



THE LIGHTNING ROD

Fall 2015

The Official Newsletter of the Texas Floodplain Management Association

Volume 20, Issue 3

From the Desk of the Executive Director

Hello TFMA – It startles me how fast this year has gone. Funny how as you get older, (I turned 71 this month), time appears to speed by us at a rapid rate. The old saying, “Time Waits for No One” really applies today in our fast paced world. Now that we are 3 quarters into 2015, looking back, this year has been a year of amazing highs and a few sorrowful lows. TFMA is as strong as it has ever been. To date we have 2127 members and 1895 Certified Floodplain Managers. This year alone, we have added 135 new CFMs. As we continue to grow, we strive to focus on our mission - to save precious life and property from devastating floods. One of our goals is to have the best trained and professional floodplain managers in the country. TFMA training has been fantastic this year. So far working with our partners, we have facilitated (6) 4-day classes and (24) half-day and full day workshops all across the state. To date, we have trained over 1698 professionals to ensure Texans are practicing sound floodplain development. And we are not done yet. See the Training Calendar in this issue of the newsletter or visit the TFMA website.

I can't say much more about TFMA's two conferences this year, except they were fantastic. The Fall Technical Summit was successful beyond our wildest dreams with a record 564 participants. And the theme for the Fall Summit – “After the Floods – Texas Rising” helped TFMA focus on the devastating Memorial Day floods of 2015. Before I write any more, I must offer my heartfelt thanks to you who attended our conferences, to you who presented, and especially to our sponsors and exhibitors. You made TFMA successful. We all came together to share in two wonderful networking events.

And now let's touch on the bad. As you are painfully aware, Texas was hit with massive and record breaking floods in May and a tropical storm in early June. The most devastating result of the floods was the high loss of life. Our prayers and our hearts go out to those families who lost precious loved ones. Besides the high death toll, the floods also brought devastating property damage, with many homeowners losing everything. The numbers are still being tallied, but the damage is probably well over 100 million. Hopefully, we can get some accurate numbers as we move forward.



Even with the bad, there was some good too! Prior to the wettest month of May ever, the majority of Texas was in some stage of drought at the beginning of the year. Many of the state's reservoirs which Texans depend on for water supply were dangerously low and depleted. The majority of our smaller creeks and streams had stopped flowing or were nearly dry and even our main rivers were sluggish and stagnant. All that changed in a heartbeat. Reservoirs filled, some even to the point of making flood releases, and our creeks began flowing again. But just as soon as Mother Nature offered us hope, she closed off the rain faucet in late July and rain has been scarce as hens teeth across much of the state and drought stages are on the increase once again.

Besides the blessed rainfall, one other good thing came from the floods – Our communities came together and worked to help flood victims recover. Neighbor helped neighbor, stranger helped stranger and we grew together as a proud state and a proud and resilient people. Yes Texas and Texans will rise above the floods. We will learn from the bad and use lessons learned to rise above the devastation. Now our big challenge – we must not only rebuild, we must also rebuild smarter, stronger and higher. Let's break the cycle of recurring flood losses. We must do this and we can.

Now let me leave you on a message found in a Chinese fortune cookie – “Today's New Friend Is Tomorrow's New Family.”

That pretty much sums it up for TFMA. We are all a family, we support each other and welcome new faces into the family each day. Together, we are making a difference. God Bless the TFMA family!

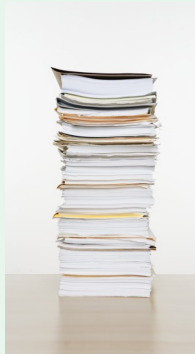
Roy D. Sedwick, CFM
TFMA Executive Director



The Lightning Rod

Questions, items for publication and other editorial matters should be directed to:

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TFMA1@att.net



**Deadline for
The Lightning Rod Winter
Issue is December 1, 2015.**

A Message from the President

I want to first thank everyone who attended our 2015 Fall Technical Summit in Houston in early September. We had record breaking attendance with over 550 attendees! One of the highlights was hosting TWDB Chairman, Bech Bruun, who was our keynote speaker. Bech presented a very moving presentation on how he was personally affected by the 2015 Memorial Day flood in Wimberley, as he lost lifetime friends of his family to the flood. As communities throughout Texas focused their efforts this summer on recovery and re-building smarter and stronger, we want to focus on what we can learn from these events and how TFMA can support our members and state and federal partners in building a more resilient Texas!



This year, immediately following the flooding events, TFMA hosted a meeting in June of leaders from FEMA, TWDB, TDEM, and USACE to discuss how we can work together and collaborate to be more effective in our floodplain management and flood risk reduction efforts. If you have examples of mitigation projects that worked and provided protection from flooding, or if you have examples of ways your community could improve your flood response procedures, we'd love to hear from you. One example of an initiative TFMA plans to push forward is creating a Texas High Water Mark program so that all communities are aware of a consistent format for collecting and documenting high water marks following a flood event. This data is invaluable as we continue to assess the flood risk in our communities and provide more opportunities to calibrate modeling to ensure we accurately identify flood hazard areas. TFMA will encourage this collaborative effort with our local, state, and federal partners as an opportunity to build upon the existing database of over 14,000 historical high water marks already collected by TNRIS/TWDB.

Continuing Education requirements for CFMs is one way that TFMA supports the professional development and sharing of knowledge for floodplain professionals. CFM renewals are due 12/31/2015 and you must have 8 CECs to renew your certification. We have scheduled 10+ training courses throughout the state over the next 3 months including locations in Richardson, Abilene, Corpus Christi, Lubbock, Denton, Fort Worth, and even more to come. Watch the TFMA Events Calendar for details to register for these courses. (http://www.tfma.org/events/event_list.asp)

Finally, I'd like to encourage you to participate in the TFMA 2015 Higher Standards Survey that is currently open through November 6. (<http://www.tfma.org/surveys/?id=488900>) Each year, we survey the communities and counties throughout Texas to document what higher standards are being enforced throughout our state. ASFPM recently estimated at least 62% of the US population live in a community or state with a freeboard requirement. Data collected through our Higher Standards Survey will help us share information between communities and also assist our State and Federal partners in supporting floodplain management practices throughout Texas. We ask that every Texas community and county have one person fill out this survey. To encourage your participation in November, we will select one survey participant at random to receive a FREE registration for our 2016 Spring Conference in Houston!

Be sure you mark your calendars now for the 2016 Spring Conference which is much earlier than our past Spring Conferences. **See you March 8 – 11, 2016 at the Omni Galleria Hotel in Houston.** The Call for Abstracts is out! **Workshop deadline is October 30th and Plenary/Concurrent Sessions deadline is December 18th.** As always, please send me any questions, ideas, or feedback to continue to improve TFMA's member benefits and support of sound floodplain management in Texas.

Jessica D. Baker, PE, CFM, PMP
TFMA 2015 – 2017 President

Floodwater Under the Bridge - A Look Back

This article first appeared in October 1999 Fall Edition of *The Lightning Rod*.

The Next Flood: Are you Prepared?
By: Mike Howard, TNRCC

Many lessons are learned with each disaster. Unfortunately, often the magnitude of a flood event does not permit us to sit down, recollect, and evaluate our actions. Therefore, the time to begin planning for the next flood is now. So what can you do?

First, start educating yourself. If you haven't attended a floodplain management workshop, attend one. Read your ordinance or court order and get familiar with it. Take a look at your development permits. Do they address all of the community's concerns? If not, revise them. Is your community's flood hazard boundary map or flood insurance rate map available? How will you determine "substantial damage"? I would suggest calling FEMA to obtain a copy of the computer program called "Substantial Damage Estimator" and become familiar with using it.

Second, make a concerted effort to begin planning for the next flood event. These are a number of ways you can do this:

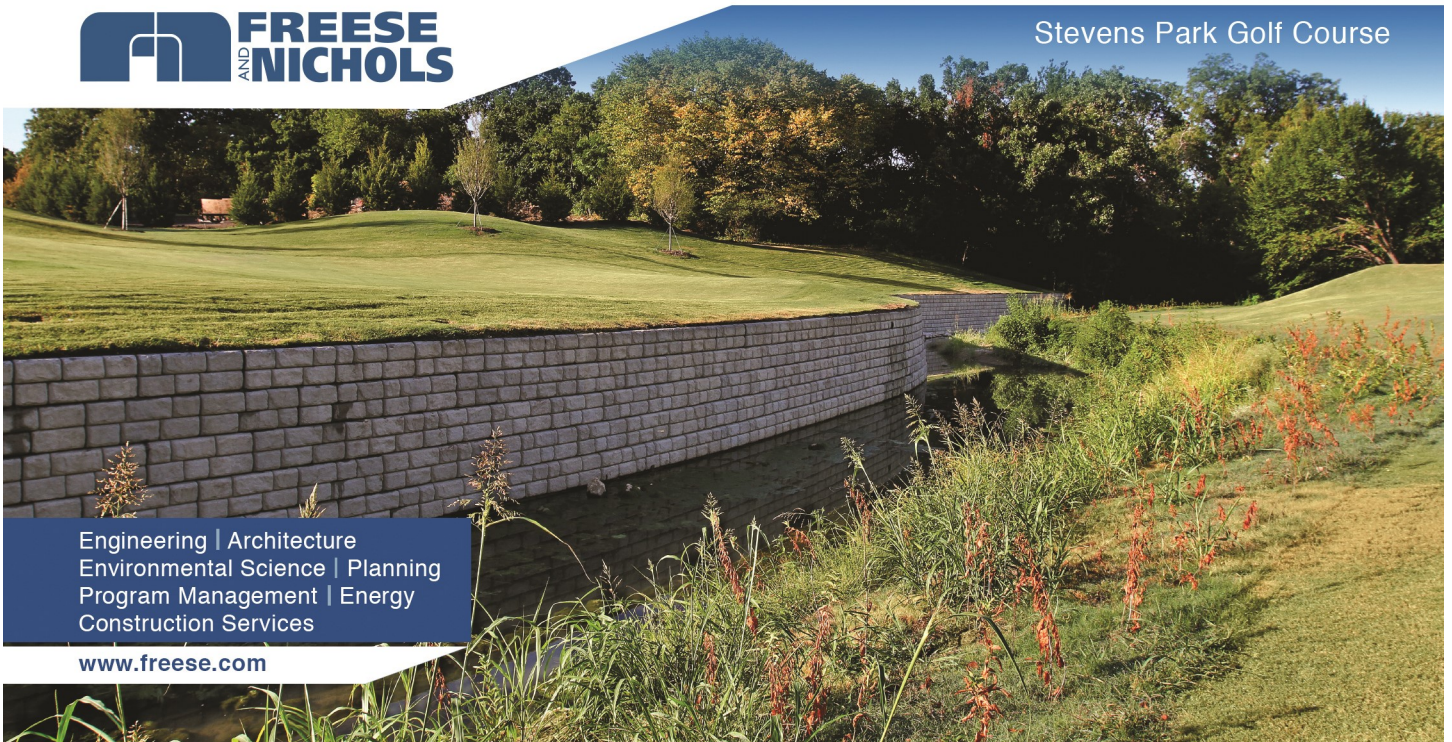
- Inform your citizens of the need to come by city hall or the county courthouse to get a development permit.
- Work with your elected officials and educate them about floodplain management. Get a commitment from them now that they will back you when you discover structures that are not built in compliance with your local regulations.
- Start community awareness activities. Use your newspaper, radio, or television stations to get the word out. Sponsor a flood awareness week. Set up a booth at a local event and pass out material on floodplain management.
- Visit schools to educate kids about floodplain management. Ask FEMA Publications for copies of informative brochures you can make available to the public.

Finally, coordinate with your counterparts at the local, state and federal level. Get to know them. Who is your emergency management coordinator? How can you work with him or her to be better prepared? Work with your public works officials. Floods generate a lot of debris. How will you deal with this? What is the capacity of your landfill? Will permits be needed from TNRCC to burn or bury the debris? Who is the point of contact at the TNRCC regional office? During and after a flood event, FEMA, the Red Cross, the Small Business Administration, the Department of Public Safety, and the TNRCC, and a number of other agencies will descend upon your city. What will they need from you? How can you get prepared now?

If you feel you will need help in the aftermath of a flood, begin planning now. Find out who in your community might be willing to help with permitting or who could do some general office work while you are in the field. These are a few ideas to ponder. Hopefully, our state will be spared this year from nature's wrath – but if we're not, let's try to be ready.



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Executive Order 13690 Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS)

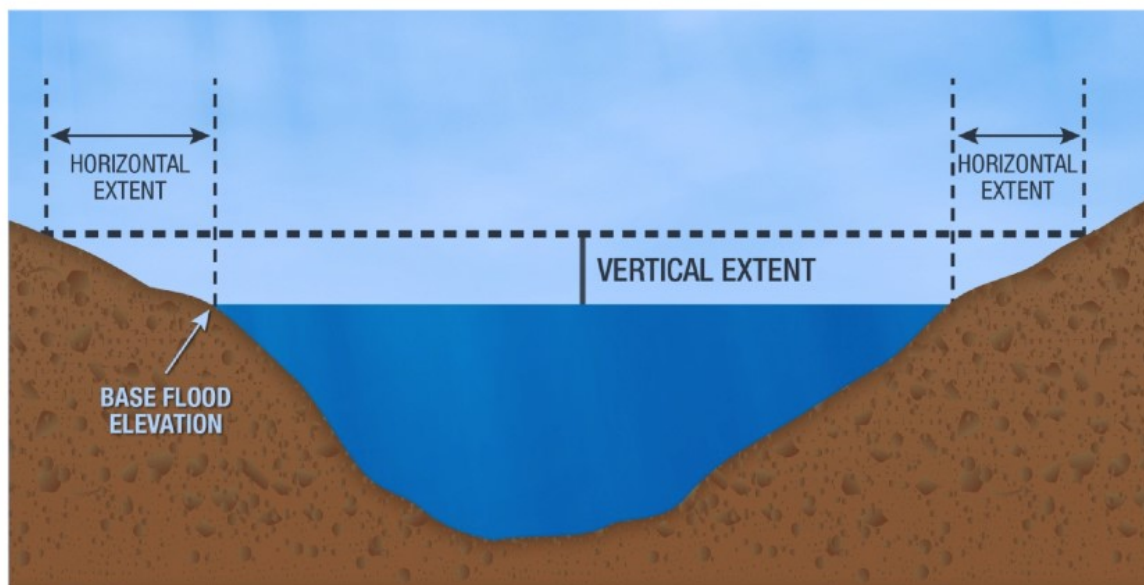
The [Applicability of Executive Order 136090 Fact Sheet](#) responds to several frequently asked questions regarding the intended scope of the President’s “Federal Flood Risk Management Standard “ and the anticipated impacts to the National Flood Insurance Program.

Background:

To improve the nation’s resilience to flooding and better prepare the nation for the impacts of climate change, the [President’s Climate Action Plan \(June 2013\)](#) directs federal agencies to take the appropriate actions to reduce risk to federal investments, specifically to “update their flood-risk reduction standards.” To further the Climate Action Plan, the President released Executive Order 13690, [Establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard and a Process for Further Soliciting and Considering Stakeholder Input](#)

Between 1980 and 2013, the United States suffered more than \$260 billion in flood-related damages. On average, more people die annually from flooding than any other natural hazard. Further, the costs borne by the Federal government are more than any other hazard. Flooding accounts for approximately 85% of all disaster declarations. With climate change, we anticipate that flooding risks will increase over time. In fact, the [National Climate Assessment \(May 2014\)](#) projects that extreme weather events, such as severe flooding, will persist throughout the 21st century. That damage can be particularly severe to our infrastructure, including our buildings, roads, ports, industrial facilities, and even our coastal military installations. The new federal flood risk standard requires all future federal investments in and affecting floodplains to meet the level of resilience as established by the Standard. For example, this includes where federal funds are used to build new structures and facilities or to rebuild those that have been damaged.

The [Federal Flood Risk Management Standard](#) builds on work done by the Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force, which announced in April 2013 that all Sandy-related rebuilding projects funded by the Sandy Supplemental (Public Law 113-2) must meet a consistent flood risk reduction standard. [The Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Strategy](#) recommended that the federal government create a national flood risk standard for Federally-funded projects beyond the Sandy-affected region. The [Standard](#) specifically requires agencies to consider current and future risk when taxpayer dollars are used to build or rebuild floodplains. In implementing the Standard, federal agencies will be given the flexibility to select one of three approaches for establishing the flood elevation and hazard area they use in siting, design, and construction: Utilizing best-available, actionable data and methods that integrate current and future changes in flooding based on science, Two or three feet of elevation, depending on the criticality of the building, above the 100-year, or 1%-annual-chance, flood elevation, or 500-year, or 0.2% -annual-chance, flood elevation. FEMA published a reference document explaining the differences between EO 11988 and FFRMS (EO 13690). The following exhibit, from FEMA’s FFRMS background document, describes the impact when Federal agencies select one of the three approaches listed in FFRMS.



FEMA News - Continued

Climate-based Approach:

The climate-informed science approach is preferred. Federal departments and **agencies should use this approach when data to support such an analysis are available.**

For areas vulnerable to coastal flood hazards, the climate-informed science approach includes the regional sea-level rise variability and lifecycle of the Federal Action. The climate-informed science approach for Federal Actions affected by coastal flood hazards includes:

- Use of the U.S. Department of Commerce's - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) or similar global mean sea-level-rise (GMSLR) scenarios, adjusted to local relative sea-level (LRSL) conditions.
- A combination of the LRSL conditions with surge, tide, and wave data using state-of-the-art science in a manner appropriate to policies, practices, criticality, and consequences (risk).

The federal agencies that will be required to implement regulations that enforce EO 13690 include:

Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, Department of Defense, Department of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency, General Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of the Interior, Department of Justice, Small Business Administration, Department of Transportation.

FEMA's June 2015 Federal Flood Risk Management Standard Fact Sheet posted on www.fema.gov states:

The Applicability of Executive Order (E.O.) 11988/13690 to FEMA Programs

Introduction

On January 30, 2015, the President signed Executive Order (E.O.) 13690, establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard and a Process for Further Soliciting and Considering Stakeholder Input, which amended E.O. 11988, Floodplain Management, issued in 1977. Once implemented by Federal agencies, the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) will reduce the risk and cost of future flood disasters by ensuring that Federal investments in and affecting floodplains are constructed to better withstand the impacts of flooding. It will support the thousands of communities across the country that have strengthened their local floodplain management codes and standards and will help ensure Federal projects last as long as intended. The FFRMS will apply to the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants, the Public Assistance Program, and any other FEMA grants when they fund construction activities in or affecting a floodplain.

This fact sheet responds to questions that have been raised in this process about the intended scope of the FFRMS, as well as anticipated impacts to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

The FFRMS will not affect the standards or rates of the NFIP.

The FFRMS will not change the minimum floodplain management criteria in 44 CFR Part 60 that communities must adopt in order to participate in the NFIP for floodprone areas, FEMA's flood mapping standards, or the rating and claims practices of the NFIP. This means that the FFRMS will have no effect on the cost or availability of Federal flood insurance for policyholders. FEMA will continue to identify and map floodprone areas and designate flood risk zones based on the 1-percent-annual-chance floodplain using available engineering methods and depict these zones on Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs).

FEMA also will not require property owners and renters to obtain insurance if they are outside the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), defined as the area within a floodplain that has a 1-percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year- as delineated on the FIRMs - because it will not incorporate the expanded floodplain delineation or elevated flood heights into the FIRMs. However, since approximately 25 percent of all flood loss claims come from areas outside the designated SFHA, property owners may still wish to purchase flood insurance for financial protection during a flood. In addition, individual mortgage lenders continue to have the discretion to require property owners to obtain flood insurance for areas both inside and outside the SFHA as a condition of their mortgage financing.

The FFRMS will not impact a flood insurance policy's Increase Cost of Compliance (ICC) coverage. These funds are considered a part of the Standard Flood Insurance Policy and are not a financial transaction subject to FFRMS requirements. As a result, NFIP policy holders who have ICC coverage may use this coverage to bring their home or business into compliance with their community's floodplain ordinance through mitigation activities such as, floodproofing nonresidential structures, elevation, relocation, or demolition.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Fact Sheet on E.O. 13690

https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/Press_Releases/January_30_2015

Website on E.O. 13690 and the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard

<https://www.fema.gov/federal-flood-risk-management-standard-ffrms#>

Executive Order 11988 – Floodplain Management

<https://www.fema.gov/executive-order-11988-floodplain-management>

EO#13690 - A TFMA Member Perspective

Executive Order 13690 Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS)

By: John Ivey, PE, CFM

On January 30, 2015, President Obama issued Executive Order 13690 to implement the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard, referred to as FFRMS. The new federal flood risk standard **requires all future federal investments in and affecting floodplains to meet the level of resilience as established by the Standard.** For example, this includes where federal funds are used to build new structures and facilities or to rebuild those that have been damaged.

Community officials ask, “How does this new standard affect my community?” Good question because **the new standard will affect you.** During the 2015 TFMA Annual Conference, held in Irving, Susan Alvarez, City of Dallas, presented “it’s all in a name”. Ms. Alvarez basically told the TFMA membership “beware” because EO 13690 and FFRMS will impact your community.

FFRMS specifically requires (Federal) agencies to consider current and future risk when taxpayer dollars are used to build or rebuild floodplains.

In implementing the Standard, federal agencies will be given the flexibility to select one of three approaches for establishing the flood elevation and hazard area they use in siting, design, and construction:

- Utilizing best-available, actionable data and methods that integrate current and future changes in flooding based on science;
- Two or three feet of elevation, depending on the criticality of the building, above the 100-year, or 1%-annual-chance, flood elevation; or
- 500-year, or 0.2%-annual-chance, flood elevation.

What can a community do to prepare for FFRMS? TFMA recommends:

- Research EO 13690 and FFRMS information posted on www.fema.gov
- Brief community elected officials that EO 13690 (FFRMS) will impact your community.
- Update your Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance to require a minimum of two feet of freeboard above the BFE.
- Monitor FEMA and other Federal agency websites for updated Federal regulations that implement FFRMS. Keep in mind that each Federal agency must adopt implementation regulations within the deadline set by the White House.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Fact Sheet on E.O. 13690

https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/Press_Releases/January_30_2015

Website on E.O. 13690 and the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard

<https://www.fema.gov/federal-flood-risk-management-standard-ffrms>

Executive Order 11988 – Floodplain Management

<https://www.fema.gov/executive-order-11988-floodplain-management>

FEMA Region VI Update: 20 Years of Floodplain Management Training in North Texas

I have found that if you have done something exceptional or noteworthy, it is sometimes OK to “bang your drum”. This is one of those times. Since it is better to brag on several people rather than just yourself, let me begin here.

During the week following Thanksgiving this year, the 20th consecutive L 273 Course, “Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP”, will be conducted at the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) offices in Arlington, Texas. Each year, the course has been provided at about the same time and in the same location.

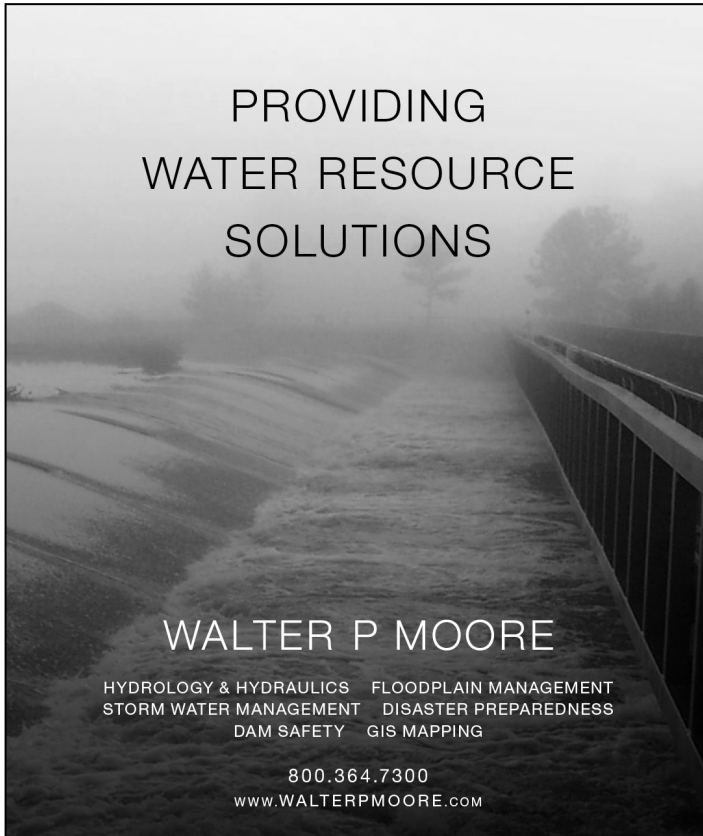
It began as a partnership between FEMA Region VI and the NCTCOG. These people have been a tremendous partner with the 16 member counties in NCTCOG and our FEMA Region. They have quarterly Floodplain Management meetings for member communities. They have assisted with funding and coordination of map development. They are a Cooperative Technical Partner (CTP) which is an important program for developing and maintaining flood maps. They have developed a “Common Vision” program where several NCTCOG communities work together to manage the floodplains of the Trinity River. The list goes on.

In later years, the Texas Floodplain Management Association (TFMA) and the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) became an important part of that partnership. In fact, they have both helped organize and conduct any floodplain management related course in the State of Texas. What a team!

To my knowledge, this milestone has never been achieved by any other community in the Nation. In those 20 years, I estimate that we taught floodplain management to over 700 people. Most took the exam and completed the requirements for the Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) professional certification.

During this same 20-year period, I have seen floodplain management go from a struggling, back-burner job to a well-established profession – especially in Texas. So, please help us remember and celebrate this great milestone. And knowing the NCTCOG, FEMA Region VI, TFMA and the TWDB as well as I do, even better things are coming in the future.

Dale Hoff, CFM
Natural Hazards Program Specialist
FEMA Region VI



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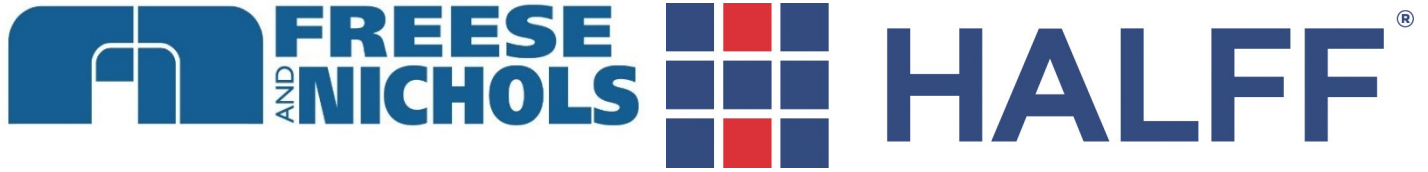
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Program Guide



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2015 TFMA Fall Technical Summit Wrap Up

Over 550+ individuals participated in TFMA's Fall Technical Summit held Sept. 2-4 at the Hyatt Regency Houston. Highlights of the conference included over 15 hours of continuing professional development workshops and concurrent sessions including the opening and closing plenary sessions. Participants heard first hand from those that actually experienced on a personal level the Memorial Day Floods of 2015. Don't miss out on the 28th Annual Spring Conference coming in March in Houston - you never know what you'll be missing!



Addressing the TFMA Membership:
Texas Water Development Board Chairman, Bech Bruun



At the podium:
John Espinoza, PE, CFM and Cindy Engelhardt, PE, CFM

Luz Locke, CFM from the City of Pasadena receives the 2015 TFMA John Patton Community Service Award during the Membership Luncheon at the Fall Technical Summit. Pictured L to R: Luz Locke, CFM and TFMA President Jessica Baker, PE, CFM, PMP



TFMA Annual Awards Call for Nominations - Due January 11, 2016

Each year TFMA honors those members of our Association who have been outstanding in their field. These people are nominated by their peers, recognizing the excellence and can do attitude their co-workers exhibited in performing their jobs. It also strengthens the association when we can acknowledge those who are exceeding in furthering the mission of TFMA and flood safety.

TFMA needs YOU!! Please take a moment to consider someone you would like to nominate for one of the nine awards. Your county or city might have been involved in the spring flooding and really shined during the disaster. Nominate them! You might work directly with an Agency or Corporate Sponsor and they have assisted you above and beyond the call of duty. Nominate them! Your Floodplain Manager is wearing several hats and does each job with excellence. Nominate him/her! Each nomination counts! Don't wait thinking someone else will nominate the person you have in mind. Nominate them!!

The link for the award categories and forms is: <https://tfma.site-ym.com/?page=TypesofAwards>. Deadline for nominations to be submitted to the TFMA EO is **January 11, 2016**. All awards will be presented at the TFMA Spring Conference in Houston at the Awards & Membership luncheon. Don't Delay! Nominate Today!

28th Annual TFMA Spring Conference - Call for Abstracts

The Texas Floodplain Management Association invites you to submit an abstract for the 28th Annual TFMA Spring Conference. Topics should include but not limited to: Stormwater & Floodplain Management, flood recovery, water quality enhancement, stream restoration, watershed protection & planning, emergency preparedness, drainage criteria, innovative techniques, technological advances, hydrologic & Hydraulic modeling, GIS application, no adverse impact, low impact development, lessons learned, and project updates.

ABSTRACTS

Abstract proposals are now being accepted for workshops, plenary and concurrent sessions. Abstracts should be limited to one page (Word document please) and must include the following:

- Title of the presentation
- A brief description of your topic
- Type of presentation: Workshop, Plenary, or Concurrent Session

Plenary session topics are no more than 45 minutes; Concurrent Sessions are 30 minutes to 1 hour; Workshops are typically 4 hours long.

ABSTRACT SUBMITTAL DEADLINES

Workshops: **November 6, 2015**

Plenary & Concurrent Sessions: **December 18, 2015**

Send abstracts to John Espinoza, PE, CFM or Tim Raines, PE, CFM, TFMA Conference Committee Co-Chairs at tfma1@att.net or tfmaconference@gmail.com.

Congratulations to our Newest CFMs

Vanessa Benavides - AECOM
Martin Alcala, Jr. - City of Houston
Robert Armstrong - Huitt Zollars
Vinod Balakrishnan - Atkins Global
Jonathan Beisert - City of Oak Ridge North
Leigh Blumer - Brazoria County Drainage District #4
David Boswell - THC, Inc.
David Brasich - City of Westlake Hills
Rebekah Campbell - Jones and Carter
Jay Campbell - LNV, Inc.
Kris Carpenter - City of League City
Matt Carr - City of Midland
Howard Chang - Self
Sunil Chorghé - CivilCorp
Tom Daniel - Brazoria County Drainage District #4
Juan Diaz Ortiz - City of Houston
Randy Dueck - Halff Associates
Bob Eng - City of LaPorte
Glynn Fleming - Jones and Carter
Quory Flowers - City of Longview
Trent Ford - Jones and Carter
Ashley Francis - LJA Engineering
Luke Fry - City of Houston
Roy Garcia - City of Pharr
Mark Gardemal - City of Pasadena
Brian Geier - Jones and Carter
Roberto Gil - Bridgefarmer
Gilbert Giron - FEMA Region 6
Valerie Gonzalez - Aransas County
Kevin Goodlett - TDEM
Joydeep Goswami - City of Austin
David Greaney - LAN
Chad Griggs - City of Oak Ridge North
Thomas Z. Grimes - Jones and Carter
Yingjian Han - LAN
John Haskins - Brazoria County
Lakeisha Henderson - City of Houston
Duane Herrera - Bell County
Kyle Hogue - Highland Village
Roel Huerta - AECOM
Joseph Jackson - Ellis County
Marla Jasek - City of Bay City
Russell Jaskinia - Intrepid Surveying & Engineering
Rudolph Klein, IV - City of Cibolo
Jennifer Knecht - FEMA Region 6
Gwyneth Laney - City of Wharton
Pamela Langford - City of Port Arthur
Zhi Gao Lee - Jones and Carter
Heather Lemons - Furman Land Surveyors
Jesse Libra - TWDB
Andrew Lineisen - City of Austin
Kent Lunski - CAI
Robert Chad Marbut - City of Weatherford
Andrew Martinez - City of San Antonio
Zach Meadows - City of Dickinson
Kendal Montgomery - City of Houston
Eric Navarrete - City of New Braunfels
Walter Bryan Neaves - Bell County
Alex Jacob Noel - City of LaPorte

Wade Parks - KIT Professionals
Kenneth Petr - City of Borger
Benito Ramos - Fort Bend County
Maria Luisa Rangel - City of Pharr
Kevin Reidy - West Belt Surveying
Brenda Retzlaff - Bastrop County
Randy Richards - City of Watauga
Beth Richter - City of Austin
Derek J. Robinson - City of Port Arthur
Dennis Rollow - Kerrville
Rene Saenz - City of Pharr
ChaVonne Sampson - City of Bellaire
Patricia Scott - City of Houston
Tommi Jo Scott - LJA Engineering
Dean Setiono - City of Houston
Joseph Sosa - Houston
Todd Sukup - City of Bonham
Hanh Thai - City of Austin
Jacob Torres - College Station
Brandon Vinson - TxDOT
Sandra Vrablec - Austin County
Kirkwood Watson - HCPID
Roy Watts - City of Amarillo
Burt Weathersbee - GARVER USA
Kasaura Weavers - Randall County
Greg Wescott - Jacob and Martin
Cody Whittenburg - City of Fort Worth
Brad Wilbur - Chambers County
Liping Yi - City of Houston
Amanda Young - Hardin County
Cynthia Zbranak - TDHCA

In 2015, TFMA has certified 135 Certified Floodplain Managers. By the end of 2015, TFMA will have over 1900 CFMs.

2016 TFMA Member\ CFM Certification Renewals

The 2016 TFMA\CFM Renewals are due by December 31, 2015. Remember:

- **\$90 for TFMA\CFM Members** (\$45 for TFMA Membership; \$45 for Recertification **PLUS** 8 hours of CECs earned in 2015.)
- **\$45 for TFMA Full Membership** (for those that are NOT certified.)
- **\$45 for Agency Members Recertification Fee** (for State and Federal Agency members only) **PLUS** 8 hours of CECs earned in 2015

For more information on CEC requirements, [click here](#). Please note that each member is responsible for logging in and uploading their CEC information. Visit the website at www.tfma.org or [click here](#) to go directly to the renewal page. As always, call the TFMA EO at 512-260-1366 with your questions or assistance.

RENEW TODAY!!



28th Annual TFMA Spring Conference - March 8-11, 2016 Houston

The 28th Annual TFMA Spring Conference is early in 2016 and we love Houston so much, we're coming back. The dates for the conference are March 8-11, 2016 at the beautiful Omni Galleria Hotel located on Four Riverway. We have negotiated a special rate of only \$135 with a cutoff date of **February 5, 2016** or once the block is full, whichever comes first.

Highlights of the conference will be the *3rd Annual J. Mike Howard Lectureship* featuring Brigadier General Gerald Galloway, United States Army (Retired), *Invited* from the University of Maryland where he is a Glenn L. Martin Institute Professor of Engineering, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and an Affiliate Professor, School of Public Policy, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, where his focus is on water resources policy and management. He is also a Visiting Scholar at the US Army Corps of Engineers Institute for Water Resources. He joined the faculty of the University of Maryland following a 38 year career in the U.S. Army, retiring as Brigadier General, and served eight additional years in the federal government, most of which was associated with water resources management. He served for three years as District Engineer for the USACE in Vicksburg, MS and later, for seven years as a Presidential appointee to the Mississippi River Commission.

The conference will also feature a vibrant exhibit hall and the 4th annual Silent Auction. In addition, TFMA's Evening Banquet with the casino games was so popular last year, we're bringing it back with a twist. The Annual Awards luncheon will reveal all the award winners and a membership update you'll want to hear about. With over 15 hours of continuing education hours from which to choose from, come get your required CECs early so you don't have to worry about it for the rest of the year. **REGISTRATION OPENS DECEMBER 1, 2015.**



28th Annual TFMA Spring Conference March 8-11, 2016 * Omni Galleria Hotel * Houston



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Upcoming TFMA Training Schedule

The following training is being offered throughout Texas for the remainder of 2015. Plenty of opportunities to obtain your CECs still left.

11/5 – Abilene – Common Noncompliance Issues & the Disconnect Between NFIP Regulation and Insurance

11/6 – Corpus Christi – Substantial Damage and Substantial Improvements

11/9 – Denton - NFIP Refresher and Ethics in Floodplain Management

11/10 – Grapevine - TFMA North Texas Regional Event

11/12 – Weslaco – Floodplain 101 (*CFM Exam Opportunity!*)

11/30 – 12/4 – Arlington – 4-day with Exam, L-273 (**FULL**)

11/30 – 12/4 – San Antonio – 4-day with Exam, L-273 (*CFM Exam Opportunity*)

12/9 – TxDOT Fort Worth - 2015 NFIP Refresher and Ethics in Floodplain Management

12/10 – Tyler – NFIP Rules and Regulations in Depth

Registration is open for each of these training opportunities. Please contact the TFMA EO if you have questions about

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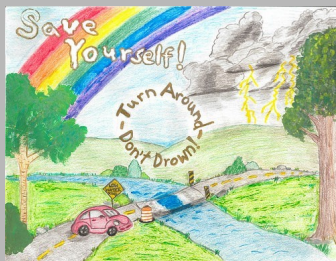
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