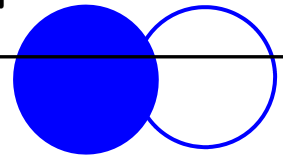




Sherri LeBas, P.E.  
INTERIM SECRETARY

# LOUISIANA FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT



# FACTSHEET

MARCH 10

Issued quarterly by the Louisiana Dept. of Transportation & Development-Floodplain Management Section

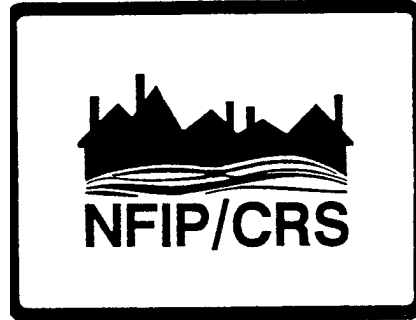
Volume 10 –Number 1

### Staff Contacts:

Cindy O’Neal, CFM  
Manager and Editor-in-Chief

Susan Veillon, CFM, Editor  
Pam Miller, CFM  
Flood Insurance Program  
Coordinators  
[225] 274-4354

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## A HEADS UP ON REVERIFICATIONS

Twelve CRS communities will be receiving a reverification visit during fiscal year (FY) 2010. The purpose of this visit is to determine if the community has been accomplishing the requirements of the activities for which they applied.

If you are due a visit, you should review your application and the CRS manual to determine what paperwork will be needed for the reverification. Certain activities require information for the previous five years (ex: Activities 310, 320, 330, 360, 540)

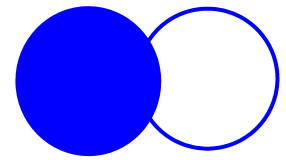
The following CRS communities are due for a reverification visit during our next fiscal year (FY2010):

- |                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Baker                   | Rayne              |
| Caddo Parish            | St. Charles Parish |
| Calcasieu Parish        | St. James Parish   |
| Denham Springs          | Shreveport         |
| East Baton Rouge Parish | Tangipahoa Parish  |
| Morgan City             | Westwego           |

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*Multiple Weak Links*  
*by David Hiegel, FEMA Region VI*



Investigations of aviation accidents often identify several instances of error that led up to the tragedy. In other words, someone missed several opportunities to avoid the accident. We should consider that concept as we engage in customer service in our duties within floodplain management. I offer a true, disheartening, current case study for your consideration.

The case involves a non-residential office/warehouse structure, built in 1988. A tenant decided to buy a NFIP policy to cover contents in the section he uses. He dutifully paid for an Elevation Certificate. The EC gives the following details: BFE = -3.5 NGVD, LFE = -4.84 NAVD, and “to convert NAVD to NGVD, adjust up .36”.

The insurance agent sent the case to the underwriter because local agents can’t write policies that are more than one foot below BFE. The underwriter noticed the statement “to convert NAVD to NGVD, adjust up .36”; and proceeded to make an adjustment and rounded some numbers to get: BFE = -3.1, LFE = -4.8, and “elevation difference = 2 minus”. He then rated the policy at two feet below BFE.

Three opportunities were missed; three individuals should be reprimanded for incompetence. Personally, I am glad that none of these individuals are airline pilots.

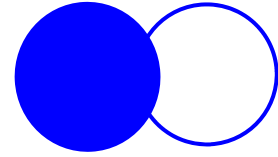
The surveyor should have read and followed the EC instructions: “All elevations for the certificate, including the elevations for Items C2.a-h, must use the same datum on which the BFE is based.” (If this case’s EC had been submitted to the permit official for verification of new construction compliance, the official should have refused to accept it.)

The agent should have refused the EC, or could have done what I did: convert the LFE from NAVD to NGVD (adjust up .36) and get correct, useable information: BFE = -3.5 NGVD, LFE = -4.48 NGVD, and then the LFE is .98 foot below BFE.

The underwriter should have paid attention. Apparently, he saw the note about converting one datum to another; and proceeded to crash and burn the customer. He erroneously “converted” the BFE, he made the flood deeper! In turn, the structure was rated two feet below BFE. And our customer lost. The underwriter should have converted the LFE, and the case should have been rated at one foot below BFE.

Each of the three parties had an opportunity to provide excellent customer service. All three failed. We floodplain managers are the set of professionals in the midst of these cases; we network with all the other parties. Please speak up when you see these mistakes. Refuse ECs done incorrectly. Explain these items to owners and agents. Be an educator. Your community deserves your good work!

# GARAGES



## “ATTACHED” Garages

These structures are connected to the existing structure and for floodplain management purposes are treated as *enclosures below the base flood elevation (bfe)*.

New (post-FIRM) construction [*a garage attached to the main structure*] is exempt from the elevation requirement in Section 60.3(c)(3) **if it is used solely** for parking, building access, or limited storage **AND** if it meets the following requirements:

NO machinery or equipment which services a building such as furnaces, air conditioners, heat pumps, hot water heaters, washers, dryers, elevator lift equipment, electrical junction and circuit breaker boxes, or food freezers; are permitted below the base flood elevation;

ALL interior wall, floor and ceiling materials located below the base flood elevation must be unfinished and resistant to flood damage; and

The walls of any enclosed area below the base flood elevation must be constructed in a manner to prevent flotation, collapse, and lateral movement of the structure, and meet the opening requirements in Section 60.3(c)(5).



## “DETACHED” Garages

In cases of new (post-FIRM) construction, a garage detached from an existing structure is exempt from the elevation requirement in Section 60.3(c)(3) **if it constitutes a minimal investment**, and if, at a minimum, the following conditions are met:

use of the garage must be restricted to parking and limited storage; and

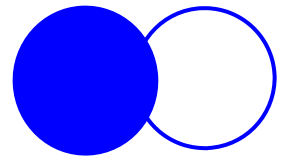
the garage must be unfinished and built using flood damage resistant material; and

the garage must be adequately anchored to prevent flotation, collapse, and lateral movement of the structure; and

the size shall not exceed 500 square feet; and

must meet the opening requirements in Section 60.3(c)(5); and

any mechanical and utility equipment in the garage must be elevated to or above the base flood elevation; and the garage must comply with floodway encroachment provisions in Section 60.3(c)(10) or (d)(3).



## THE TRANSITION PERIOD FROM THE OLD ELEVATION CERTIFICATE TO THE NEW ONE ENDS.

Beginning April 1, 2010 the Elevation Certificate (FEMA Form 81-31) with the expiration date of March 31, 2012 must be used.

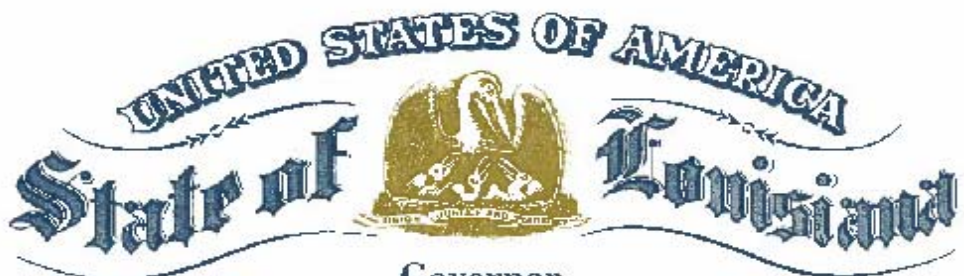
### DOES THIS APPLY TO YOUR COMMUNITY?

Does your community have a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with a third party to do your permitting and inspections? This does not automatically mean the third party will do your floodplain management duties. If the community wants the third party to perform these duties, your Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance should be included in this endeavor to avoid non compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program. Once this process is complete, please forward a copy of this agreement to our office.

## CONGRATULATIONS & WELCOME CONGRATULATIONS & WELCOME

Sarepta  
**Sarepta**

On December 11, 2009, the Town of Sarepta, located in Webster Parish, became an official NFIP community.



Governor  
**Bobby Jindal**

### Proclamation

**WHEREAS,** Louisiana citizens annually purchase hundreds of thousands of flood insurance policies to protect their homes, businesses, and property; and

**WHEREAS,** Louisiana is prone to annual floods in all regions of the state; and

**WHEREAS,** it is important for Louisiana citizens to be informed about damage-reduction practices citizens may implement to protect their homes, businesses, and property; and

**WHEREAS,** this information is available and must be shared.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Bobby Jindal, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim April 2010 as

#### **FLOOD AWARENESS MONTH**

in the State of Louisiana.



*Attest By  
The Governor*

  
Secretary of State

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set  
my hand officially and caused to be affixed the  
Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the  
Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this  
the \_\_\_\_\_<sup>th</sup> day of April  
A. D., 2010*

  
Governor of Louisiana

# LOUISIANA FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

## 27<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE TECHNICAL & BUSINESS CONFERENCE

April 28, 29, 30, 2010

Shreveport, Louisiana

### "Know Your Risk"

Holiday Inn- Shreveport, LA - (318) 222-7717 or 1-(800) 766-2084

### *Schedule of Events:*

#### **WEDNESDAY – APRIL 28, 2010**

8:30 - 3:00 Registration

7:30 – 12:30 Wetlands in the Fairway/Open Space Technical Tour  
"Country Club TBA" - Shreveport,

**SESSION I**

1:00 - 1:30 New LFMA Members Seminar  
Pam Mattingly-LFMA

2:00 – 2:15 Welcome, Mayor of Shreveport Parish Administrator  
The Honorable Cedric Glover  
The Honorable Woodrow Wilson

2:15 – 2:45 Louisiana House/DFIRM Open Houses- LSU  
Pat Skinner - LSU Ag. Center

2:45 – 3:15 SFHA and Oil & Gas Industry  
Cathy M. Kaake- Southern Forest Products Association

**3:15 – 3:30 B R E A K**

3:30 – 4:00 SFHA and Oil & Gas Industry  
Joe E. "Butch" Ford - Bossier Parish

4:00 - 4:30 It Takes a Team to Win a Flood Fight  
Gene Barattini-Caddo/Bossier Parish OEP

5:00 – Till Wine and Cheese Reception  
(Networking at its best –  
Fun Flood Trivia & Drinking)

#### **THURSDAY – APRIL 29, 2010**

8:30 – 12:00 Registration

8:00 - 8:30 Coffee and Danish

**SESSION II**

8:30 – 9:30 Exploring DFIRM Data with Map Viewer Desktop  
Roberto Ramirez, FEMA Region 6  
Jerri Daniels, Dewberry

9:30 - 10:00 The Use of Numerical Models for Floodplain/Floodway Determinations  
Dr. Ehab Meselhe-Fenstermaker & Associates

#### **10:00 – 10:15 B R E A K**

10:15 – 11:00 Risk Map in Louisiana  
Shona Gibson-FEMA Region 6  
Elizabeth Savage (RSC 6)

11:00 - 11:30 Levee Certification Process  
Robert H. Fitzgerald-USACE-Vicksburg District

12:00 – 1:30 Lunch - Planned Keynote Speaker  
Mr. Tony Russell,  
FEMA Director-Region 6

#### **SESSION III**

1:45 – 2:15 Substantial Improvement/Damage  
David Hiegel - FEMA Region 6

2:15 - 2:45 National Flood Insurance Program  
Dorothy Martinez-H2O Partners

2:45 – 3:15 Louisiana's CRS Program  
TBA - ISO

**3:15 - 3:30 B R E A K**

3:30 - 4:00 The FEMA eLOMA Submittal  
Mark Hoskins-Dewberry

4:00 – 4:30 State of Louisiana's NFIP Program  
TBA

5:30 – Till Hospitality Cookout  
@  
Sky Box @ Independence Stadium

#### **FRIDAY – APRIL 30, 2010**

#### **SESSION IV**

8:30 – 9:00 TBA  
James Demouchet-Caddo Parish



9:00 – 9:30	<u>2010: Louisiana's Hazard Mitigation Program</u> Casey Levy - GOSHEP	10:45 - 11:15	TBA FEMA Region 6
9:30 – 10:00	<u>Update 2010: New Manufacturing Housing Requirements</u> Fred Conners - LA State Fire Marshal's Office	11:15 – Til	<u>General Business Meeting</u> <u>Election of Regional Representatives</u> <u>2010 Conference Wrap Up</u> <u>2010 LFMA Chairman</u>
<b>BREAK</b>	<b>10:00 - 10:15</b>	1:00 – 4:00	CFM Exam (pre-registered applicants only) Lisa Richardson, CFM - Proctor
10:15 - 10:45	<u>FEMA Hazard Mitigation Program</u> Charlie Tobelman-LA TRO		

(Registration must be made through the ASFPM by April 17th, contact Anita Larson at (608) 274-0123 or online @ [www.floods.org](http://www.floods.org) )

**FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT:**

Program Chairs:  
Rodney Smith (504) 762-2547  
Wayne Berggren(504) 762-2296  
[rodneyw.smith@dhs.gov](mailto:rodneyw.smith@dhs.gov)      [wayne.berggren@dhs.gov](mailto:wayne.berggren@dhs.gov)

*L.F.M.A. - Official Registration Form  
2010 Annual Conference  
April 28 - 30, 2010*

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**TITLE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CITY/ST/ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**FIRM:** \_\_\_\_\_ **TELEPHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CERTIFICATION:** CFM, P.L.S., P.E. (CHECK) **FAX:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION includes: Conference Packet, Luncheon, Wine & Cheese Reception, & Cookout Registration:**

- Members \$120.00 (early as possible; by April 10, 2010)
- Non-Members \$150.00 (includes membership)
- One Day \$60.00 (Thursday only)      Spouse \$25.00
- Late Registration \$130.00 member      \$160.00 non-member

Tech Tour (Golf) \$50.00  
LFMA T-Shirt \$15.00 **(State size: S; M; L; XL; XXL) Circle One: Men or Women**  
*[Free T-Shirt if registered by April 10, 2010]*  
Conference & Price \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL  
Make check payable to [Louisiana Floodplain Management Association](http://Louisiana Floodplain Management Association).

**Registration fee and this form should be mailed to:**

LFMA  
Attn: James Demouchet, CFM  
P.O. Box 706  
Shreveport, LA 71162  
Website: [www.LFMA.org](http://www.LFMA.org)  
[jdemouchet@caddo.org](mailto:jdemouchet@caddo.org)

**All room accommodations made DIRECTLY through:**

*Holiday Inn Downtown*  
102 Lake Street  
Shreveport, LA 71101  
(318) 222-7717 or 1-800-766-2084

**(Contact ASFPM for CFM Exam – [asfpm@floods.org](mailto:asfpm@floods.org) or (608) 274-0123; Deadline April 17, 2010)**



Our goal is flood loss reduction . . .

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

LA DOTD  
Floodplain Management Section  
8900 Jimmy Wedell Dr.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70807

PHONE: 225-274-4354  
FAX: 225-274-4351  
E-MAIL: [susan.veillon@la.gov](mailto:susan.veillon@la.gov)  
WEBSITE: <http://floods.dotd.la.gov>

LA DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION & DEVELOPMENT  
FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT – SECTION 64  
PO BOX 94245  
BATON ROUGE LA 70804-9245