

The Flood Record

December 2022

NEW Elevation Certificate and Dry Floodproofing Certificate

Both the current Elevation Certificate (EC) and the Floodproofing certificate for Non-Residential Structures have an expiration date of November 30, 2022. New certificates are under review and may be issued even before this newsletter is sent. Until the new forms are issued, the current forms remain valid, and any forms signed prior to the date of the new release may be accepted. All certificates signed after the release date must be on the new forms.

WATCH YOUR EMAIL, once released, a separate email will be issued by Erin Conley, State Floodplain Manager, which will review the changes. The new EC is expected to request additional data needed to better align the new Risk Rating 2.0 flood insurance methodology.

Remember the EC is just a tool to help you determine compliance with your floodplain regulations. It must be reviewed for accuracy and does not guarantee compliance. Check for items such as accurate building diagram, freeboard, required openings in any enclosures/attached garage, lowest machinery and equipment, and lowest adjacent grade. The EC does not address floodplain development concerns such as fill compaction or if the improvements are in the floodway.

IAFSM Conference Scholarships for Local Officials

At least **ten local official scholarships** will be offered again this year for the IAFSM 2023 Conference. The conference will be held on March 14-15 in Tinley Park. Priority will be given to new floodplain administrators and those that have not received a previous scholarship. For those traveling more than 150 miles, hotel accommodation for one night will also be provided. If interested, please send an email to Erin.C.Conley@illinois.gov for the application.

Illinois Floodplain Management Office Hours

Join IDNR staff to discuss your floodplain management questions during monthly virtual office hours. Any topics are open including permitting, maps, enforcement, and flood insurance. The sessions will be held on:

- [January 12](#), Thursday, 10 to 11 am
- [February 9](#), Thursday, 10 to 11 am
- [March 9](#), Thursday, 10 to 11 am

No registration is required. Save the links to your calendar and open at 10 am to join the WebEx meeting.

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Post Flood Temporary Occupancy for Substantially Damaged Buildings

After a flood, homeowners with substantially damaged homes may be faced with homelessness while they decide if they will elevate or demolish, or the community looks for grants to help buy the damaged homes. During this interim, the community can issue a building permit to allow for limited repairs necessary to temporarily occupy while the plans for bringing the substantially damaged building into compliance are made.

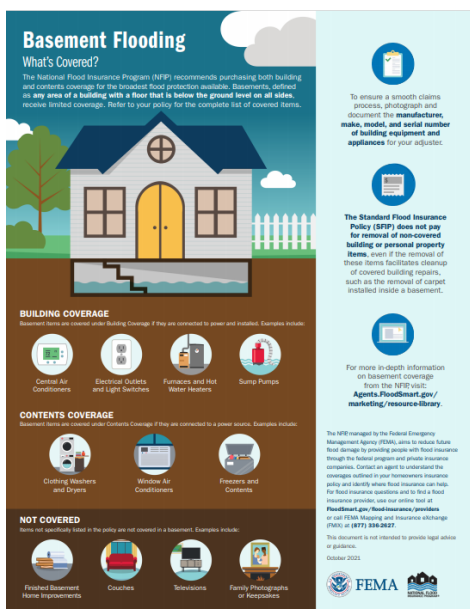
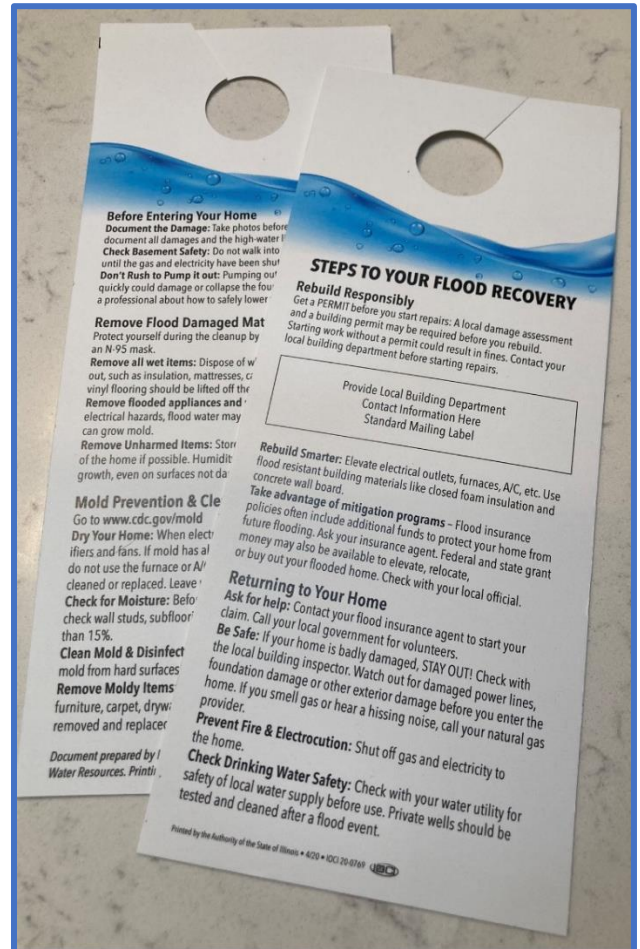
A building permit only for the limited repairs necessary for the home to be safe to live in should be issued and the “temporary occupancy” certificate must clearly define a deadline for achieving final compliance with your floodplain management ordinance. The homeowners should be advised to keep all receipts for repairs in the event a buyout grant is received.

For more information, please contact Erin Conley at erin.c.conley@illinois.gov or in NE IL, Marilyn Sucoe at marilyn.sucoe@illinois.gov

Post Flood Door Hangers are Available

IDNR/OWR has “STEPS TO YOUR FLOOD RECOVERY” door hangers available for your use after a flood. During your post-flood damage inspections, you can use these door hangers to remind your community that building permits are required. Space is provided for you to add a mailing label or attach a business card with your building department contact information. The door hangers provide information on the requirements for building permits as well as safety tips for returning to a flooded home, removing flood damage materials, and mold prevention.

Following a flood, if interested in using, please contact Erin Conley at erin.c.conley@illinois.gov or in NE IL, Marilyn Sucoe at marilyn.sucoe@illinois.gov.



Basement Flooding - What's Covered?

As part of FEMA's disaster support outreach, a series of new infographics have been published to assist agents, adjusters, and consumers before and after flooding events.

The [Basement Flooding](#) flyer explains how the NFIP defines a basement and highlights specific examples of what is and isn't covered. Composed of illustrations and plain language, this publication is suitable for all audiences. Perfect for any flood preparedness outreach.

The [NFIP Resource Library](#) has additional videos that can be shared on your community's social media accounts.

Updated NFIP Flood Insurance Manual and Answers to Your Questions

The October 2022 edition of the [National Flood Insurance Program Flood Insurance Manual](#) is now available to view and download. The current manual explains the Risk Rating 2.0: Equity in Action pricing methodology along with the legacy rating plan. The manual can be used to help you answer any questions you or a resident in your community may have, however, please don't hesitate to contact the IDNR State Floodplain Management staff at Erin.C.Conley@illinois.gov or Marilyn.Sucoc@illinois.gov. If we don't know the answer, we will put you in touch with James Sink, FEMA Region V's Flood Insurance Liaison.

FEMA Webinar Series -Managing Your Community's Floodplains

Registration is open now for the next two monthly, one-hour virtual training webinars for local floodplain officials. They are held on Wednesdays, unless noted, from 9-10 a.m. (CT). Webinar attendance will be submitted to ASFPM for CECs for CFMs.

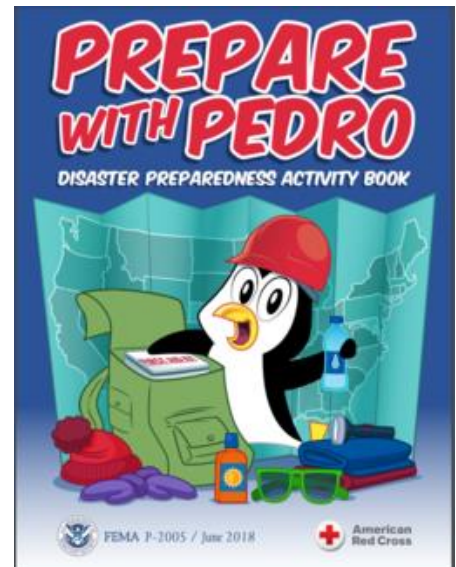
12/14/2022 [Community Rating System \(CRS\)](#)

1/25/2022 [No Adverse Impact](#)

Prepare with Pedro - FEMA Coloring Book

[Prepare with Pedro](#) is a free youth preparedness program created by the American Red Cross. FEMA is partnering with them to offer the Prepare with Pedro: Disaster Preparedness Activity Book. This resource is designed to teach young children and their families how to stay safe during disasters and emergencies through fun activities such as crosswords, coloring pages, matching games, and more!

See the [full series of Prepare with Pedro storybooks](#), supplemental activities and teacher guides. The series includes preparation for many hazards and emergencies, including floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, and power outages. Spanish versions are also available.



ASFPM College Scholarship

The [ASFPM Foundation Future Leaders Scholarship](#) has been established to provide financial support, mentoring and professional opportunities to undergraduate students who will grow to advance the vision of the ASFPM Foundation. The ASFPM Foundation's vision focuses on reducing the risk and impacts of floods on people and communities.

ASFPM Foundation Future Leaders Scholarship key features:

- Up to \$20,000 per year for two years available to a student entering their junior year in a 4-year undergraduate degree program in the fall of 2023. The scholarship will pay tuition and living expenses.
- For any degree program that supports the Foundation's vision of reducing the risk and impacts of floods on people and communities. The FLS is not just for engineers.

Application deadline is Feb.1, 2023. Email asfpmfoundation@flood.org with any questions regarding the Future Leaders Scholarship.

If you are a new local floodplain administrator, send any contact updates to Marilyn Sucoe at marilyn.sucoc@illinois.gov.

On-Line CFM Training Opportunities

Are you new to floodplain management or do you have new staff who need additional support in understanding the NFIP requirements? You can access online training through ASFPM at: [NFIP101 \(floods.org\)](https://www.floods.org/nfip101). Professional credit is available, or the training course can just be used as a reference guide.

No BFE and No Clue What to Do?

Adapted from article in IAFSM Current Winter 2016/17, by Dallas Alley, CFM,

All of us have been faced with Zone A floodplains with no Base Flood Elevation (BFE) calculated. Your ordinance requires the BFE determination for new developments, like a new subdivision. However, if you are working with an existing homeowner hoping to get a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA), before you tell them to spend thousands of dollars to hire an engineering firm and conduct a detailed hydrologic/hydraulic study, there are a few other options, outlined below, that are FREE.

However, if you are working with a property owner wishing to construct a new building, you must first determine if a state floodway permit is required, and you must establish an estimated BFE before issuing a local building or floodplain development permit. Remember it is your job to make sure the building protection standards of your ordinance are met and that the new building is reasonably safe from flooding.

1. Have any local studies been done? Check with your county and local soil and water conservation District. Has there been a roadway bridge/culvert replacement or other recent development nearby that calculated the BFE? State, county, township, and local community bridge or culvert replacement projects typically require a state floodway permit, which may have required the calculation of the BFE. That analysis can be used to establish the BFE on an Elevation Certificate (EC).

2. Look at homes nearby to see if a LOMA has already been issued. The National Flood Hazard Layer Viewer can be used to find LOMAs, even if your community does not yet have digital maps. In the photo to the right, you can see two homes along a lake with LOMAs. Older LOMAs will list a BFE but newer ones will only list a Lowest Adjacent Grade (LAG) or Lowest Lot Elevation. Open the LOMA by clicking on the purple dot and check that it is LOMA showing removal of the building or property versus a denied request.



3. Have FEMA calculate the BFE for FREE! FEMA will calculate a BFE in Approximate A zones as part of every LOMA application. The homeowner will need to have an EC prepared. The surveyor will leave the BFE section of the EC blank and simply add a statement such as “no BFE available from federal, state or local sources”. The EC is submitted to FEMA using the MT-EZ form for a LOMA. FEMA’s contractor will then calculate a BFE as part of the LOMA process. To improve FEMA’s determination, you can add information to the LOMA application such as surveyed cross-sections of the creek or river channel or details for a downstream culvert or bridge.

4. If an analysis is needed, FEMA has an old publication, mentioned in the MT-EZ application form, that can be reviewed: [Managing Floodplain Development in Approximate Zone A Areas](#). Ultimately a full engineering analysis can be completed, including both hydrological modeling to determine the amount of water in the stream and hydraulic modeling to determine the flood water’s depth.