

The Torrent



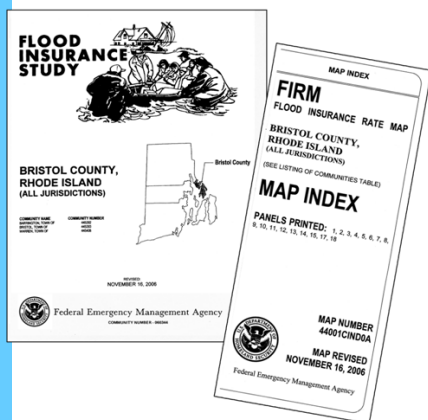
Acting Commissioner Amey Marrella

October 1, 2009 - No More Paper Flood Maps Available

Beginning on October 1, 2009, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Map Service Center (MSC) will no longer produce or distribute paper Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) or Flood Insurance Studies (FIS), other than a single paper copy provided to communities when their maps are updated to satisfy local regulatory requirements for a paper map product.

FEMA will convert all other distribution of maps and FIS reports for digital delivery and for access via the Internet. FEMA will continue to provide free digital map products and data to Federal, State, Tribal and local NFIP stakeholders. This change will allow FEMA to realize significant cost savings in the map update process by eliminating the need to generate large format film negatives to support offset printing and distributing the paper maps.

Digital data can be used for official purposes. FEMA's "Use of Digital Flood Hazard Data" policy establishes that paper and digital maps are equivalent and provides rules for using the maps and data. This policy and related information are available at: <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=3235>. If you are accustomed to using paper maps, FEMA will convert the paper flood maps to FIRM scans and digital images of FIS Reports on CD/DVD. These products are simply digital images of the paper products you have used in the past. These products are also available for download on the FEMA MSC website, <http://msc.fema.gov>.



FEMA announced this change in the Federal Register, Vol. 23, No. 76, issued on October 23, 2008. (<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/pdf/E8-25269.pdf>). More information on this change can be found at: www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=3474 or http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/dfm_ptd.shtm

The CTDEP encourages communities to contact the FEMA Map Service Center at 1-800-358-9616 to obtain additional copies of paper maps and studies, if needed, prior to this change becoming effective on October 1, 2009.

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Hurricane Season Resources

June 1 marked the beginning of 2009 the Atlantic hurricane season. In Connecticut, August to October is the prime time for hurricanes. Now is the time to talk to residents about the flood risks associated with hurricanes. Storm surge, heavy rains and slow moving tropical systems increase the risk for flooding in communities on the coast and well inland. Each year there is more information available on the internet for community officials and the general public in order to prepare for hurricane season.



it takes 30 days for a flood insurance policy to become effective. The website contains information on assembling a storm kit, strengthening your home, finding the flood risk for your home, media resources and a hurricane countdown clock that can be incorporated onto your website. The information can be found at: http://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/pages/landing_pages/landing0012_13.jsp



September 2009 marks National Preparedness Month and Ready.Gov is working with Citizens Corps and the Ad Council to stress personal preparedness to Americans and what it truly means to be “ready”. More information on this initiative can be found at: <http://www.ready.gov/america/npm09/index.html>.

DisasterPrepped.Com

DisasterPrepped.Com focuses on emergency preparedness tools and disaster solutions for families and organizations. New articles are added monthly to: <http://www.disasterprepped.com>

FEMA.Gov

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in conjunction with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), has a webpage entitled “Hurricane Season 09” dedicated to raising hurricane awareness for citizens and communities. The webpage contains resources on family preparedness, business and property protection, public service announcements (PSAs), and a link to the publication “Are You Ready?”, an in-depth guide to citizen preparedness. This information can be found at: http://www.fema.gov/hazard/hurricane/hu_season09.shtm.

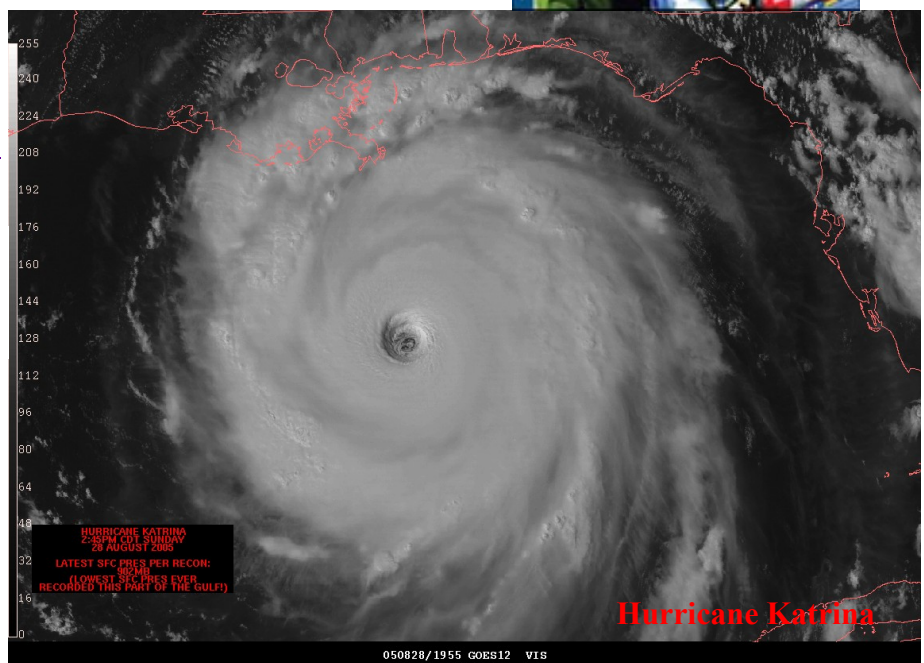
Ready.Gov

The Ready.Gov website also has a webpage dedicated to hurricane preparedness. Information on preparing an emergency supply kit and family emergency plan, home and business hurricane preparation and links to other federal resources can be found at: http://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/pages/landing_pages/landing0012_13.jsp



FloodSmart.Gov

FloodSmart.Gov is the official website of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). A portion of their website is dedicated to hurricane information and buying flood insurance before hurricane season is in full swing since



News Briefs

FEMA Revises both Elevation and Floodproofing Certificates

On April 2, 2009, FEMA revised the Elevation Certificate (FEMA Form 81-31) and the Floodproofing Certificate (FEMA Form 81-65), with new expiration date March 31, 2012. The floodproofing form was re-issued without revisions. Four minor changes were made to the Elevation Certificate:

- In Section A, information is requested on whether or not the building has engineered flood openings.
- In Section C, item C2.h is added that requires providing the elevation of the lowest adjacent grade at the lowest elevation of deck or stairs, if applicable.
- The Instructions for Section A for items A.8.b-c and A.9.b-c are revised, in part, to allow the height of flood openings to be determined from the interior grade or floor. Instructions for other sections have been clarified and expanded as needed.
- Two new building diagrams have been added: one for raised-slab-on-grade or slab-on-stem-wall-with-fill single- and multiple-floor buildings; and one for all buildings (other than split-level) elevated on a sub-grade crawlspace.

The new elevation certificate can be downloaded at: <http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/elvinst.shtm>. The new elevation certificate is being phased in over a one-year period. During this time, FEMA will accept either the new or old form. Any elevations certified after March 31, 2010 must be made on the new form.

NFIP Changes

In April 2009, FEMA announced changes to the National Flood Insurance Program affecting flood insurance policies. These changes become effective on October 1, 2009.

The basic insurance limit is being increased. Residential contents coverage basic limit has increased from \$20,000 to \$25,000. Non-residential contents coverage basic limit has increased from \$130,000 to \$150,000. One to four family dwelling building coverage basic limit has increased from \$50,000 to \$60,000. Other residential and non-residential building coverage basic limit has increased from \$150,000 to \$175,000. Minimum deductibles are increasing. Pre-FIRM standard deductible will be \$2,000. Post-FIRM standard deductible will be \$1,000. The \$500 deductible is eliminated.

In V Zones and A zones, premiums will increase 10%. For structures located in AO or AH zones (shallow flooding areas) or X zones (areas outside the 100-year floodplain), premiums will increase 8%. Preferred Risk Policy (PRP) premiums will remain unchanged.

A new Risk Rating Method has been developed for any property leased from the Federal Government identified as being on the river-facing side of any dike, levee, or other riverine flood control structure, or seaward of any seawall or other coastal flood control structure. Such properties must now be charged actuarial rates.

Biennial Reports Sent

FEMA distributed the NFIP 2009 Biennial Report form to community officials in April 2009 for the 2007-

2008 calendar years. As in past years, the mailing contains a cover letter (addressed to the Chief Executive Officer or floodplain administrator), report form, and a brochure that provides information on how to complete the form. The completed NFIP Biennial Report needs to be submitted no later than September 30, 2009. Any questions with completion of the form should be directed to the Biennial Report Coordinator at 1-877-336-2114. As in past years, local community officials have several ways in which to provide their NFIP Biennial Report to FEMA:

- Online at <http://www.floodmaps.net/br2009/default.asp>
- Mail the completed report to FEMA, Biennial Report Coordinator, 3601 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304
- Call the Biennial Report Coordinator toll free at 1-877-336-2114
- Fax the completed report to 1-877-634-7271.

U.S. FWS CBRS Digital Mapping Pilot Project

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has posted the Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS) Digital Mapping Pilot Project report and draft maps are available for public comment until July 6, 2009.

For more information on the project, as well as how to get a copy of the report and draft maps and where to send comments, visit the U.S. FWS website: http://www.fws.gov/habitatconservation/coastal_barrier.htm. Several coastal communities in Connecticut contain CBRS zones as delineated on their flood insurance rate maps (FIRM).

UPCOMING CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

July 11-15, 2009: Annual Conference of the Soil & Water Conservation Society, Dearborn, Michigan.
<http://www.swcs.org>.

July 19-23, 2009: Coastal Zone '09, Boston, Massachusetts. Hosted by NOAA's Coastal Services Center,
www.csc.noaa.gov/cz/.

July 20-24, 2009: Third National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration, Los Angeles, California. Sponsored by the University of Florida, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, & Natural Resources Conservation Service, <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/ncer2009/orgcomm.html>

August 2-7, 2009: 94th Meeting of the Ecological Society of America, Albuquerque, New Mexico. <http://www.esa.org/albuquerque>

September 7-11, 2009: Floodplain Management Association 2009 Annual Conference, San Jose, California.
<http://www.floodplain.org>.

October 21-23, 2009: Annual Conference of the National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies, Colorado Springs, Colorado. <http://www.nafsma.org>.

CERTIFIED FLOODPLAIN MANAGER (CFM) EXAM

If you are interested in taking ASFPM's CFM exam, contact Diane Ifkovic at (860) 424-3537 or diane.ifkovic@ct.gov. Arrangements can be made to proctor an exam. More information on the CFM exam can be found at www.floods.org.

UPCOMING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE COURSES

The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) is located at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Emergency Training Center (NETC) in Emmitsburg, Maryland. EMI serves as the national center for emergency management training of federal, state, and local government officials. Tuition, housing, and all books and materials are provided at no cost. Participants are responsible for the cost of a meal pass (approximately \$100). The following is a list of upcoming EMI courses through December 2009. To apply, call Diane Ifkovic, CTDEP, (860) 424-3537 or email at diane.ifkovic@ct.gov. For more information on the courses listed, visit the EMI website: <http://training.fema.gov>.

E172 HAZUS-MH for Flood— July 27-30

E190 ArcGIS for Emergency Managers—November 2-5

E194 Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts— August 10-13

E210 Recovery from Disaster: The Local Government Role—July 20-23

E273 Managing Floodplain Development through NFIP— July 20-23, November 30-December 3

E276 Benefit Cost Analysis: Entry Level Training— November 16-18

E278 NFIP Community Rating System (CRS)— July 6-9, August 31-September 3

E282 Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts II— September 14-17, December 7-10

E296 Application of HAZUS-MH for Risk Assessment—August 3-6

E313 Basic HAZUS-MH— July 13-16, December 7-10

E317 Comprehensive Data Management— September 14-17

E386 Residential Coastal Construction—August 17-21

E390 Emergency Management Planning, Preparedness, Training and Education for Colleges and Universities—December 8-10