

# KANSAS

## FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

### TIPS



August 2015

#### Association State Floodplain Managers Conference

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) held their annual conference in Atlanta, Georgia. Conference began on May 31 and concluded on June 5, 2015. Community officials from Kansas attended and also spoke at the conference.

Each year they have interesting plenary session speakers. The breakout sessions are broken up in to tracks. Each track will have a particular topic to focus on. With so much variety there is always a track to choose from that will interest you. This year the tracks were based on the following 8 topics:

- Showcase Sessions
- Water Resource Management
- National Flood Insurance Program
- Flood Loss Mitigation
- Levees, Dams and Barriers
- Education and Outreach
- Modeling (Riverine and Coastal)
- Floodplain Mapping

We hope you can attend next year. The 2016 ASFPM Conference will be in Grand Rapids, Michigan. For those who can't make the trip to Michigan, the Kansas Association for Floodplain Management will have their annual conference this September in Kansas City. It is a little smaller than the ASFPM conference but it will be a lot closer to home. Go to [www.kafm.org](http://www.kafm.org) to learn more about the next conference.

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Speaker is Chad Bunger from Manhattan



Mark Vonachen and Tonya Richards attending a session.

## New Guide for Non-Engineered Opening

At the Association of State Floodplain Managers I got a copy of the book, "Non-Engineered Opening Guide". They were giving this guide book out for free at one of the vendor booths. Lisa Jones with Carolina Flood Solutions discussed this book in one of the conference sessions.

This is a great book for community officials and surveyors who complete elevation certificates. This book has definitions, installation requirements and even a sample opening agreement on the inside of the back page. The opening agreement is a good idea because many floodplain managers have had property owners seal up flood openings after the surveys were completed and permits approved.

On top of the other great information in this book there is also a comprehensive set of photos and calculations of about every type of opening there is. In reading through the book I recognized many common types of vents I have seen in hardware stores that often tend to end up as screens for flood openings. Next to each photo are dimensions and a calculated net opening.

There is also a 3 1/2" x 6" pocket guide with all of this same information. Surveyors should keep this pocket guide in their vehicle. When they are in the field and see a vent they can quickly identify it in the pocket guide. The net opening will already be provided for them to use on the elevation certificate form. Community officials can look at photos on the elevation certificate and compare to the guide as well in order to ensure correct net openings are being used.

Free information at conference booth.

Called the company that produces this guide. Was able to get 25 copies of the guide for free. During the call, I learned that any community official or surveyor who calls may also have a free copy sent to them. Every community official, engineer or surveyor should make the call and order a free copy. The phone number is 877-441-8368. Order yours today. They will eventually run out of printed copies. A pdf version of the guide will also be sent out with the email version of this issue of Floodplain Tips.



## Kansas Train

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) is hosting two floodplain management courses on their website <http://ks.train.org> for the Kansas Department of Agriculture. (KDA). Visit the website and type the word floodplain in the search box. The KDA: Floodplain courses will come up. First time students will need to set up a free account. Courses have been approved for one hour of Certified Floodplain Manager continued education credits. Contact Steve Samuelson at [steve.samuelson@kda.ks.gov](mailto:steve.samuelson@kda.ks.gov) with questions.

## **Call Center Pilot Program**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) opened a call center in June. This new call center is a pilot program to better support flood insurance policyholders with their claims. Call center staff will be able to field questions on a variety of topics to include:

- Servicing a claim,
- Policy information,
- Technical assistance,
- Aid in recovery, and
- Disaster information.

Flood insurance policyholders may call 1-800-621-3362 Monday through Friday from 8:00am until 6:00pm central time. Some people will want a written record of their request for support. Those policy holders may ask for a "Request for Support" form. This form will also be available at [www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program](http://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program) and can be submitted by email.

A handout will go out with the email version of this newsletter that explains more details about the call center. It is suggested that floodplain managers save the information. You or your citizens may need it someday.

## **Websites You May Not Know About**

The Kansas Department of Agriculture/Division of Water Resources (KDA/DWR) has a number of websites that can be very useful for communities. Smaller communities without Geographic Information Systems (GIS) computer maps can use the KDA/DWR websites as an on line substitute for GIS. In many cases I have found the website faster and easier to use than the maps. Start by going to:  
<http://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/dwr/floodplain/mapping>

On the floodplain mapping website there are a number of useful tools. Look on the left side of the page for LOMC Search. Every Letter Of Map Change (LOMC) for entire State of Kansas is in a data base. When you first click the link you'll be seeing a map of Kansas. There are different colored stars for Letters Of Map Amendment (LOMA) and Letter Of Map Revision (LOMR). Pan the map left, right up or down to center it over your area of interest. Then use the plus and minus at top left to zoom in. The red button at top allows you to type in an address and that will zoom the map directly to the location. When you see a star, close to an area of interest, you can use the identify button to click on the star and read the LOMC case number. Scanned copies of the case numbers are linked to the map so you can download your LOMC instantly.

The Kansas Floodplain Map Viewer is a website to use for determining a base flood elevation. Where new flood maps exist there were water surface elevations calculated for use in making the maps. This data is posted on the website for the Unnumbered Zone A areas. A very useful tool when you need a base flood level in a Zone A. Zooming in and out is with the same tool at the upper left part of the screen as with the LOMC website. There is also a street or aerial selection button at the upper right corner to view buildings in an aerial map photo. When you zoom in you'll start to see the floodplains and elevation numbers appear.

Two other websites show future effective Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and Preliminary FIRMs. These maps haven't gone effective yet but are posted on the website. Handy for a property owner to see how a future map will affect his or her property. Select a county from the list. Suggest using the map viewer link in blue letters at the top of the list of map panels. With the map viewer you don't have to download a panel and it is as simple and easy to use as LOMC and Floodplain Map Viewer tools.

These websites will save you time and can be very useful tools. For questions about the websites contact Tara Lanzrath at 785-296-2513.

## **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.

### **Substantial Damage Estimation Overview**

This free class is designed for community officials responsible for administering floodplain management regulations and those who perform damage estimations after a disaster. Class will look at the damage estimating software and how it works. There will be a walkthrough of a house to practice damage estimates. Computer is required. Approved 3.5 hours toward CFM. Limited to 20 participants.

- Clay Center - Oct. 8, 2015 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.

- Hays– Oct. 15, 2015 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.

- Wichita - Oct. 29, 2015 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Find more information about floodplain management from Kansas Department of Agriculture  
Division of Water Resources on line at:  
<http://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/dwr/floodplain>

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](mailto:steve.samuelson@kda.ks.gov).

Mark your calendar. The Kansas Association for Floodplain Management 2015 conference will be September 2 and 3 in Kansas City. More information will be posted at the website: [www.kafm.org](http://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  
6531 SE Forbes Ave., Suite B  
TOPEKA, KS 66619  
Fax to: 785-296-7155

For questions about training, please contact Steve Samuelson by email at [steve.samuelson@kda.ks.gov](mailto:steve.samuelson@kda.ks.gov) or by phone 785-296-4622, or contact Tom Morey at [tom.morey@kda.ks.gov](mailto: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 email [steve.samuelson@kda.ks.gov](mailto:steve.samuelson@kda.ks.gov) to report the change.

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Kansas Department of Agriculture  
Division of Water Resources  
Topeka Field Office  
Floodplain Management  
6531 SE Forbes Ave., Suite B  
Topeka, KS 66619

### **ASFPM 2016 National Conference in Grand Rapids**

The 2016 Association of State Floodplain Managers National Conference will be June 19-24, 2016 in Grand Rapids, Michigan 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.

### **KDA/DWR Water Structures Floodplain Program Staff**

Tom Morey, CFM, RS, NFIP Coordinator  
Tara Lanzrath, Floodplain Mapping Specialist  
Steve Samuelson, CFM, NFIP Specialist  
Dane Bailey, Floodplain Mapping Coordinator

785-296-5440  
785-296-2513  
785-296-4622  
785-296-7769

[tom.morey@kda.ks.gov](mailto:tom.morey@kda.ks.gov)  
[tara.lanzrath@kda.ks.gov](mailto:tara.lanzrath@kda.ks.gov)  
[steve.samuelson@kda.ks.gov](mailto:steve.samuelson@kda.ks.gov)  
[dane.bailey@kda.ks.gov](mailto:dane.bailey@kda.ks.gov)

Mailing Address:  
6531 SE Forbes Ave., Suite B  
Topeka, KS 66619  
Fax: (785) 862-9110

<http://agriculture.ks.gov/dwr>