



The B.F.E.*

* Base Flood Elevation

OKLAHOMA FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 4

March 2002

Number 2

Governor Declares March Flood Insurance Month

OKLAHOMA CITY - Each year in Oklahoma, thousands of citizens who experience flood damage lack the protection afforded through readily available flood insurance. To enhance awareness of the availability of federal flood insurance, as well as inform Oklahomans about intelligent floodplain management and development procedures, Governor Frank Keating has designated March as "Flood Insurance Month" in Oklahoma.

"All too often, property owners and renters become aware of flood insurance and other protection measures only after a flood has financially devastated them or their community," said Duane Smith, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB). "The Governor's proclamation provides the OWRB, insurance companies and emergency management organizations with a valuable opportunity to spread the word on the availability of relatively inexpensive flood insurance."

Smith added the timing of the Flood Insurance Month

designation is appropriate because Oklahoma's spring flooding season is just around the corner. "Most flood insurance policies require a 30-day waiting period," he pointed out. "Because, historically, most of Oklahoma's flooding disasters have occurred during the spring, now is the time for those citizens who reside in designated floodplains to purchase flood insurance, if they have not already." Smith added that a flood insurance policy may be purchased from any licensed property insurance agent.

Of the 38 presidentially declared disasters in Oklahoma since 1955, 28 have involved flooding. In an effort to mitigate such emergencies, the OWRB was named the state coordinating agency for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) by Governor Dewey Bartlett in 1969. The NFIP assists Oklahomans by making flood insurance available at affordable rates and helping communities make wise decisions concerning floodplain use.

To be eligible for flood insurance, participants must establish a floodplain board, recognize floodplain

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Managing Floodplain Development Through the NFIP

Dale Hoff at Region VI FEMA is offering the 4-½ day Course April 8, 2002 at Buchanan Dam, Llano Co., TX (near Burnett). Roy Sedwick with the Lower Colorado River is the course director. Roy's email address is roy.sedwick@lcra.org.

Dale Hoff can be reached at 940-898-5225. They will accept students from Oklahoma that need to take this course to be approved to take the CFM exam.

Elevation Certificate Training for Surveyors Now Online

Certifying building elevations on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Elevation Certificate just became a lot easier, thanks to a new web-based training module developed for land surveyors, engineers, and architects.

The *Surveyor's Guide to the Elevation Certificate* is a new tutorial available through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) website hosted by FEMA. The NFIP website, <http://www.fema.gov/nfip>, provides information about all aspects of floodplain management and flood insurance.

After accessing the NFIP website, visitors can select "Surveyors" under "Audience Type" to view the tutorial for surveyors. The surveyor's tutorial also can assist the community officials who monitor compliance with the elevation requirements of their communities' floodplain ordinances.

It takes about half an hour to browse through the new tutorial. At the home page of the *Surveyor's Guide to the Elevation Certificate*, visitors view a short introduction to the elevation certificate and then click on three section tabs to move around the site.

- Clicking on the "Elevation Certificate" tab allows visitors to view and download an electronic copy of the EC along with instructions for completing it.

- Clicking on the "Surveyor Video" tab opens a video that briefly describes the process a surveyor follows to establish a building's elevation points.
- Clicking on the "Bldg. Diagrams & Photos" tab displays a series of eight sample building diagrams and representative photos. This section of the tutorial is designed to show surveyors, engineers, and architects where to take the necessary elevation measurements for each building diagram.

Navigation tools at the bottom of each page provide information not only for how to move around within the tutorial and how to use each section most effectively, but also how to e-mail questions or comments directly to elevation certificate specialists at FEMA.

For more information about the new *Surveyor's Guide to the Elevation Certificate* training module, visit <http://nfip.kevric.com/ecsurveyor/>. With questions about completing the elevation certificate, contact FEMA's regional office in New York City or DEC's state NFIP coordinator or our regional DEC floodplain coordinator.

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Citizens Working to Protect Bartlesville from Natural Hazards

With a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), a consultant hired, and a citizen committee formed, the City of Bartlesville has begun preparation of a Hazard Mitigation Plan. The plan, required by FEMA to be adopted by October 1, will analyze 14 of Bartlesville's most threatening natural hazards and recommend measures to mitigate their sometimes dangerous effects.

Although completion of this plan is a FEMA requirement, its implementation will mean other obvious benefits to the community such as reducing insurance rates, decreasing property damage, and saving lives. This plan will not be the kind that sits on the shelf accumulating dust. It will have an implementation strategy, with target completion dates and responsible parties identified. Annually, the plan will be evaluated, and a progress report will be sent to FEMA.

14 Hazards to be Studied

floods
dam failures
tornadoes
high winds
hailstorms
lightning
winter storms
extreme heat
drought
expansive soil
urban fires
wild fires
earthquakes
hazardous materials events

2002 LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION - February 13, 2002



The 5th Legislative Reception was a huge success. There are 268 new signatures in the reception guest book. A special thank you goes out to those people that went above and beyond the minimum, prior to the reception, to educate our lawmakers about what and who we are. They are Lynne Stevenson, Walter Stout, Walt Allen, Rex Hennen, John Harrington, Ruth Walters, Hank Elling, Nancy Wade, Mike McCool, Jason Shiever, Janet Meshek, Carolyn Schultz and Ken Morris. These people played an integral part in the success of this special event. Jerry Tiedeman with Maccaferri, Inc. came all the way from Ft. Worth to show support for what we are doing.

Special guests stopping by the reception included Carroll Fisher, State Insurance Commissioner, and Chris Bruehl of the Governor's staff, plus many State Senators and State Representatives. Percy Walker and Thad Balkman came by, as well as Representative M.C. Liest, Chair of the Natural Resources Committee. Region VI FEMA Deputy Director, Gary Jones, traveled from Denton, TX to support this effort. Albert Ashwood, Executive Director of ODCEM accompanied Gary Jones to the reception. Lonnie Ward introduced Gary Jones to Howard Barnett, the Governor's Chief of Staff. They also had an opportunity to visit with the Governor about our programs and what we want to accomplish.



A special acknowledgement goes to Rhonda Kouba for taking care of the name tags, handout materials and putting up with Ken! Thanks again to everyone involved for the work and support of this year's legislative effort.

ASFPM National Conference

Phoenix AZ

June 23-28, 2002

Planning is well underway for the Association of State Floodplain Managers' 26th national conference, **Breaking the Cycle of Repetitive Flood Loss**, at the Hyatt Regency Phoenix, June 23-28, 2002. The team is very busy finalizing plans for the program, various events and sponsors, and working to get the full brochure to print by the end of January. Besides the full technical program, various topical training workshops as well as FPM 101 and 201 will be offered on Sunday, Wednesday and Friday. Technical field tours will be conducted Sunday and Wednesday mornings, with the national Awards Luncheon on Thursday. There are some changes in the traditional schedule pattern, so it is extremely important that you preview the agenda before making your travel plans! Look for information and the full brochure on the ASFPM website at www.floods.org/Phoenix.

Web Sites

OFMA www.okflood.org
ASFPM www.floods.org
OWRB www.owrb.state.ok.us
FEMA www.fema.gov
OEMA www.angelfire.com/ok2/oema/
ODCEM www.onenet.net/~odcem/
Corps of Engineers (USACE)
 www.swt.usace.army.mil
U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
 ok.water.usgs.gov
EMI Independent Study
 www.fema.gov/home/emi/ishome.htm
Advanced Study Institute
 web.uccs.edu/geogenvs/natoasi
WebMaster: Hank Elling, P.E., CFM
 (580)248-7762 hcelling@owrb.state.ok.us

Governor Declares March Flood Insurance Month (Continued from page 1)

boundaries and restrict development in those areas. Such strategies typically result in reduced federal outlays to mitigate flood damages. The OWRB is the state agency designated to coordinate the NFIP in Oklahoma in a cooperative partnership with the Oklahoma Insurance Department, Oklahoma Department of Civil Emergency Management and the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association.

Only 12 percent of all homes or structures in the state that lie in the 100-year floodplain are covered by flood insurance, according to Ken Morris, OWRB State Floodplain Manager. "It is disheartening that relatively few people take advantage of the benefits afforded through the purchase of flood insurance, especially since it is so inexpensive and offers such comprehensive protection against one of our most common natural disasters," Morris said.

Also, to make citizens better aware of flooding problems in Oklahoma, Governor Keating has designated May 2002 as "Flood Awareness Month."

For more information on Flood Insurance Month, call Ken Morris, of the OWRB's Planning Division, at 405/530-8800.

Brian R. Vance
 Oklahoma Water Resources Board
 405-530-8866

Calendar of Educational Opportunities

- **Mar 25-28, 2002: National Floodproofing Conference, II** Downtown Hyatt, Tampa, FL. ASFPM and Partners. Contact: *Diane Watson*, 2809 Fish Hatchery Road, Ste. 204, Madison, WI 53713-3120; (608) 274-0123; fax: (608)274-0696; e-mail: *asfpm@floods.org*; website: *www.floods.org*
- **May 7, 2002: Region 1 Floodplain Management Workshop**, Norman, OK; No Charge, Contact: OWRB, *Ken Morris (405) 530-8800*.
- **May 9, 2002: Region 2 Floodplain Management Workshop**, Tulsa, OK; No Charge, Contact: OWRB, *Ken Morris (405) 530-8800*.
- **May 14, 2002: Region 5 Floodplain Management Workshop**, Woodward, OK; No Charge, Contact: OWRB, *Ken Morris (405) 530-8800*.
- **May 16, 2002: Region 4 Floodplain Management Workshop**, Lawton, OK; No Charge, Contact: OWRB, *Ken Morris (405) 530-8800*.
- **May 20-22, 2002: National Flood Conference** Hyatt Regency, New Orleans, LA. For more information: FEMA.GOV/NFIP or (281) 829-6880.
- **May 29, 2002: Region 3 Floodplain Management Workshop**, McAlester, OK; No Charge, Contact: OWRB, *Ken Morris (405) 530-8800*.
- **Jun 23-28, 2002: Twenty-Sixth Annual Conference of the Association of State Floodplain Managers**, Phoenix, AZ. Contact: *ASFPM Executive Office*, 2809 Fish Hatchery Road, Ste. 204, Madison, WI 53713-3120; (608) 274-0123; fax: (608)274-0696; e-mail: *asfpm@floods.org*; website: *www.floods.org*
- **Sep 23-25, 2002: OFMA Annual Fall Conference**, Quartz Mountain Resort, Lone Wolf, OK; Cost: \$130 Contact: *OFMA, P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101*; website: *www.okflood.org*
- **Jun 3-8, 2003: Twenty-Seventh Annual Conference of the Association of State Floodplain Managers**, St. Louis, MO. Contact: *ASFPM Executive Office*, 2809 Fish Hatchery Road, Ste. 204, Madison, WI 53713-3120; (608) 274-0123; fax: (608)274-0696; e-mail: *asfpm@floods.org*; website: *www.floods.org*

Notes from the State Floodplain Manager

Does every community now have an All Hazards Mitigation Plan?

If you don't you should. After the winter storms last year and the January 30, 2002, winter storm this year (FEMA-1401-DR-OK) a substantial amount of mitigation money was made available to communities that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. Last winter 2001, approximately \$22 Million was made available for such purposes and this year about \$19 Million is available. Under the leadership of Albert Ashwood, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department of Civil Emergency Management, every county in the NFIP should be able to put a plan together to mitigate future wildfires, high winds, tornadoes, floods, terrorism and hazardous material events, to name a few. If you are a community official and have not taken action on this excellent opportunity, please contact Connie Dill, the State Hazard Mitigation Officer at (405) 521-2481.

After the ice storm and the President signed the disaster declaration, FEMA set up the disaster field office and FEMA Region V, Chicago was assigned the disaster. Norm Schorbert and Rusty Rickart of Region V took the lead for this disaster and did an excellent job. A primary assignment of the disaster team is to work with communities not in the NFIP. Mike Klitzke from Wisconsin and Jim Blix, Minnesota, both DAEs (disaster assistance employees) were assigned this task. Mike and Jim are working closely with the OWRB staff, Gavin Brady, Hank Eling, Jason Shiever & I, in contacting non-participating NFIP communities & encouraging participation. About 50 communities have been contacted and several have expressed interest in joining. Thanks to Mike,

(Continued on page 7)

Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association

Vision

Floodplains are for floodwaters, habitat, water quality enhancement and recreation.

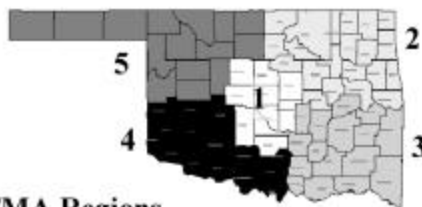
Mission

We encourage and support, with our partners, flood-safe development and flood mitigation. We promote sound floodplain management practices and the natural and cultural benefits of the floodplain. We support the floodplain management profession through education and certification.

Saving lives from floods and reducing property loss from floods are paramount to us.

An Invitation to Join OFMA

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association is a non-profit organization primarily dedicated to providing information and education to the public about reduction of loss of life and property due to flooding.



OFMA Regions

The best investment that \$20.00 can buy in the future of your state is a membership in the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association.

OFMA Membership Application

Name: _____ Company/Organization: _____
 Title: _____ Address: _____
 Work Phone: _____ City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____

Detach and Mail to:
OFMA
 P.O. Box 8101
 Tulsa, OK 74101-8101

New Member: Renewal:
 Region (see map): 1 2 3 4 5

- Committees:
 ___ Mitigation ___ Floodplain Regulations
 ___ Flood Insurance ___ Mapping & Engineering
 ___ Flood Proofing ___ Stormwater Management
 ___ Research

Dues Schedule:

First-Year dues are prorated depending on the quarter during which you join. The fiscal year start October 1st and ends September 30th.

	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep
Full Membership	\$ 30.00	\$ 22.50	\$ 15.00	\$ 7.50
Student Membership	15.00	11.25	7.50	3.75
Associate Membership	20.00	15.00	10.00	5.00
Agency Membership	50.00	37.50	25.00	12.50
(Plus \$10.00 per employee designated by the Agency)				
Corporate Sponsor	100.00	75.00	50.00	25.00



OFMA General Store

Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association gifts are now available. The attractive OFMA articles are of the highest quality. You will be proud to wear and display them.

To Order: OFMA
P.O. Box 8101
Tulsa, OK 74101

Or Call: Carolyn Schultz
(918) 669-4919



OFMA Products

- OFMA Golf Shirt \$ 35.00
Sizes (S, M, L, X-L)
- Briefcase 25.00
- Baseball Cap 15.00
Size (One size fits all)
- Insulated Mug 10.00
- Umbrella 20.00
- Portfolio 25.00
- Lapel Pin 3.00
- CFM Lapel Pin \$ 5.00
- Shipping and handling \$4.95 per order.

Definition: Base Flood & Special Flood Hazard Area

Base Flood - The flood having a one-percent (1%) chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.

Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) - The land in a floodplain within the community subject to a one-percent (1%) or greater chance of flooding in any given year.



OFMA'S CORPORATE PARTNERS



<p>Oklahoma Municipal League</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jimi Layman</p> <p>201 N.E. 23rd Street Oklahoma City, OK 73105-3199 (405) 528-7515 (800) 324-6651</p>	<p>Myers Engineering</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bill Myers</p> <p>116 NW 132nd St. Oklahoma City, OK 73114 (405) 755-5325</p>	<p>Oklahoma Insurance Commission</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Carroll Fisher</p> <p>2401 N.W. 23rd, Ste. 28 P.O. Box 53408 Oklahoma City, OK 73152 (405) 521-2828 (800) 522-0071 www.oid.state.ok.us</p>
<p>FTN Associates, Ltd.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Conrad Battreal, P.E., CFM Senior Floodplain Manager</p> <p>3 Innwood Circle, Ste. 220 Little Rock, AR 72211 (501) 225-7779 E-mail: flood@ftn-assoc.com Website: www.ftn-assoc.com</p>	<p>Vieux & Associates, Inc.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jean Vieux</p> <p>1215 Crossroads Blvd., Ste. 118 Norman, OK 73072 (405) 292-6259 Fax: (405) 292-6258 E-mail: jv@vieuxinc.com Website: www.vieuxinc.com</p>	<p>International Center for Natural Hazards and Disaster Research</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Baxter Vieux, Ph.D., P.E. Director</p> <p>202 West Boyd, CEC Room 334 Norman, OK 73019 (405) 325-3600 E-mail: bvieux@ou.edu</p>
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You know you are in the floodplain *(with apologies to Jeff Foxworthy):*

If you have to wear a mask and snorkel to watch TV...

If you dream you are fishing and wake up on your mattress in the middle of a lake...

If you spend the weekend camping on the top of your pickup...

If you ride your house more than fifty feet downstream...

If you catch a 10 lb. bass in your pillow-case...

If you reach over to kiss your spouse and

think her skin is rough. You open your eyes and are eye to eye with an alligator...

If Carolyn Schultz writes you a letter that states "don't call me"...

If you get out of bed to go to the bathroom in the middle of the night and get your feet wet and haven't gone yet...

If your neighbors ask if they need a fishing license to fish in your living room...

If your local floodplain administrator says "We've got to stop meeting like this."

Thanks to Andy Kincaid!

Notes from the State Floodplain Manager *(Continued from page 5)*

Jim, Gavin, Hank & Jason for their hard work & time they made for this unexpected additional task.

Please keep fighting the flood fight, enforce your ordinance in a professional manner and attend floodplain management training annually. To be a good floodplain manager, education, training and confidence are key to do this tough and many times thankless job. The main benefit of saving lives and protecting property from flooding makes it all worthwhile.

Thank you,

Ken Morris, CFM



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