

KANSAS FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT TIPS



October 2013

Kansas Association for Floodplain Management Conference

The Kansas Association for Floodplain Management (KAFM) annual conference was held in Topeka on September 4th and 5th. This year's conference had good food, good people, good information and great fun. It is a pleasure to be with a group of smart motivated people who want to learn about floodplain management and to make their communities safer.

The conference had a good variety of speakers again this year. Topics included master drainage planning, Community Rating System (CRS) and storm water basins, flood zone determination challenges, Endangered Species Act (ESA), Levee Analysis and Mapping Procedures (LAMP), engineered openings, floodplain 101, using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in floodplain management, Conditional Letters of Map Amendment (CLOMR), cleaning up after a flood, stream gages and changes to State law affecting stream obstructions. After the conference ended the MOKAN CRS users Group held an additional post conference workshop.

The KAFM Conference is not all work. There was a conference luncheon, vendor social hour and an evening at Lake Shawnee with the band Grand Marquis. Families were invited to the social event at Lake Shawnee. Fun activities included a bean bag toss competition. Plenty of good food and networking opportunities at the conference.

The 2014 KAFM Conference will be in Wichita at the Hotel in Old Town. Come to Wichita next year to learn and have fun with the other members of KAFM. Visit the KAFM website: www.kafm.org to learn more about KAFM and their annual conference.

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Above photo shows Community Rating System session.
Photo below shows family fun at Lake Shawnee.



Stay Out of the Water

Kansas had more rain than normal in July. Dry ground soaked up the rain. Streams and ponds started to fill up. The very end of July was the start of a round of severe storms with heavy rains that lasted into middle of August. The rain varied widely in different areas. Flash floods occurred in many communities.

Along with flooded basements and closed roads this round of floods resulted in three deaths. The lives of three young people ended because they went in to the flood water. In Iola a young man tested the flood waters of a flooded lake in an inner tube. A fourteen year old boy went swimming in the flood waters of the "Big Ditch" in Wichita. A nineteen year old tried to swim the Marais Des Cygnes River close to a dam near Osawatomie.

These tragic deaths could have been prevented. These three young people would be alive today if they had not gone in to the flood water. To some people, the water may look fun because it is moving faster than normal. This is not the carefully controlled water of the boat ride at an amusement park. It is dangerous and contaminated flood water.

Please help spread the message of flood safety. Tell everyone in your community to stay out of the water. Do not walk in the water, drive in to the water or go swimming in the water. Our citizens get mixed messages about flood safety. On the television news they see a news anchor person standing in flood water to report the flooding and videos of cars driving through the water. As floodplain managers our message about flood safety has to be stronger than the unsafe message shown by some local media.

One way to achieve this is to work directly with your local media and ask them to help spread the correct message about flood safety. The Governor signs a flood safety proclamation every March. Use that event to help start a local flood safety day in your community.

Division of Water Resources has a list of ten flood safety tips in both English and Spanish. These safety tips are in a word document that can easily be copied and pasted into a community newsletter or added to a website. Share the flood safety message with children. Contact Steve Samuelson at 785-296-4622 or steve.samuelson@kda.ks.gov for tips on how to start a flood safety poster contest with school children.

National Flood Hazard Layer is Available

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has a National Flood Hazard Layer for use by community officials and citizens. Some communities in Kansas do not have computer mapping programs also called Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The National Flood Hazard Layer is a GIS type of system on line for those communities without GIS to use.

To start using the National Flood Hazard Layer begin by visiting the website:

<http://fema.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=cbe088e7c8704464aa0fc34eb99e7f30> .

Use the up and down arrows at upper left to zoom in and out. Look for your county to be colored in red. Data only exists for those areas shown in red. You can grab the map and move it up and down or to the side to line the map up over your community.

Zooming in will show panel numbers for the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). Zoom in closer to see the flood layers and cross sections. At the upper left you can click on the symbol to show the map legend. You may also add layers to this map by using the add button.

After you have created a map you may share it, save it or print it for your own use. The National Flood Hazard Layer is one more tool for use by floodplain managers.

High Water Mark Projects

The “Know Your Line: Be Flood Aware” high water mark initiative was created by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) along with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Park Service, United States Army Corps of Engineers, United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, United States Geological Survey, United States Small Business Administration. The purpose of this initiative is to help communities remind citizens of major local flood events and encourage them to prepare for the next flood event.

Participating communities post high water mark signs in prominent locations. The signs show how high flood waters rose in a past flood event. Along with the signs, communities conduct outreach and education to build local awareness about flood risk. The signs are a good reminder that floods can and do happen. That flood awareness can lead toward being better prepared.

Communities that participate in the high water mark initiative can get credit points under the Community Rating System program. They can also put existing applicable Federal and state mitigation assistance funds to work. Participating communities will further benefit through demonstrating their commitment to safety and welfare of the citizens.

In order to participate in the “Know Your Line: Be Flood Aware” program please visit the website: <http://www.fema.gov/know-your-line-high-water-mark-initiative> . Interested communities should contact Vincent Brown with FEMA at Vincent.Brown@fema.dhs.gov . Communities will be provided with a Federal Agency point of contact. Templates, outreach tools and samples of work done in other communities will be provided as well. Communities will be asked to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Federal Working Group.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture/Division of Water Resources is also starting a project that involves high water marks. Division of Water Resources (DWR) staff are asking community officials to share information about high water levels from floods that have happened in their communities. The data that is being collected will be used to create a state wide map layer of flood elevations. The information collected can be used in outreach projects, flood mapping and mitigation plans.

DWR has created a form that can be filled out and submitted by email. A copy of the form will be attached to this email. The form allows you to submit information about high water levels that have been collected, where it was collected, when the information was collected and you can even submit a photograph. The form will be attached to the email version of this newsletter.

Questions about the DWR high water mark mapping project can be directed to Dane Bailey and Erika Stanley. Erika can be reached by phone at 785-296-2513 or by email at Erika.stanley@kda.ks.gov. Dane’s contact is 785-296-7769 or dane.bailey@kda.ks.gov.

Use the Current Form

The elevation certificate that expires July 31, 2013 is the form to be used for any survey done after Aug. 1, 2013. Communities should not issue floodplain development permits in cases when an expired form has been used. The expiration date is found in a box in the top right hand corner of the form.

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.

- Salina - Dec. 3, 2013 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

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.

- Great Bend - Nov. 21, 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.

- Lyons - Oct 16, 2013 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Fort Scott - Dec 5, 2013 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

The Division of Water Resources newsletter "Currents" can be read on line at:
<http://www.ksda.gov/dwr/content/314>

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 2014 conference will be September 3 and 4 in Wichita. More information will be posted at the website www.kafm.org. Registration will be done through a link on the website. If you have questions about registration 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 ste-ve.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
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ASFPM 2014 National Conference in Seattle

The 2014 Association of State Floodplain Managers National Conference will be June 1-6 2014 in Seattle, Washington. 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 1,000 floodplain management professionals. This conference is great chance to meet people for networking and to learn the latest news in floodplain management. Funds may become available to subsidize attendance at this conference. Contact Tom Morey to inquire about scholarships to the ASFPM conference at 785-296-5440.

KDA/DWR Water Structures Floodplain Program Staff

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