydraulic analyses that the proposed project of levee repair, levee building or levee buildup in the regulatory floodway will not result in any increase in flood levels during the occurrence of the base flood discharge. An Engineering "No-Rise" Certificate must be signed and sealed by a Missouri Professional Engineer. If an Engineering "No-Rise" Certificate is obtained and presented to the local floodplain administrator, they will then need to evaluate the project to determine if the requirements of the community's floodplain management ordinance are being met. If so, the floodplain administrator may then approve a floodplain development permit for levee repair, levee building or levee buildup in the regulatory floodway.





Pete Gaynor , Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency

“Our job is about PEOPLE. It is about the disaster survivors and the individuals who serve them.”

FEMA Administrator Pete Gaynor

### Mitigation Minute

To subscribe to the Mitigation Minute, visit the [Hazard Mitigation Assistance](#) webpage and select "Subscribe to HMA communications."

To learn more about Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) or the Summer Engagement Series, visit: [www.fema.gov/bric](http://www.fema.gov/bric).

[www.floodsmart.gov/](http://www.floodsmart.gov/) is an official site of the National Flood Insurance Program. The NFIP offers flood insurance to help you protect the life you've built and recover more quickly after a flood. [Learn how to get coverage here.](#)

**MISSOURI STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**



**STATE WATCH CENTER**

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6/17/2020 [www.sema.dps.mo.gov](http://www.sema.dps.mo.gov) [@MoSEMA](#) [MissouriSEMA](#)

**Receive daily updates from the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency's State Watch Center. From national to state watches, warnings, and advisories, you can read the latest information regarding the coronavirus disease, the weather story (including flooding) and many other topics to keep you informed!**

**<https://sema.dps.mo.gov/newspubs/docs/dailybriefs.pdf>**

***Stay informed, be aware, be prepared!***



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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.

Social Media:



Other Contact Information: National Flood Insurance Program:

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## 2020 Tools of Floodplain Management

July 15, 2020 - 1st day	1:00pm - 5:00pm
July 16, 2020 - 2nd day	8:00am - 3:00pm
Sept. 16, 2020 - 1st day	1:00pm - 5:00pm
Sept. 17, 2020 - 2nd day	8:00am - 3:00pm



After long weeks of coronavirus-related travel restrictions, as well as the cancellation of two 2020 Tools of Floodplain Management workshops, we are finally moving forward! We are forging ahead; we will now be holding our July 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> workshop at SEMA Headquarters as previously scheduled. We're eager for you to join us. Please register here:

<https://mfsma.org/meetinginfo.php>

Linda Olsen will contact you soon after registration regarding overnight accommodations. Linda, Lynn or Karen will contact you closer to July 15<sup>th</sup> with the information you'll need for entering SEMA Headquarters.

## CFM Exam and NFIP Training Workshop

The Association of State Floodplain Managers has established a national program for certifying floodplain managers. This program recognizes continuing education and professional development that enhances the knowledge and performance of local, state, federal and private-sector floodplain management professionals. Listed below is the 2020 schedule:

**NFIP Training Workshop: August 6, 2020**

**CFM Exam: August 7, 2020**

**NFIP Training Workshop: November 5, 2020**

**CFM Exam: November 6, 2020**