



FEMA

Region IV Risk MAP
Increasing Resilience Together

eSPOTLIGHT

Quarterly Program Updates

OCTOBER - DECEMBER

A PRODUCT FOR REGION IV COOPERATING TECHNICAL PARTNERS UPDATE 3 - 2014

Table of Contents

2014 HWMI	1
CRS Flood Insurance Workshops	2
New FEMA Releases	3
MS LAMP Project	4
Risk MAP Success Stories	5

Writer/Editor:
Lynne H. Keating
Lynne.Keating@fema.dhs.gov

Santa Rosa County FL Kicks Off High Water Mark Initiative

Santa Rosa County Florida strategically combined its High Water Mark Initiative Kickoff Meeting with its October Flood Task Force meeting October 2 in Milton, FL with other County, State and Federal partners participating both in person and linked in through a teleconference line.

Vince Brown, Flood Insurance and Mitigation Administration (FIMA) Outreach Lead, stressed the need for long term mitigation action connected to the scheduled December event. Toward that end, Santa Rosa County Floodplain Manager, Karen Thornhill, CFM is working proactively with her County officials and FEMA Region IV Mitigation Division to develop long term goals.

Santa Rosa County is the only Region IV participant and one of three counties in the nation for the 2014 FEMA funded High Water Mark Initiative. The plan to erect signage designating past high water marks in a high visibility event intends to engage the community and promote flood protection awareness.



Santa Rosa County Floodplain Manager, Karen Thornhill, CFM, works with Gulf Breeze High School students in the Multimedia and Design class to create signs for the 2014 High Water Mark Initiative

The signage, currently being created by Santa Rosa County Gulf Breeze High School students in the Multimedia and Design class, will be erected at prominent sites throughout the county.

“This is an outreach project,” said Thornhill, who notes trying to get locals to understand flooding is a big issue in our area and a challenge. She says some residents who did not have flood insurance continue the struggle toward financial recovery in the aftermath of April’s flooding event.

Participating federal partners include United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) as well as the Army Corps of Engineer’s Silver Jackets program participants.

The local Navarre Press highlighted the community interest and support. Assistant Director of Public Works, Stephen Furman confirmed that the county would provide labor to install the signs. “We would not want to expend money on something we can do in-house.”

Santa Rosa County Emergency Management Director Brad Baker stressed the added benefit of the signs. “We’re promoting preparedness,” he said.

Thornhill noted that Santa Rosa County plans to have at least one sign installed by December when the launch event will be held. Brown says he hopes the signs will start conversations in community. “We would like for the community to make a step toward real community resilience,” he said.

Toward that end, Santa Rosa County has plans for more extended mitigation action in the form of an awareness campaign.

“Everyone should have flood insurance,” added Thornhill who supports a long term flood insurance and protection awareness campaign with hopes the effort will increase the understanding of the flooding risks and the need for flood insurance. She plans to track flood policy data in the county to see if it rises following the campaign.

For more information on local flood mitigation efforts visit the county’s website at www.santarosa.fl.gov/lms. For information on the FEMA High Water Mark Initiative, please visit <http://www.fema.gov/know-your-line-high-water-mark-initiative>.

AL CRS / Flood Insurance Workshops

The Office of Water Resources, Floodplain Management Unit recently held two full day workshops to inform current CRS communities how to improve their CRS Class and provide insight for communities considering joining the CRS program. To learn more, go to: <http://adeca.alabama.gov/Divisions/owr/floodplain/Pages/Resources.aspx> under Category 2: Community Rating System Program (CRS) Resources. They are in a zip file labeled “Alabama CRS Workshop September 2014”. Anyone with questions about the Alabama CRS Program should email Caitlin.Meadows@adeca.alabama.gov.

South Alabama Regional Planning Commission Forum October 9, 2014

The Alabama Office of Water Resources, Floodplain Management Unit spoke at the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission’s (SARPC) *Reducing Insurance Rate Workshop* on October 9, 2014. Caitlin Meadows, CRS Coordinator for Alabama, gave an overview and costs & benefits of the CRS program, steps to join, plus a brief breakdown of 4 elements from each of the 4 series. The informational workshop brought together local and state officials who offered expert advice and knowledge about CRS and FORTIFIED programs to help communities learn steps to control the rising costs of flood

and wind insurance. For more information, contact Nicole Taylor, ntaylor@sarpc.org.

NEW FEMA RELEASES

New Residential Tornado Safe Room Doors Fact Sheet!

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Building Science Branch has released the Residential Tornado Safe Room Doors Fact Sheet.



Residential safe rooms are becoming more popular as families seek protection from violent tornadoes. Like any other room, safe rooms must be accessed through an opening or door. Just as the walls and roof of a safe room are designed and built to protect against extreme winds and wind-borne debris, so must the safe room door. When careful selection and installation of the safe room door assembly is overlooked, the safe room door opening can leave occupants at great risk of injury or death during tornadoes.

The Safe Room Doors Fact Sheet answers the following FAQs:

- What is different about a tested safe room door versus a standard door?
- Why is installing the complete tested door assembly in its entirety so important?
- Where can you buy a tested safe room door?
- What should you request when selecting your safe room door?

The Residential Tornado Safe Room Doors Fact Sheet can now be accessed and downloaded for free from the FEMA Library at:

<http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/99139>.

For more information on FEMA's safe room guidance publications, please visit:

<http://www.fema.gov/safe-rooms>

Technical Manual: Overtopping Protection for Dams

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Dam Safety Program sponsored the development of a technical manual, in conjunction with the Bureau of Reclamation, to collect and disseminate useful and relevant information regarding the design, construction, and performance of overtopping protection alternatives for embankment and concrete dams.

Inadequate spillway capacity is a common problem with many dams. Thousands of dams throughout North America have been determined to have inadequate spillway capacity and would be overtopped during the inflow design flood (IDF). Dam failure from overtopping can lead to a potential for loss of life and significant downstream damages. Thus, new design approaches have been developed that may allow for the dam to be safely overtopped. The design and construction of overtopping protection for dams is increasingly being viewed as a viable alternative to larger spillways as developing watersheds or changing hydrology produce higher peak flows.

The DVD containing the manual can be downloaded from the FEMA Resource and Document Library: <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/97888>

Coming soon: ordering the hard copy DVD (FEMA P-1015) from the FEMA

Publication Warehouse.

A brochure that explains the contents of this DVD may be downloaded. To save and print, click on: <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/97888>

In addition, you may order hard copies of the brochure (**FEMA P-1014**) from the FEMA Publication Warehouse. Download the [Order Form](#) and provide the resource title, FEMA publication ID #, quantity of each publication requesting, along with your name, address, zip code, and daytime phone #.

Work hours for phone orders are M-F: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

Contact Phone Number: (800) 480-2520

Contact Email: FEMA-Publications-Warehouse@dhs.gov

Fax Number: (240) 699-0525

For more information on FEMA's National Dam Safety Program, please visit:

<https://www.fema.gov/dam-safety-0>

Mississippi LAMP Pilot Project

Under the leadership of Mark Vieira (FEMA Region IV) and Steve Champlin (Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality), the first phase of the Tennessee–Tombigbee Waterway Levee Analysis and Mapping Procedure (LAMP) pilot project was successfully completed.

The Tennessee–Tombigbee Waterway levee is shown as providing protection from the 1% annual chance event on the effective Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) in both Monroe and Itawamba Counties. However, during Map Modernization the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Mobile District concluded that the structure was not designed, and is not operated and maintained, as a flood control levee, and therefore could not be certified as providing protection from the 1% annual chance event. As a result, preliminary maps were issued for Monroe County and Itawamba County on March 4, 2010, and showed the levee providing no protection from the flooding caused by the Tombigbee River. In March of 2011, FEMA placed the projects on hold.

In 2013, the Tennessee–Tombigbee Waterway levee was identified as one of the 25 nationwide pilot projects by FEMA Headquarters. A Local Levee Partnership Team (LLPT) was identified and engaged to discuss the LAMP process and to collect levee-related data from the wide range of local and regional stakeholders.

After a comprehensive data analysis and several LLPT meetings it was determined:

- The Natural Valley approach will be used for levee reaches that are unmaintained.
- The Sound Reach approach will be used for levee reaches that are maintained.
- For both approaches, it is currently the preference of the LLPT to use Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) designation in place of Zone D.

The next phase of this project is revised hydraulic modeling. For more information, please contact Steve Champlin (Stephen_Champlin@deq.state.ms.us).

To learn more about the LAMP process, please visit:

<http://www.fema.gov/final-levee-analysis-and-mapping-approach>

RISK MAP SUCCESS STORIES

Coweta County, Georgia Enhances Countywide Hazard Mitigation Plan Using Flood Risk Products

<https://www.llis.dhs.gov/content/risk-map-success-story-coweta-county-georgia-enhances-countywide-hazard-mitigation-plan-usin>

Georgia's unique geographic location exposes the state and its citizens to severe weather and flooding at any time of the year. The State of Georgia has averaged a federal disaster declaration about once a year in the last fifteen years.

A Hazard Mitigation Plan forms the foundation for a community's long-term strategy to reduce disaster losses and break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage. The planning process creates a framework for risk-based decision making to reduce damages to lives, property.

In December 2012 the first Risk MAP Resilience Meeting in FEMA Region IV was held in Newnan, GA, the county seat of Coweta County located about 35 miles southwest of Atlanta. The County Administrator and the director of development and engineering were so engaged with the Risk MAP data layers that they added an appendix to their county Hazard Mitigation Plan with a greater emphasis on a flood mitigation action plan to re-evaluate land use patterns in relationship to the data layers they received from the Flood Risk Database.

The Georgia Risk MAP study contractor presented an overview of Risk MAP products and datasets. During the meeting, hands-on demonstrations were provided to local officials to familiarize them with the flood risk products contained within the Flood Risk Database. During the presentation, flood-prone areas were highlighted via the Changes Since Last FIRM dataset, identifying the number of structures and population counts impacted by changes to the special flood hazard boundary. One alarming issue of concern at the Resilience Meeting was discovering that nine critical facilities in Coweta County are located in high-risk flood-prone areas. and the economy from future disasters.

In Georgia, Hazard Mitigation Plans are updated every five years, and the updating process can take 12 to 18 months. Coweta County was directly involved with updating its Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Gwinnett County, Georgia Revamps Stormwater Infrastructure Improvement Plans

<https://www.llis.dhs.gov/content/risk-map-success-story-gwinnett-county-georgia-revamps-stormwater-infrastructure-improvement>

Background and Issue

Gwinnett County, Georgia, lies at or within the upper limits of three major watersheds: the Upper Chattahoochee, the Oconee, and the Ocmulgee. As a result, overall flooding

impacts are comparatively smaller than those experienced by other neighboring counties. Gwinnett County's main flood related concerns center on stormwater infrastructure maintenance and improvement. The County has an established Stormwater Management Utility, which is charged with overseeing these concerns. In recent years, the director of the Stormwater Management Utility has been compiling a list of culvert upgrades, repairs, and retrofits needed throughout the County, but has not been able to adequately prioritize the listed needs. Instead, he has been forced to rely on observation and historical accounts.

Approach

During the Risk MAP Resilience Meeting for Gwinnett County and its sovereign communities, the Stormwater Management Utility Director recognized the value of the Flood Depth Grids developed to help community officials and the public view and understand local flood risk better, and began to ask questions related to road overtopping, approaches to culvert modeling, and other pertinent issues.

Impact

At the end of the presentation, feedback was sought from the attendees. The Stormwater Management Utility Director stated that he had been working to determine a prioritization of the needed infrastructure improvements for several years and that in the last 30 minutes he had been shown where his biggest concerns were and narrowed his focus. He added further that he would be able to use the data to not only schedule repairs and upgrades, but also as the basis for defending his decisions.