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State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) Floodplain Management Section

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Issue 4 - FY 2021 - Floodplain Management E-Bulletin

It's the last quarter of Fiscal Year 2021 and time for the forth FY21 *Missouri Floodplain Management E-Bulletin*! The entire Floodplain Management staff at the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency has been very busy this quarter working to help our Missouri communities. We did not let travel restrictions from the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic keep us from doing our utmost to serve our Missouri communities every day. We, (Karen, Linda, Lynn and Jackie) are looking forward to continuing to serve our NFIP communities to the best of our ability in FY22!

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:



Photo: Terri Turner - Haz. Mit. Specialist,
Augusta, Georgia.

New Disaster Response Landing Page

FloodSmart.gov – A New Disaster Response Landing Page

Hurricane season is upon us. In preparation for a predicted above average season numerous nationwide flood events already this year, the NFIP has launched its Disaster Response Landing Page on FloodSmart.gov.

This webpage is designed to provide you with the most up-to-date and relevant NFIP publications needed to prepare for and respond to floods. Please promote this website to state, community and local officials to provide them with access to resources needed before, during and after a flood event. The Disaster Response Landing Page provides informational resources that address the following categories:

- Preparing for a Storm
- Filing Your Claim
- Recovering From a Flood
- Information for Insurance Agents
- Resources in Additional Languages

Karen McHugh, CFM, State NFIP Coordinator for Missouri, testified on the Association of State Floodplain Manager's (ASFPM's) behalf at the [May 25 hearing](#) on the Reauthorization and Reform of the National Flood Insurance Program. Her testimony centered on the importance of prioritizing mitigating at-risk properties, increasing flood-risk awareness, and ensuring full flood-risk disclosure for all property transactions.

"Too many times, I have listened to homebuyers who were surprised to learn, at the closing table, that their new house is in a high-risk floodplain," McHugh said in her oral statement. "Even more distressing, some property owners have shared with me that they did not learn about their flood risk until their home had already been flooded. Full risk disclosure should not stop with home ownership. A tenant recently told me of her shock when her rented unit's basement apartment flooded just seconds after she had removed her infant son from his crib. She had never been told that her rented home was in a high-risk floodplain and had a history of flooding."

As part of the hearing before the House Subcommittee on Housing, Community Development, and Insurance, ASFPM submitted [written testimony](#), which featured more than 20 specific recommendations for strengthening the NFIP across four facets: floodplain mapping, floodplain management standards, flood hazard mitigation, and flood insurance.

"NFIP reauthorization is an opportunity for Congress to take bold steps to reduce the complexity of the program while strengthening the NFIPs financial framework so that the program can continue protecting individuals and property from the devastating effects of flooding."

KAREN MCHUGH, CFM. STATE NFIP COORDINATOR FOR MISSOURI



Photo: Linda Olsen and Jessica Catron Pugh with newly elected official and his assistant.

On June 9, 2022, SEMA's Floodplain Management Section's Linda Olsen and State Disaster Recovery Coordinator Jessica Catron Pugh attended the Missouri Municipal League Newly Elected Officials Training Conference in Columbia, Missouri. It was an exceptional day of outreach with over 200 newly-elected officials in attendance. Linda and Jessica spoke to 50+ attendees, in the process reaching roughly 40—45 communities. Linda and Jessica handed out substantial amounts of literature on the NFIP, and discussed various SEMA programs. It was a great way to get off on the right foot with some of Missouri's communities, introducing them to the SEMA Floodplain Management Section!

Be sure to visit our Floodplain Management Website: www.sema.dps.mo.gov/programs/floodplain/. It has many NFIP resources available for download, including NFIP Technical Bulletins, NFIP Floodplain Forms, the Missouri Quick Guide, and the After the Flood Quick Guide. It also has Executive Order 98-03 with the State Floodplain Management Ordinance, the Floodplain Management Section's training opportunities, and past versions of the *E-Bulletin*. This website was created and is maintained for **YOU!**



This guide was developed and funded by FEMA's Community Assistance Program—State Support Services Element (CAP-SSSE) grant after the Missouri State NFIP Coordinator applied for, and was granted, a discretionary project in FY21. The idea was to design a booklet to help Missouri citizens protect buildings from future flooding. Retired Illinois State NFIP Coordinator Paul Osman was contracted to create this 60-page booklet so that Missouri's citizens have help recovering after a flooding event. The booklet is an amazing resource for our communities! It can be downloaded from our website: www.sema.dps.mo.gov/programs/floodplain/ or contact the Missouri Floodplain Management Section at (573) 526-9129.



Floods Don't Read Maps

While the floodplain maps are a good reference, don't be fooled. Floods can't read maps. Floods don't always stop at the line on the map! In fact, they frequently go past the line on the map!

Major storms and flash floods can cause flooding that rises higher than the 100-year flood level shown on the maps.

In Missouri, large rainfall events are happening more often. These heavy rainfalls often happen in one small area, and flash flooding occurs.

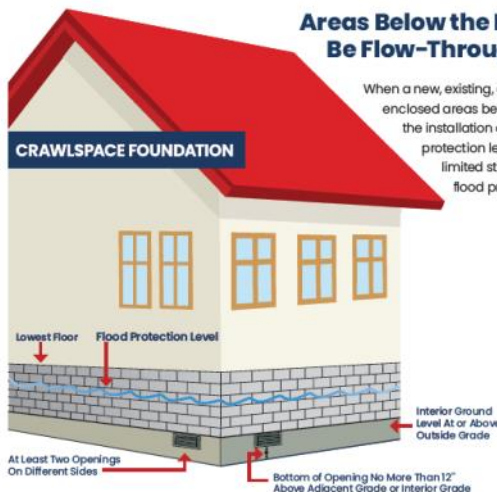
Flash floods are a real problem in Missouri, and flash flood risks are often not shown on the floodplain maps. If you live in a valley or other low lying area, have a backup plan when heavy rainfall is predicted.

Be smart, be safe, and protect your home or business by building higher (see page 49).

Step Three – Make Sure You Don't Flood Again

Areas Below the Flood Protection Level Must Be Flow-Through

When a new, existing, or substantially damaged home in the floodplain is elevated, enclosed areas below the flood protection level must be open to flood flows. This is the installation of flow-through openings. In addition, any area below the flood protection level must be built of flood resistant material and used only for limited storage, and building access. Utilities must also be elevated above flood protection level.



- Total net area of all openings is 1 sq. inch per sq. foot of enclosed area (measured on the outside).
- A 30' x 40' enclosure needs a total of 1,200 sq. inches of openings.
- If inserted as flood openings, typical air ventilation units be permanently disabled in the open position to allow flow in and out.
- A typical air ventilation unit, with screen, provides 42 to 48 inches of opening. (Look for "net free area" stamp on unit.)

ALTERNATIVE: Engineered openings are acceptable if certified to allow adequate automatic inflow and outflow of floodwater.

which buildings in the floodplain must be plus an additional 1-2 feet of protection.



MfSMA Annual Conference



“It is my goal to use all resources when it comes to breaking the cycle of disaster damage and reconstruction. “

Jana Henderson, ASFPM Secretary, State Hazard Mitigation Officer, Director of Mitigation for the State of Mississippi testified before the Committee on Banking, Housing, & Urban Affairs during a hearing titled “Reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program: Protecting Communities from Flood Risk.”

MfSMA will be hosting their annual conference, this year from August 31st to Sept. 2nd. This year’s theme is “If You Build It Right, It Won’t Flood”. We’re looking forward to an exciting conference with both regional and national speakers making this one of the most informative conferences that we’ve ever had the pleasure of hosting. The conference will include technical, administrative, and case study presentations of stormwater and floodplain management, water quality and stream protection, emergency preparedness, technological advances, hydrologic and hydraulic modeling, GIS applications, and low impact development. Conference fees are \$200 for members and \$250 for non-members. Visit us at MfSMA.org to sign up today.



Local officials must know the basic requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) for their communities. However, many do not have time to attend an in-person course that lasts four days or more. Therefore, FEMA’s Floodplain Management Training, Education, and Development Committee has launched a new online NFIP 101 training course. It is excellent training and can be accessed here: floods.org/training-education/online-training/asfpm-on-demand-learning/nfip101/

Congratulations to our friend and colleague in Kansas, Steve Samuelson, CFM, for winning FEMA’s Lifetime Achievement Award! All of us will all miss Steve, but we’re happy for him to begin his retirement. Thank you Steve, for all of your help and sage advice over the years, and for always making us laugh!



Lifetime Achievement Award: Steve Samuelson, Kansas

Steve Samuelson is a State NFIP Coordinator that not only goes the extra mile to help all of his constituents in Kansas, but helps any other State Coordinator, or anyone at all that asks for his help. His advice is accurate and correct because he stays on top of all issues related to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Steve is a friend to all, and he will be very much missed after he retires. Steve is truly someone who cares about floodplain management, and he willingly shares his knowledge of the NFIP, training workshops that he developed - by himself! - for other states to use, and any document that he has created.

Steve embodies self-confidence, honesty, empathy, integrity, creativity, patience, intelligence, leadership, and accountability. And, perhaps most importantly, Steve Samuelson is kind. His dedication and contribution to the NFIP and the State of Kansas over the years is immeasurable, and we wish him the best of luck in all future endeavors following his retirement.

The 46th Annual ASFPM Conference was a huge success! More than 1,770 attendees joined ASFPM from May 15—19, 2022, either at the Caribe Royal in Orlando, FL. or online. Every state in the U.S. was represented, making this conference the best-attended ASFPM Conference in 44 years of in-person conferences (during the pandemic, 2 Annual conferences were held online only).

For the first time, there was an ASFPM Chapter Row in the Exhibit Hall, and the Region VII ASFPM Chapters participated! Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska presented a gift basket filled with state-specific items for a drawing and Lynn Britt from Florida was the happy WINNER!



From left to right: Lynn Welch, MO Chapter, Ellie Marr, MO Chapter, Lynn Britt, winner- Tequesta, FL, Lori Lastar from NE Chapter, Sydney Roberts, Mo Chapter and John Covey, KS Chapter. Not pictured: Linda Olsen, MO Chapter



**We hope to see you next year at the 2023
ASFPM Conference in
Raleigh, NC, May 7-11!
Save the date!**

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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

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The Stacey Ricks Memorial Award – State Coordinator of the Year: Karen McHugh, Missouri

Karen is a perennial CAP award winner. In fact, last year she was nominated by Region 7 and received the "best grants management" award. Karen works tirelessly with Missouri State Emergency Management Agency's state, federal and local partners to help Missouri communities protect residents and businesses against flooding and manage floodplains.

Karen successfully navigated Missouri through the use of the new CAP-SSSE tools during the application process over the last two years, overcame several state-specific challenges, and led her state in becoming an Advanced state in the CAP-SSSE Tiered State Framework. She has a passion for the CAP-SSSE program and floodplain management and never fails to inspire her fellow team members in Missouri and her floodplain management peers across the nation. This can be seen regularly in her active leadership roles in ASFPM, where she is currently the Region 7 regional director and the Missouri Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association. Because of Karen and her team's efforts, Missourians and communities across the state benefit from her expertise in floodplain management and knowledge of FEMA programs. This year, she was recognized by her peers as personifying excellence in floodplain management – excellence in leading her state program and team, excellence in her management and strategic long-term planning for CAP, and excellence in demonstrating empathy and supporting her communities by putting herself in their shoes. Karen's peers have said that what sets her apart is that she does everything it takes to run an advanced state program, all the while managing more frequent and severe floods than many of her counterparts. Karen's empathy also extends to her peers – she is known as a listener, calming influence, and a mentor. She is generous in sharing her lessons learned and best practices and is always willing to let you use something she's created, often saying, "just copy and paste!"