



FACTSHEET

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SECRETARY

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REGISTER NOW:
FEMA L-273: Managing Floodplain Development Through the NFIP

L-273 Four Day Course:
 Jan. 23-26, 2023
 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

LIMITED SPACE IS AVAILABLE

Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LA DOTD) in partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is hosting the **FEMA L-273: Managing Floodplain Development Through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)** course on January 23-26, 2023. For those interested, the CFM exam will be given on Friday, January 27.

[Register Now](#)

Limited space is available. Priority will be given to the community floodplain administrators. Further details will be included in your acceptance letter from Half. See details below.

CFM Exam | Jan. 27, 2023

IMPORTANT: Registering through Eventbrite for the 4-day course does not register you for the exam. Those who are taking the CFM exam must follow the instructions below by January 13, 2023.

It's recommended that applicants register early as seats are limited.

1. Applicants must register for the exam at the ASFPM web page <https://www.floods.org>.
2. Applicants must pay the application/exam fees.
3. Applicants must register 21 days in advance of the test, or incur late fees.
4. Candidates will be required to use their own laptops.

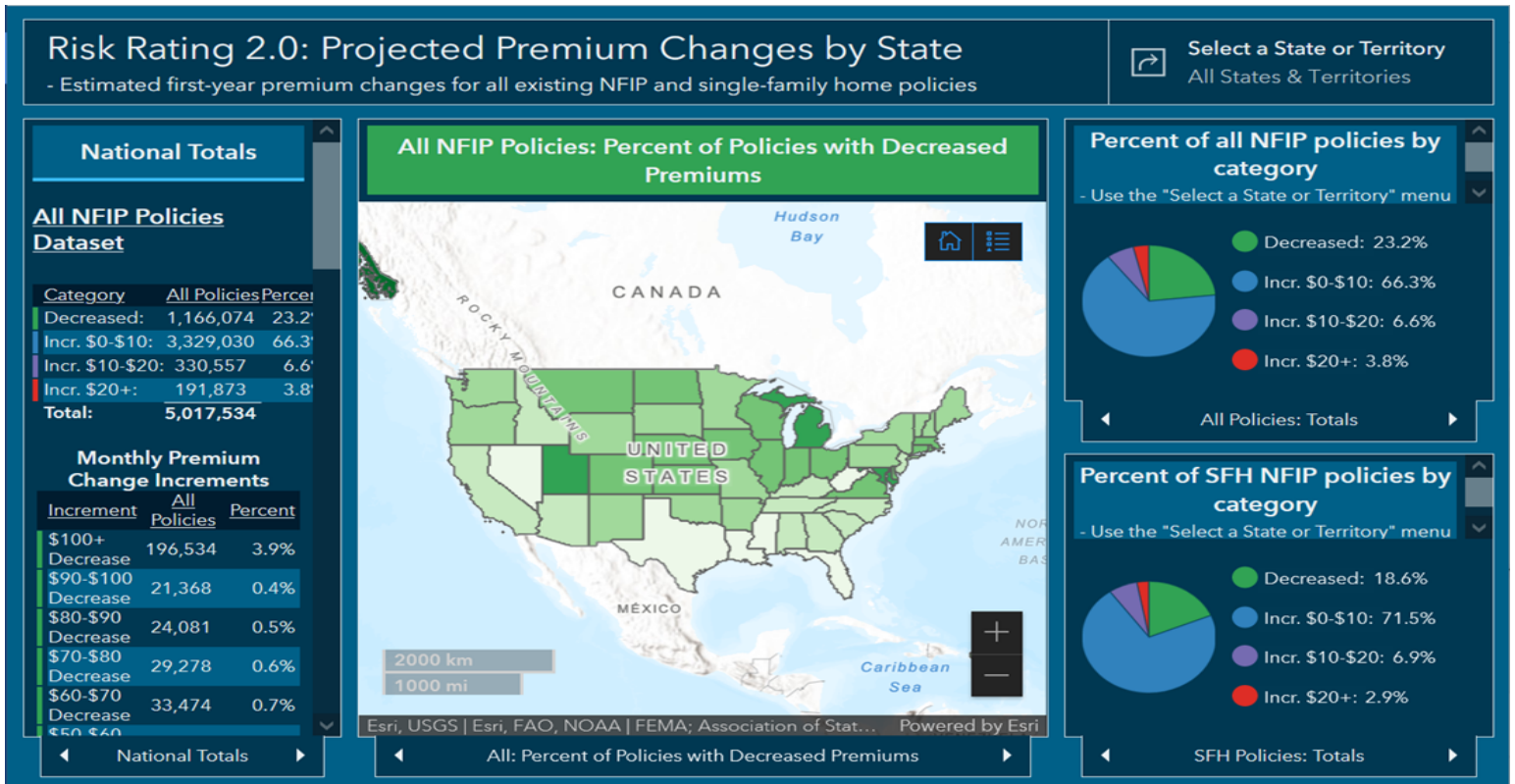
Training and Exam Location
[Alexandria International Airport \(Meeting Room\)](#)
[1701 Frank Andrews Blvd.](#)
[Alexandria, LA 71303](#)

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Risk Rating 2.0: Data Visualization Dashboard

PROJECTED PREMIUM CHANGES BY STATE: All NFIP and Single-Family Home Policies



[View Interactive Map](#)

Risk Rating 2.0 Interactive Map

Try the new interactive map developed by the [Association of State Floodplain Managers \(ASFPM\)](#) and [The Pew Charitable Trusts](#) that breaks down projected premium changes by state and territory.

Take a deeper dive by reviewing ZIP code-level data for existing [single-family homes \(SFH\)](#) and all existing [National Flood Insurance Program \(NFIP\) policies](#).

Descriptions of Available Data and Information

For each state/territory and the District of Columbia, there are five documents available for download. Please see below for descriptions, or [jump to the downloads](#).

State Profile

Detailed report on the National Flood Insurance Program's Risk Rating 2.0 transformation for each state/territory.

Premium Change Analysis

Explanation of the numbers used in each state/territory's county and ZIP code breakdowns. Additionally, please see our county and ZIP code overview documents, which contain data for every state/territory in a single document:

PARISH LEVEL

Overview: [Parish-Level Premium Change Analysis](#)

[Parish/County-level data](#) for all states and territories

ZIP-CODE LEVEL

Overview: [ZIP Code-Level Premium Change Analysis](#)

[ZIP code-level data](#) for all states and territories

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Risk Rating 2.0: Data Visualization Dashboard

PROJECTED PREMIUM CHANGES BY STATE: All NFIP and Single-Family Home Policies (cont...)



New Methodology vs Old Methodology

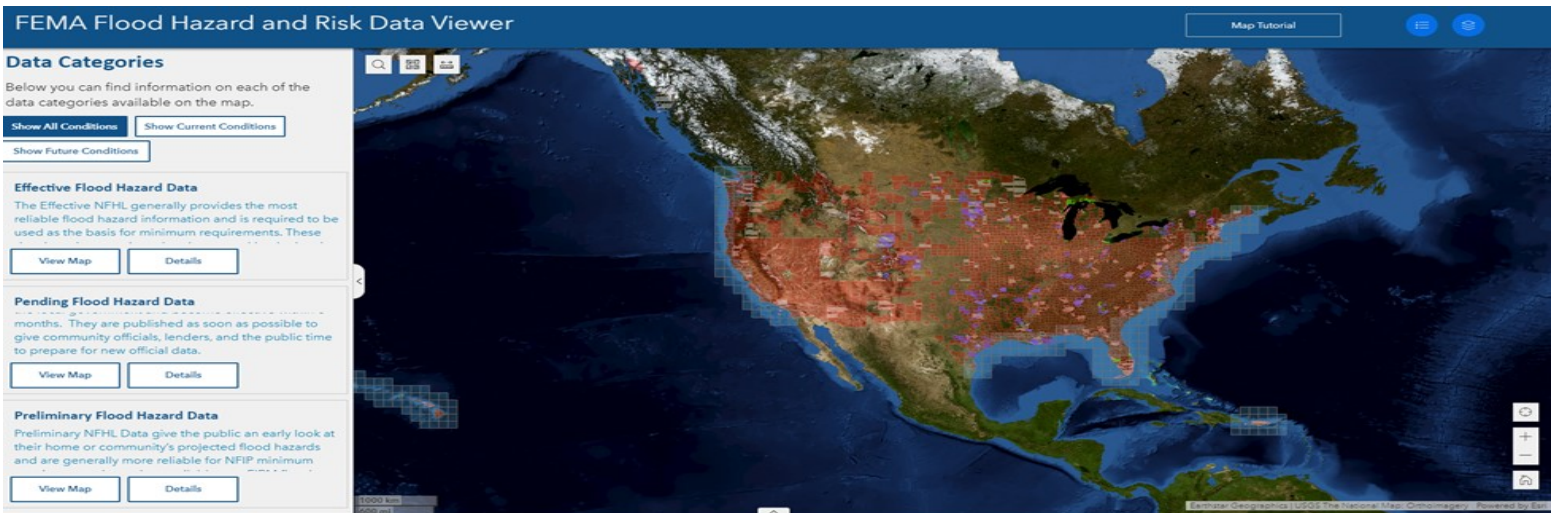
Compares rates that would occur under the old methodology to those implemented with the new methodology, Risk Rating 2.0. Includes average replacement cost value.

Includes explanation of and data on the numbers used in the state profile bar graphs for each state/territory included in the policy breakdowns. [View the archived breakdowns.](#) ≡ ≡ ≡

(Taken from the ASFPM Flood Science Center)



Welcome to FEMA Flood Hazard and Risk Data Viewer



On November 9, 2022, FEMA launched the Flood Hazard and Risk Data Viewer. This viewer is accessible at <https://msc.fema.gov/draft> and replaces the previous Draft National Flood Hazard Viewer Layer (NFHL) Viewer.

The Flood Hazard and Risk Data Viewer provides a single location for accessing a broader set of FEMA flood data, along with the necessary context to help stakeholders develop a more complete understanding of the flood risk communities face. Overall, this new viewer expands on previous capabilities by:

- Providing non-regulatory, Base Level Engineering (BLE) data to expose flood risk information earlier in the data-development process, before the data is formally factored into NFHL regulatory determinations, such as Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs)
- Incorporating data from additional sources, enabling more insightful overlays to support analysis
- Providing a more intuitive interface for users with additional options to customize how they apply data and visualizations to their specific needs

This viewer includes compulsory 'effective' NFHL data and other datasets showing current and potential future flood hazard and risk, providing a more comprehensive picture of flood hazard risk. Within the viewer, users can review data and visual representations of:

- Effective National Flood Hazard Layer
- Pending National Flood Hazard Layer
- Preliminary National Flood Hazard Layer
- Available Flood Hazard Data (BLE & Draft FIRM database)
- National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Sea Level Rise data

The Flood Hazard Risk and Data Viewer will continue to evolve over time to incorporate additional datasets to help meet the changing and expanding user needs to support flood risk analysis, planning, and mitigation actions.



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About This Viewer:

This viewer shares a variety of flood hazard and risk data. Some flood hazard and flood risk data produced by FEMA define minimum requirements for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). This viewer includes these required NFIP data and includes other data showing current and potential future flood hazard and risk. This provides you access to more complete flood hazard data. For example, NFIP minimum requirements are based on a specific flooding scenario. However, a single scenario cannot fully communicate the hazard and risk for a particular place and the chances of flooding may change over time.

The effective Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) define the official required NFIP minimums. The FIRM Database and the National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL) do as well. The [National Flood Hazard Layer](#) Viewer and the [Map Service Center](#) provide direct access to this official NFIP data.

Disclaimer: *Flood hazard and risk are complex. Please reach out to your floodplain administrator and other community officials. They can help you review the current flood hazard and risk information before you make any crucial development or financial decisions. This aid will make sure you comply with the NFIP regulations. It will also help you align with other local ordinances.*

Effective National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL):

The effective [NFHL](#) shows flood hazard data. These data have been reviewed and accepted by the local government. This is usually the most reliable information. It is used as the basis for the minimum official actions that the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requires.

The effective NFHL is considered the most reliable source of flood hazard data for NFIP purposes. These data comply with FEMA's mapping guidelines and standards. They have completed all the internal FEMA quality review processes and have been through a formal public review process. These data are adopted by communities participating in the NFIP to define minimum zoning requirements.

The effective Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) define the official NFIP minimum requirements in a traditional map and book format. The FIRM Database provides all the required flood data from the FIRM and the FIS in a digital mapping format. The effective NFHL is the compilation of all the effective FIRM Databases for the nation and is included in this viewer.

Before becoming effective, the FIRM Databases are reviewed through a formal public review process. Initially, FEMA shares the draft FIRM Database with communities for comment. Later, FEMA publishes a Preliminary FIRM Database, which initiates another review period and provides the opportunity to appeal the preliminary determinations with better data. After any appeals are resolved, FEMA notifies the communities that the flood hazard determinations are final and will become effective in 6 months. Between the final determination and when the data become effective, FEMA makes the FIRM Database available with the status of pending. Effective, Preliminary, and Pending NFHL data can be viewed together on the Flood Map Changes Viewer (<https://msc.fema.gov/fmcv>).

Learn More:

[Flood Maps | FEMA.gov](#)

Pending National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL):

Pending Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Databases are scheduled to be adopted by the local government and become effective within 6 months. They are published in the Pending NFHL as soon as possible to give community officials, lenders, and the public time to prepare for new official data. They are more finalized than Preliminary FIRM Databases or other

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Welcome to FEMA Flood Hazard and Risk Data Viewer (cont...)

available non-FIRM flood hazard and flood risk information. Pending FIRM Databases are considered final; they have been designated final by the Letter of Final Determination issued to community officials. However, they do not officially define the minimum requirements for National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) purposes until they become effective at the end of the six-month adoption and compliance period.

Pending NFHL data will soon define the mandatory NFIP requirements in the affected communities. Please work with your local floodplain manager and community officials; they can help you review your flood hazard information. Do this before you make any key development or financial decisions.

Learn More:

[FEMA Flood Map Service Center | Products and Tools Overview](#)

Preliminary National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL):

Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Databases give the public an early look at their home or community's projected flood hazards. Like the Effective NFHL, the Preliminary NFHL is made from individual Preliminary FIRM Databases combined nationally. The Preliminary NFHL data are generally more reliable for defining National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) minimum requirements than other available non-FIRM flood hazard data. However, they are still being reviewed and may change before they become effective. Before they become effective, the Preliminary FIRM Databases go through a formal review period that provides the opportunity to appeal the preliminary determinations with better data. Preliminary FIRM Databases help community officials and property owners see how upcoming flood mapping changes will affect them. Community officials and property owners can also review the data for accuracy.

These data are Preliminary NFHL; they are for review and guidance. They do not override the minimum requirements defined by the current, effective NFIP FIRMs and NFHL. In many cases, they can guide discussions on floodplain management, local land use, hazard mitigation planning and whether to buy flood insurance in areas where it is not required.

In areas where no effective or pending FIRM data are available, or if the Preliminary NFHL shows either wider floodplain extents or higher flood elevations than the effective or pending data, they may be used as a **guide** to provide greater flood safety measures. You might also be able to use these data as Best Available Information under NFIP or local rules. You should consider whether these data are refined enough to be more reliable than the existing, effective data.

Please work with your local floodplain manager and community officials; they can help you review your flood hazard information. Do this before you make any key development or financial decisions.

Learn More:

[FEMA Flood Map Service Center | Products and Tools Overview](#)

<https://hazards.fema.gov/femaportal/prelimdownload/>

[Flood Map Changes Viewer \(arcgis.com\)](#)

Available Flood Hazard Data:

These data include flood hazard data that are available for review but are not in the official Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) development process. These data may progress to be Draft FIRM Databases and eventually included in the effective National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL), or they may not. Generally, these data are developed following FEMA's mapping guidelines and standards. But they have not completed all the internal review processes and have not been through any of the formal public reviews. These data are often developed using FEMA's Base Level Engineering (BLE) process. BLE is a highly automated baseline analysis of the flood hazard in an area.

These non-FIRM flood hazard data are for review and guidance. They do not override the minimum requirements defined by the current, effective NFIP FIRMs and NFHL. In many cases, they can guide discussions on floodplain management, local land use, hazard mitigation planning and whether to buy flood insurance in areas where it is not required.

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Welcome to FEMA Flood Hazard and Risk Data Viewer (cont...)



In areas where no FIRM data are available, or if the non-FIRM data show either wider floodplain extents or higher flood elevations than the available FIRM data, they may be used as a **guide** to provide greater flood safety measures. You might also be able to use these data as Best Available Information under NFIP or local rules. You should consider whether these data are refined enough to be more reliable than the existing, effective data.

Please work with your local floodplain manager and community officials; they can help you review your flood hazard information. Do this before you make any key development or financial decisions.

Learn More:

[Guidance to Communities - Use of Available Flood Data](#)

Sea Level Rise:

On average, sea level is rising around the globe. But, sea level is changing at different rates in different coastal regions. As the average sea level rises relative to the coast, flooding from the ocean will increase also. The data show predicted sea level rise expected to occur by 2050 for the area selected in the viewer. This increase can give users a sense of how much coastal flooding might increase over the same time. Knowing how sea level rise could affect flood hazards can inform planning and development decisions.

This data is not required to meet the minimum requirements of the NFIP. It should not be used for flood insurance purposes. Please work with your local floodplain manager and community officials to look at flood hazard and risk information before you make any key development or financial decisions.

Learn More:

[NOAA Sea Level Rise Facts](#) ≡ ≡ ≡

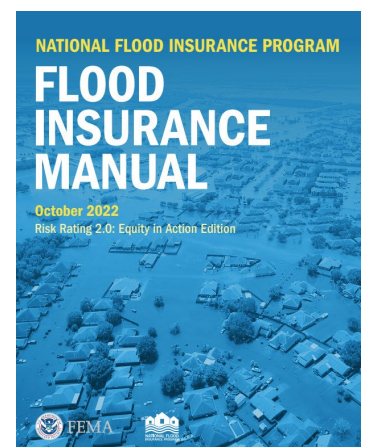


Updated NFIP Flood Insurance Manual

The October 2022 edition of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Flood Insurance Manual is now available to view and download.

The current manuals are for use with the Risk Rating 2.0: Equity in Action pricing methodology or with the legacy rating plan, depending on policy effective dates.

[Click here to learn more and download the manual.](#)





How the Frequency of Cycle Visits are Determined

The frequency of cycle visits for some communities changed when the 2017 CRS Coordinator's Manual became effective. As Community Rating System (CRS) communities know, a community participating in the CRS keeps its classification for three or five years after its effective date. Section 230 of the "Coordinator's Manual" says, "Cycle verifications are conducted every five years after the original application date for most CRS communities. Communities with larger total premium discounts and/or better classes may be visited on a three-year cycle."

In late 2016, it was announced that with the "Coordinator's Manual," communities receiving the top 10% of premium discount dollars, along with communities with a Class 1-4 rating, will be verified every three years. All other communities will be verified every five years. This change was phased in over the first five years after the new "Coordinator's Manual." Up until the 2017 edition of the "Coordinator's Manual," communities with a Class 9-6 rating received cycle visits every five years and Class 1-5 every three years.

This change came about as a result of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) and the CRS Task Force's work on the 2008 CRS Strategic Plan. In 2010, the CRS Task Force began considering whether the total dollar discount provided to a CRS community should be a consideration in determining the frequency of CRS credit verification. Subsequent research at East Carolina University that explored CRS verification methods recommended putting more verification emphasis on communities with larger dollar discounts. After further consideration, FEMA made the decision to implement the recommendations of the Task Force that the top 10% of CRS participating communities be verified on a three-year cycle basis. The top CRS discount community receives more than \$14 million in CRS discounts. If communities have questions when its next cycle visit will be, they should contact their ISO/CRS Specialist. ≡ ≡ ≡

(Taken from NFIP/CRS Update December 2021/January 2022)

Does your community participate in the Community Rating System (CRS)?

There are 318 communities that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in Louisiana, but only 41 participate in the FEMA, NFIP Community Rating System (CRS). Participating in CRS can benefit NFIP flood insurance policyholders in your community with up to a 45% discount on their premiums. Contact Pam Lightfoot at pam.lightfoot@la.gov to request a CRS "What If" to see the discounts your community could receive.

USACE's Role in Risk Rating



Pictured above: Example levee systems from the National Levee Database showing levee alignment centerlines and leveed areas used for Risk Rating

OVERVIEW

Risk Rating 2.0 is an updated flood insurance pricing methodology that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is now using to deliver insurance rates that more accurately reflect a property's flood risk. Risk Rating expands the types of variables affecting an insurance rate and accounts for a broader range of flood frequencies and hazard types (riverine, storm surge, and pluvial).

The new flood insurance rates took effect Oct. 1, 2021 for new policyholders and April 1, 2022 for renewal of existing policies. The following basic National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) components remain unchanged:

- * The regulatory process and use of Flood Insurance Rate Maps.
- * Mandatory flood insurance and floodplain management requirements for Special Flood Hazard Areas.
- * Levee accreditation process and criteria.

USACE ROLE IN RISK RATING

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is assisting FEMA by providing data and methodological advice to improve understanding of flood risk reduction provided by levees, both accredited and non-accredited.

LEVEE DATA USED IN RISK RATING

The table on the next page shows a summary of the levee data sources or assumptions used for the percentage of total levee systems or percentage of buildings behind all levee systems for Risk Rating.

LEVEE LOCATION DATA

The National Levee Database, a database managed by USACE for all levees in the Nation, is FEMA's primary source for the identification of levees and their location for Risk Rating. Risk Rating uses the following three key levee data from the National Levee Database:

- * **Levee Alignment Centerline:** A line from the perspective of the top view of the levee that follows along the entire levee length.
- * **Levee Crest Profile:** A line that represents the side view of the levee and shows the varying elevations of the top of the levee at different locations along the entire levee length.
- * **Leveed Area:** A polygon representing the lands (and buildings) excluded from the floodplain by the presence of the levee. This polygon is generated from the levee alignment centerline and levee crest profile. For all buildings shown in a leveed area, the flood insurance rates take into account the presence of that levee.

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NATIONAL LEVEL SAFETY PROGRAM / CONNECTION SERIES (cont...)

A levee had to have a minimum of a levee centerline and leveed area identified in the National Levee Database to be included in Risk Rating.

LEVEE PERFORMANCE DATA

The following are two key pieces of levee data (based on various sources) needed by Risk Rating to establish the reduced flood risk afforded by the levee:

- * **Levee Overtopping Frequency:** The likelihood that a flood event will exceed the height of a levee, typically at the lowest elevation of the levee profile.
- * **Levee Performance:** A curve diagram representing the estimated likelihood of breach under various flood levels from the toe to the top of the levee.

USACE LEVEE OVERTOPPING FREQUENCIES AND PERFORMANCE DATA

USACE uses the Levee Screening Tool, a risk assessment tool and database, to assess the USACE federal levees. A levee assessed in the Levee Screening Tool has overtopping frequency and levee performance data available to fulfill Risk Rating data needs. USACE provided this information to FEMA for use in Risk Rating. Although the Levee Screening Tool process also provides information on potential consequences and assigns a Levee Safety Action

Classification, this information was not used in Risk Rating. USACE levee sponsors may contact their USACE district office to review what Levee Screening Tool information is currently available and to coordinate on any updates that may be warranted.

CONTINUED COLLABORATION

USACE is very supportive of efforts by FEMA to adopt a risk informed approach for the National Flood Insurance Program. USACE will continue working with FEMA to improve levee data and to refine risk assessment methodologies in support of future rate updates for Risk Rating.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

More information about Risk Rating can be found at: <https://www.fema.gov/flood-insurance/risk-rating>. *

The National Levee Database can be accessed at: <https://levees.sec.usace.army.mil>. If information displayed on the National Levee Database is incomplete or incorrect, a correction can be requested through a local USACE district, by sending an email to nld@usace.army.mil, by calling 1-877-LEVEEUS, or by submitting a request through the “Data Change Request” link on the levee system’s main page in the National Levee Database.

For more information about how USACE and FEMA are working together to improve levee data, visit the National Levee Safety Program website at www.leveesafety.org. ≡ ≡ ≡

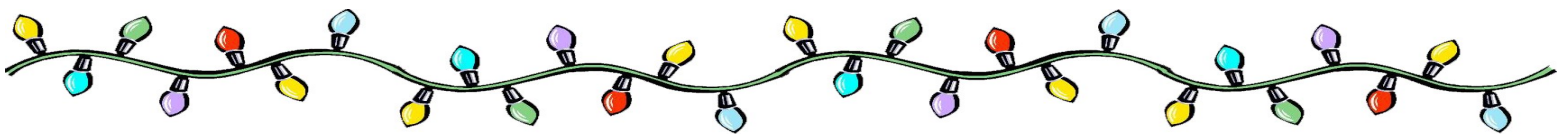
DATA SOURCES FOR KEY LEVEE DATA USED IN RISK RATING 2.0

KEY LEVEE DATA FIELDS	DATA SOURCE/METHODS	% OF LEVEE SYSTEMS	% OF BUILDINGS BEHIND LEVEE SYSTEMS
Levee Alignment/ Centerline	National Levee Database*	100%	100%
Levee Crest Profile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Levee Database Developed with High Quality Dem No Profile Available (<50 Buildings or High-Quality Dem Not Available) 	22% 20% 58%	78% 8% 14%
Leveed Area	National Levee Database*	100%	100%
Levee Overtopping Frequency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Levee Screening Tool National Levee Database Fathom Flood Data Assume 1% Annual Chance Flood (For accredited levees where higher quality data not available) Assume 2% Annual Chance Flood (<50 Buildings or insufficient information available) 	19% <1% 17% 6% 57%	60% 4% 11% 15% 10%
Levee Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Levee-Specific Response Curve from Screening Average Levee Performance Based on USACE Incident Data 	19% 81%	60% 40%

*Some Levee Alignments and Leveed Areas were refined and incorporated back into the NLD as part of Risk Rating 2.0.

(Taken from the [NLSF Connect Series June 2022](#))

*To learn more on how levees are accounted for in Risk Rating 2.0 click [here](#).



Elevation Certificate and Dry Floodproofing Certificate Under Review



The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Elevation Certificate (FEMA Form FF-206-FY-22-152 (formerly 086-0-33)) and Dry Floodproofing Certificate for Non-Residential Structures (FEMA Form FF-206-FY-22-153 (formerly 086-0-34)) are currently under review at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

Until the OMB review process is complete, please continue to use the existing forms available on FEMA's website. Upon OMB approval, FEMA will issue a memorandum highlighting changes to the forms and update the website for immediate use of the newly approved forms with the new expiration date. ≡ ≡ ≡

(Taken from NFIP Clearinghouse Bulletin: W-22020 dated 11/28/2022)



Flash Flooding: Be Ready to Act

Flash flooding occurs when too much rain falls too fast and too long for the ground to absorb all that water. Louisianans are used to thunderstorms. But if one of those storm cells stall over one area and drops heavy rain for hours, that can lead to dangerous flash flooding that threaten life and property.

Causes

- Most flash flooding is caused by slow-moving or stalled thunderstorms, by thunderstorms repeatedly moving over the same area, or by heavy rains from hurricanes and tropical storms. Heavy sustained rain can create rapid flooding within a few hours or even minutes, and flooding can occur miles away from where the rain fell.
- Several factors contribute to flash flooding. Two key elements are how hard the rain falls (rainfall intensity) and how long the rain lasts (duration).
- Louisiana's land is mostly flat lowlands. This causes drainage problems during heavy summer rainfall, tropical storms, and hurricanes. Roads and parking lots cannot absorb the water, which must drain off into saturated ditches and bayous. Uncleared storm debris in bayous, drainage ditches, and waterways can keep the water from flowing smoothly away.

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Flash Flooding: Be Ready to Act (cont...)

Results

- Flash floods can sweep away cars, tear out trees, and destroy buildings and bridges. As little as six inches of moving water can knock a person down. Two feet of moving water can sweep a vehicle away. Often there's no warning that these sudden and deadly floods are coming. Most flood fatalities in the U.S. happen in flash floods.

Flood Warning vs. Flood Watch

A **flash flood watch** means conditions are favorable for a flash flood. A **flash flood warning** means a flash flood is taking place or is imminent.

FLASH FLOOD WATCH

When a flash flood WATCH is issued, be alert to signs of flash flooding and be ready to evacuate at a moment's notice.

- Don't park your vehicle along bayous, canals, streams or other waterways.
- Avoid areas subject to flooding, including dips, low spots and ditches.
- Look out for rapidly rising water.

FLASH FLOOD WARNING

When a flash flood WARNING is issued for your area, or the moment you realize that a flash flood is imminent, act quickly to save yourself.

- Go to higher ground if possible.
- Avoid places that are already flooded and anywhere water is moving rapidly.
- Do not attempt to cross flowing waterways.
- If advised to evacuate, do so immediately.
- Continue monitoring weather forecasts and alerts--on radio, TV, or your phone.

Driving and Flooding: A Dangerous Combination

- Nearly half of all flash flood fatalities are auto related.
- If driving in heavy rain, look out for flooding at highway dips and bridge underpasses.
- Do not attempt to drive across a flooded road. The depth of the water is not always obvious, and the roadbed itself may be washed out under the water. Turn around and go another way.
- If a vehicle stalls in high water, leave it immediately and seek higher ground. Rapidly rising water may engulf the vehicle and sweep it away. ☹ ☹ ☹



(Taken from [fema.gov/fact-sheet/flash-flooding-be-ready-act](https://www.fema.gov/fact-sheet/flash-flooding-be-ready-act))



2023 ASFPM Conference

May 7-11, 2023

Raleigh, North Carolina



[For more info: View 2023 ASFPM Conference](#)



LFMA 2023 Annual Conference

March 29-31, 2023

City of Ruston

at the

Lincoln Parish Library Events Center



Mark your calendars and make plans to join us in a new host City for next year's event. More details and registration information will be coming in January.

An official call for presenters for short courses, plenary, and concurrent sessions will be released in December and Close in mid-January. If you have ideas for sessions please reach out to Michelle Gonzales at mgonzales@jeffparish.net



Our goal is flood loss reduction . . .

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION & DEVELOPMENT

If you or someone you know would like to receive future copies of this newsletter please contact our office:

LA DOTD
Floodplain Management Section
1201 Capitol Access Road
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

PHONE: 225-379-3005
FAX: 225-379-3002
E-MAIL: pam.lightfoot@la.gov
WEBSITE: <http://floods.dotd.la.gov>

[Click here to subscribe to our email blasts and quarterly newsletter](#)



Merry Christmas

and

Happy New Year

From: Cindy, Susan, & Pam