

KANSAS FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER



February 2013

Hazard Mitigation Plans

Risk is the potential that a chosen action or inaction will lead to an undesirable outcome. Understanding risk also means knowing that people have a choice to influence a risk outcome. Planning for possible hazards reduces risks. Communities that do not participate in a hazard mitigation plan are more at risk than other communities.

A hazard mitigation plan is a way to reduce losses from hazards such as flooding. Flood mitigation has been done in Kansas through minor flood control projects such as a larger culvert or through grants that buy out properties prone to flooding. Mitigation can be something as simple as education classes, a safety brochure or outreach to the public. It can also include major brick and mortar projects aimed at reducing flood risks.

Mitigation efforts lead to more resilient communities that have fewer losses of life and property during a disaster and recover faster from the impacts of a disaster. Communities that prepare and plan for disasters are shown to be better able to recover when disasters happen. One of the first steps toward becoming a resilient community is to have a hazard mitigation plan. Resiliency should be a goal for all cities and counties in Kansas.

Do you know if your community has a hazard mitigation plan? In order to determine if one's county has a hazard mitigation plan, individuals should contact the county emergency management director to learn more about the hazard mitigation plan. It is important to note that some counties have hazard mitigation plans that will expire soon and will need help from local community officials and floodplain managers to prepare new plans.

Communities that have plans are not only better prepared but are also able to apply for certain types of mitigation grants. Many communities in Kansas can not afford the cost of mitigation projects without the funding that comes from grants. Mitigation planning can translate in to grant dollars, a safer community and faster recovery after a disaster. Contact State Hazard Mitigation Officer Jake Gray if you have questions about mitigation planning at Jacob.s.gray.nfg@mail.mil.

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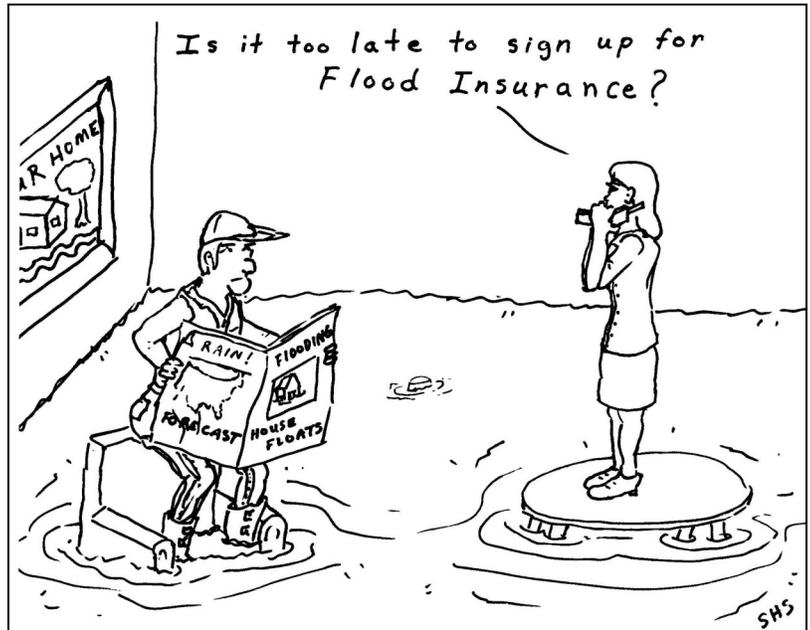
Droughts Can Be Best Time to Buy Flood Insurance

In 2011 and 2012 when staff from the Kansas Department of Agriculture/Division of Water Resources Floodplain Management Team discussed joining the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) with community officials, questions were raised about the need for flood insurance during a drought.

During a period of drought is an appropriate time to have a discussion about flood insurance. After it starts raining, it could be too late as flash floods can and do happen. For example, homes in Clay, Riley, and Labette counties flooded in 2011 and 2012? The property owners sure do. Those flash floods resulted in three deaths.

Joining the NFIP takes time. It requires documents to be filled out and those documents must be approved by the local community, state of Kansas and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The approval process usually takes two or three months with a 30-day waiting period for flood insurance to become effective in most cases.

April showers will soon be here. Talk to citizens about flood insurance while it isn't raining. Do you know of another community in your area that should join the NFIP? For more information about the NFIP, contact Steve Samuelson at 785-296-4622.



Short Training Videos to Watch

H2O Partners, a Texas based business with extensive experience assisting local and state governments, FEMA and the private sector to effectively mitigate against, prepare for and recover from all types of disasters, has developed some training videos for floodplain management classes. These videos are a few minutes long and presented in plain language anyone can understand and explain common terminology. To see the videos, go to <http://www.nfiptraining.com/>. Click "Flingo" for a selection of videos about floodplain management language. Clicking on "Flood Talk" offers a selection of videos related to specific topics.

The Flood Talk videos titled "LOMC" and "Definition of a Flood" are particularly recommended as are the Flingo videos "ICC," "Grandfathering" and "CRS." The CRS video about the Community Rating System would be a good link on a community website when the community is in the Community Rating System. Citizens could get a better understanding of the program by watching the video.

Insurance is Available Shaded X Zones

Shaded X zones on newer maps and B zones on older Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) indicate an area with a moderate risk to flooding. This may be an area behind a levee, an area with flood depths of less than a foot, an area with less than one square mile of drainage or an area having 0.2% annual chance of flooding. Flood insurance is not federally mandated in moderate risk areas, but it is available. There is a moderate risk in those areas and homeowners should be aware that flood insurance is available, at a lesser cost, in shaded X zones. There are no flood zones with zero risk.

Prepare an Emergency Supply Kit

Proper emergency preparedness planning includes having an emergency supply kit that includes items such as a flashlight, radio, spare batteries, cell phone charger, medications, water, food and tools in a backpack or small suitcase. Keep the disaster supply kit where you can grab it and take it with you in your car for an evacuation or take it to the basement when you shelter from a tornado.

The kit comes in handy for events other than disasters. Steve Samuelson has used water from his kit when the water was cut off and the flashlight was used during a power outage. When you are at work, you'll feel better knowing your family has a kit at home and a plan for what to do.

It is also important to have supply kits at the workplace. It is important to remember that office kits should contain necessary supplies to ensure the office can function quickly and efficiently after a disaster.



An office disaster kit may contain things like a clipboard, brochures and preprinted forms or letters. An office kit would also contain items you may need to do inspections after a disaster such as a digital camera, batteries for the camera, tape measure, steel toed boots, flashlight and door hangers or signs.

A hand out from the American Red Cross about items to place in a disaster supply kit will be sent out with the email version of this newsletter. You may also contact Steve Samuelson at steve.samuelson@dka.ks.gov for more ideas about how to put an office disaster supply kit together.

Elevation Certificates and Training Available

A new elevation certificate form is now available. Surveyors and engineers should download the new form from the Federal Emergency Management Agency website at <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=1383>. The new elevation certificate form has an expiration date of July 31, 2015. There are a few simple changes between the previous elevation certificate and the new one. One change to note is a requirement that photos will show foundation openings or flood vents when required. Flood vents are not required with some building types. The old version of the elevation certificate will be phased out. Both forms will be accepted until July 31, 2013. On August 1, 2013, only the new form will be accepted. Start using the new form now so you won't have any problems later.

A common mistake associated with elevation certificates happens when the incorrect building diagram is noted in section A7. This mistake has cost some of our citizens to pay excessively high rates for flood insurance. An on line training class is available through the Kansas Train website at <https://ks.train.org> called KDA: Floodplain Elevation Certificate Section A. Search for the course by name or by course number #1037539. The on line training takes about an hour. In the training class you will learn how to identify building types in the field, what to do about lowest adjacent grade for window wells and requirements for flood openings.

A handout about Kansas Train will be sent with the email version of this newsletter. Share it with surveyors in your area. Call Steve Samuelson at 785-296-4622 for questions about elevation certificates.

Training Opportunities

The Floodplain Management Program will host the following training sessions throughout Kansas. If you are interested in any of the no-cost training opportunities, please contact Tom Morey at 785-296-5440 or Steve Samuelson at 785-296-4622. A training registration form is in this newsletter.

Post Flood Responsibilities

This free class is intended for community officials responsible for administering floodplain management regulations. The course focuses on what to do during and after a disaster event. Topics include substantial damage, permitting, Increased Cost of Compliance and violations. Approved 3.5 hours toward CFM. Limited to 20 participants. Jacob Gray from KDEM will discuss mitigation grants in the Topeka class.

- Iola - Feb. 27, 2013 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Topeka– Apr. 4, 2013 8:30am– 12:30pm.

Elevation Certificates and Letters Of Map Amendment

This free class is designed for community officials responsible for administering floodplain management as well as surveyors and engineers who complete Letters Of Map Amendment (LOMA) and Elevation Certificate forms. The course will focus on accurate completion of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) technical forms, building diagrams and base flood elevation. Approved 3.5 hours toward CFM. Limited to 20 participants.

- Lawrence - May 9, 2013 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Basics of the National Flood Insurance Program

This class is for officials responsible for administering their local floodplain management ordinance. The focus is on the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and concepts of floodplain management, maps and studies, ordinance administration, and the relationship between floodplain management and flood insurance. Approved 3.5 hours toward CFM. Limited to 20 participants.

- Pratt– Apr. 2, 2013 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Bailey's Box of Trivia:

What year was the flood known as the "Great Flood" in Kansas?

The year was 1844. It was the biggest recorded flood on the Missouri River.

Past issues of our floodplain management newsletters can be read on our website at:

<http://www.ksda.gov/structures/content/196/cid/1540>

Email saves money on postage. The electronic newsletter also has links and the photos are in color. If you are getting this newsletter by postal mail and would prefer email please contact Steve Samuelson at steve.samuelson@kda.ks.gov.

Mark your calendar. The Kansas Association for Floodplain Management 2013 conference will be September 4 and 5 in Topeka. More information will be posted at the website www.kafm.org. Registration will be done through a link on the website. For questions about the conference please contact Don Slone, Chairman, at 913-667-1708.

Kansas Department of Agriculture
Division of Water Resources
Floodplain Program
Training Registration Form

Name _____

Title _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

Name, date and location of training you will attend _____

*Please share this invitation with anyone else who could benefit from the training.

**Classroom locations will be sent to registered participants one week before the training.

Please mail or fax your registration to:

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
109 SW 9th STREET, 2nd FLOOR
TOPEKA, KS 66612-1283
Fax to: 785-296-1176

If you have questions about training, please contact Steve Samuelson by email at steve.samuelson@kda.ks.gov or by phone 785-296-4622, or contact Tom Morey at tom.morey@kda.ks.gov and 785-296-5440.

Please help us keep our records current. If the name that appears on this newsletter is for an individual no longer with your organization, please call 785-296-4622, or send an e-mail to steve.samuelson@kda.ks.gov to report the change.

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Kansas Department of Agriculture
Division of Water Resources
Floodplain Management
109 SW 9th St 2nd Floor
Topeka, KS 66612-1283

ASFPM 2013 National Conference in Connecticut

The 2013 Association of State Floodplain Managers National Conference will be June 9-14, 2013 in Hartford, Connecticut. This conference is an excellent opportunity for floodplain managers to receive training on mapping technologies, regulations, permitting, outreach and best practices. It is estimated the conference will be attended by more than a thousand floodplain management professionals. This conference is great chance to meet people for networking and to learn the latest news in floodplain management.

KDA/DWR Water Structures Floodplain Program Staff

Tom Morey, CFM, RS, NFIP Coordinator	785-296-5440	tom.morey@kda.ks.gov
Erika Stanley, CFM, Floodplain Mapping Coordinator	785-296-2513	erika.stanley@kda.ks.gov
Steve Samuelson, CFM, NFIP Specialist	785-296-4622	steve.samuelson@kda.ks.gov
Dane Bailey, Flood Hazard Identification Manager	785-296-7769	dane.bailey@kda.ks.gov

Mailing Address:
109 SW 9th Street, 2nd Floor
Topeka, KS 66612-1283
Fax: (785) 296-1176

www.ksda.gov/dwr