TEXAS FLOOD TODAY

Quarterly Newsletter of the Texas Floodplain Management Association March 2021

Highlight

Registration for the 2021 Annual Meeting is OPEN!

TFMA 2021 Annual Meeting
April 13-14, 2021

Learn about the virtual format and how to register on page 3.

In this issue...

From the Desk of the Executive Director

I'm very happy that TFMA is reaching out with this newsletter. It's good to know about flooding and what causes flood risk. It's good to think about these things. Not many people do. In fact, I don't think the average person thinks about their flood risk very much at all. Until it happens that is. And then they are surprised! Let's think about that for a minute.

I have been surprised several times by the severity and impact of floods. And I have worked with many people and communities who have also been surprised. "The water never got this high before!" is a phrase I have heard over and over. However, it's rarely true. We forget that it has happened before or maybe we thought it wouldn't happen again.

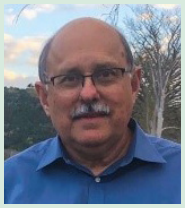
Our friends at state and federal agencies are working hard to remap Texas with a goal to provide every community east of I-35 with new flood risk maps in the next two years. New flood maps help communities plan to reduce future flood damages and help take the surprise out of the flood business.

In the Dallas area, on the upper Trinity River, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is working with local communities to use modeling and mapping technology to put recent flood data to good use. They are transposing floods that occurred elsewhere in Texas to the upper Trinity to see what their impacts might have been in the Dallas area. A suite of floodplain maps like these will help us avoid being surprised by the next flood.

As flood professionals, we need to consider as many scenarios as possible and seek to find a balance between structural and non-structural alternatives, between building more projects and adopting higher regulatory floodplain standards, and understand what has happened and what can happen in the future. We can do it!

Wes Birdwell, PE, CFM
TFMA Executive Director

President's Message



Welcome to the first edition of **Texas Flood Today**, now serving as TFMA's official newsletter where the Lightning Rod left off in 2017.

With the support of our local officials and various agencies, flood professionals are producing new flood information and developing new flood control facilities every year. However, a common factor for most communities is the lack of sufficient funding to sustain these programs. Look for funding information in each issue of Texas Flood Today in our Funding Opportunities column.

During the recent storms, I participated in an outreach meeting in my community. As a member of the public, I sometimes had a hard time understanding what the experts were saying. This reminded me that as floodplain managers, we need to be careful in not causing similar results. The following are suggestions regarding public outreach.

- **Know your audience** and try not to use too many technical terms.
- **Be prepared for questions** and if you do not have an answer to the question, let them know you will get back to them.
- **Listen** to your audience including their comments and recommendations.
- **Follow** COVID prevention procedures.

A great source of outreach information is FEMA's Flood Risk Communication Toolkit for Community Officials.

John Espinoza, PE, CFM
TFMA President

Texanna TADDpole Takes Front and Center Stage

By Sasha Buchheit, Chair, TFMA Outreach Committee

The TFMA Annual Calendar is one of the largest outreach efforts for our organization! The calendar production begins about this time each year when Texanna TADDpole visits several classrooms introducing her story. The students draw pictures after Texanna leaves to "finish" her story and submits them to TFMA. Once the pictures are received then the 12 best pictures will be selected for the calendar for next year. Unfortunately, last year Texanna wasn't able to visit any classrooms due to COVID, so we had to select 2021 calendar pictures from the remaining 2019 submittals. This may have to be done again for the 2022 calendar.

But help is on the way! Texanna is going digital. We will be producing our first ever video starring Texanna TADDpole! It is loosely based on the Texanna coloring book, but stay tuned, there could be a surprise! The video will be featured on our website, so Texas classrooms can participate online. The new video could make its debut online during our Annual Meeting this spring, so get ready to dance along with our favorite tadpole!

TFMA Annual Meeting Registration Is Open!

Join us over the dates of **April 13-14, 2021** as TFMA brings the 2021 Annual Meeting to you virtually. Due to the ongoing issues with the pandemic and the uncertainty it still brings with person-to-person events at this time, the TFMA leadership felt it best to cancel the in-person event and pivot to an online experience.

You'll be able to register for the full two days or just one day – whatever your schedule allows – and you'll be earning CECs in the process too. All presentations will be available on-demand after the meeting is over. **To view the tentative agenda, download the brochure here.**

Aside from participating in the sessions, you'll have the ability to converse in the chat rooms and ask speakers questions in real-time. **Need to network?** We will offer designated networking breaks where you'll get the chance to sit with your colleagues and friends and hop around the virtual ballroom to network. Did we tell you we'll also be giving away door prizes?? Click here to download your brochure to find out more.

As the CEC agenda is a work in progress, we will email you updates. The precise plenary session presentations and all speakers will be added soon and we'll make sure you know about it!

Ready for this interactive, online experience? **Register today!**

Click to Register

Got questions?

Contact Selina at the TFMA office at ssmirza@tfma.org or call us at 512-260-1366.

Government Relations Update

By Michael Moya, PE, CFM
TFMA Governmental Relations Chair

The TFMA Government Relations Committee is working behind the scenes in 2021. Given the uncertainty of visits with our Legislative Representatives, our FloodEd initiative will be conducted in a different format in 2021. Our current plan is to develop a 2-page flyer, including a TFMA fact sheet and a page dedicated to express our support of SB-7, SB-8 and the forth coming TWDB Legislative Budget Board (LBB). We are actively tracking Legislative committee assignments to target our messaging. We have recently learned the Natural Resources committee appointments. See table below.

Texas House of Representatives 87th Legislature Committee Assignments	
CHAIR:	King, Tracy of Uvalde
VICE-CHAIR:	Harris, Cody
SENIORITY APPOINTMENTS	
King, Tracy of Uvalde	
Larson, Lyle	
Lucio, Eddie	
Walle, Armando	
SPEAKER APPOINTMENTS	
Bowers, Rhetta	
Kacal, Kyle	
Paul, Dennis	
Price, Four	
Ramos, Ana-Maria	
Wilson, Terry	

We intend to mail our TFMA flyer to key legislators and follow-up with a personal virtual call. We will likely be reaching out to TFMA Governmental Relations Committee members to assist with personal outreach.

The 2021 American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Infrastructure Report Card will surely generate some interest among TFMA members. Texas was given an overall grade of C however, dams received a D+, levees received a D, and Flood Risk Mitigation received a C-. You can download the ASCE Texas Infrastructure Report Card at the following link. TxIRC_2021_Brief.pdf (infrastructurereportcard.org)

There are numerous conversations on the Hill regarding climate change. The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) is very engaged in these conversations and upcoming legislative initiatives are inevitable. President Biden recently introduced a strong climate policy with a series of Executive Orders. A specific order that impacts our industry is:

> MAKE AMERICA RESILIENT: The order directs NOAA and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to study how the government can "expand and improve climate forecast capabilities and information products for the public." The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy is also involved. The order further directs federal agencies to make plans for increasing the resilience of their facilities and operations to climate change. Each agency must have a federal action plan within 120 days that describes its climate vulnerabilities and how it can use the government's procurement process to increase energy and water efficiency.

Finally, we anticipate receiving the TFMA Flood Awareness Week proclamation for the week of May 24-28, 2021 from the Governor's office within these next few weeks. The traditional "**Wear Blue Wednesday**" will occur on May 26.

Stay tuned for more information on this event and more!

Upcoming TWDB Training

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) is currently offering free online floodplain management training sessions including the following topics. The full list of trainings can be found at https://www.twdb.texas.gov/flood/workshop/index.asp.

Intro to Base Level Engineering

April 20, 2021 · 1:30PM–3:30PM

The purpose of this webinar is to inform floodplain administrators, community members, engineers, and other stakeholders about Base Level Engineering (BLE) and its intended use for floodplain management within local communities. The webinar will cover what BLE is, the benefits of using BLE, how to use BLE for floodplain management and regulatory reporting, an overview of various BLE products, as well as live demonstrations of how to use the BLE web viewer.

Participants will receive 2 CECs through TFMA after attending this webinar.

REGISTER

Substantial Damage & Substantial Improvement Basics

May 19, 2021 · 2:00PM–3:00PM

This training discusses substantial damage and substantial improvement as part of the minimum requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Participants will learn about when to make SD/SI assessments, the necessary tools in assessing SD/SI, and about opportunities for communities to receive assistance in completing accurate SD/SI determinations after a disaster.

Participants will receive 1 CEC through TFMA after attending this webinar.

REGISTER

Elevation Certificate Common Mistakes

June 3, 2021 · 1:30PM–2:30PM

This webinar will provide attendees with the common mistakes made when it comes to floodplain development record keeping. The FEMA Elevation Certificate is a great tool that can support you as the FPA and your efforts to manage your local floodplain development effectively. We hope to provide an explanation of details within each section of the Elevation Certificate and best practices on how it should be filled out. The goal of the NFIP is to keep citizens reasonably safe from flooding and tools like ECs are a great way to support these efforts!

Participants will receive 1 CEC through TFMA after attending this webinar.

REGISTER

For **additional training opportunities**, see the Upcoming FEMA Training on page 9.

Low Impact Development Implementation

By Kaylyn Hudson, Freese and Nichols

Low Impact Development (LID), also referred to as Green Infrastructure (GI), includes nature-based best management practices that can reduce runoff and pollutant loadings. LID practices can be small-scale or regional practices that reduce the impact of built areas and promote the use of natural systems of infiltration, evapotranspiration, and harvesting rainwater. Stormwater control measures can be integrated into the built environment while reducing downstream impacts to the stormwater system.

Many communities are beginning to promote a shift from the standard curb and gutter storm drain system to LID that encourages less impervious cover and hardscapes and more natural stormwater behavior. LID has many proven benefits and can make any community more ecologically resilient and aesthetically pleasing for residents.

Image: USEPA

Paved surfaces that let water soak into the ground, including pervious concrete, porous asphalt, and permeable interlocking pavers are particularly effective where flooding is a problem.

When considering the implementation of LID, the community must first decide what types of LID they will encourage. There are traditional stormwater controls including wet ponds, retention irrigation basins, extended detention, and sedimentation filtration basins. Manufactured, proprietary devices are sometimes used when space is limited, usually as part of the storm drain system at a manhole or inlet. LID stormwater controls include, but are not limited to, permeable pavers, rain gardens, green roofs, vegetated swales, biofiltration, and bioretention. Other best management practices can be considered in land use ordinances including natural area preservation, soil amendments, and conservation landscaping.

Most entities that implement LID either enforce LID with required water quality treatment volumes based on rainfall or impervious cover or encourage LID with incentives for the developer or landowner. Furthermore, some communities are held to water quality requirements as part of a Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulation such as the TCEQ's Edwards Aquifer Protection Program or the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). Incentives for LID improvements may include a credit, discount, grant, rebate, or reimbursement. These incentives can be in addition to any treatment requirements or stand-alone incentive programs to encourage LID installation.

Image: USEPA

Drought-tolerant plants enhance the sustainability of green infrastructure in arid and semi-arid environments.

An entity's development code and/or ordinances will usually need to be updated in the land use or zoning code to address the inclusion of LID practices within the stormwater, impervious cover, and/or non-point source pollution sections. In addition to code updates, the community will either need to reference a design manual that includes applicable LID design practices or develop their own LID design manual. Some entities chose to reference a design manual with included additions or exceptions for their specific community. Design updates may also need to be reflected in other manuals such as roadway design criteria or building design criteria. Standard construction specifications or drawings may also require updates to reflect the structural LID practices. The specifications will need to include maintenance and operations procedures as required for each stormwater control measure. A holistic approach should be taken to ensure that all regulatory documentation is cohesive to avoid impediments to LID implementation.

There are some challenges to implementing LID within a community that need to be proactively considered. When first put into effect, there may be inexperienced staff and reviewers that could lead to longer review times. There may also be the challenge of inexperienced contractors that are new to constructing LID. Once LIDs are installed, the regulatory documents need to determine who is tasked with the operations and maintenance (O&M) of the LID. If the community is tasked with O&M ownership, there can be challenges of inexperienced maintenance staff. Even if the owner is the property owner or manager, the community may still need to be involved to ensure proper maintenance as the LID is part of the entity stormwater system.

Although a fair amount of planning and regulatory changes are necessary to establish an effective LID program, it is worth the effort to reap the many benefits of implementation. The addition of stormwater control measures leads to improved water quality, reduction in water volume, restoration of natural habitats, and enhanced aesthetics in the community.

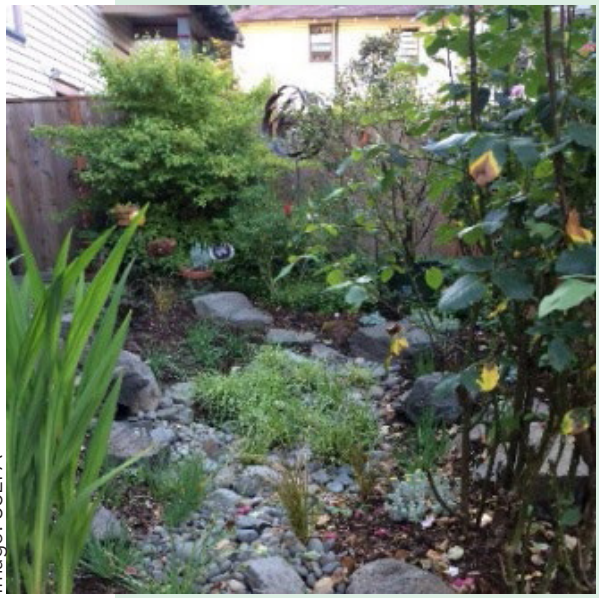


Image: USEPA

Rain gardens and bioswales are shallow, vegetated areas that collect and absorb runoff from rooftops, sidewalks, and streets using plants and soil. This process is known as bioretention or bioinfiltration.

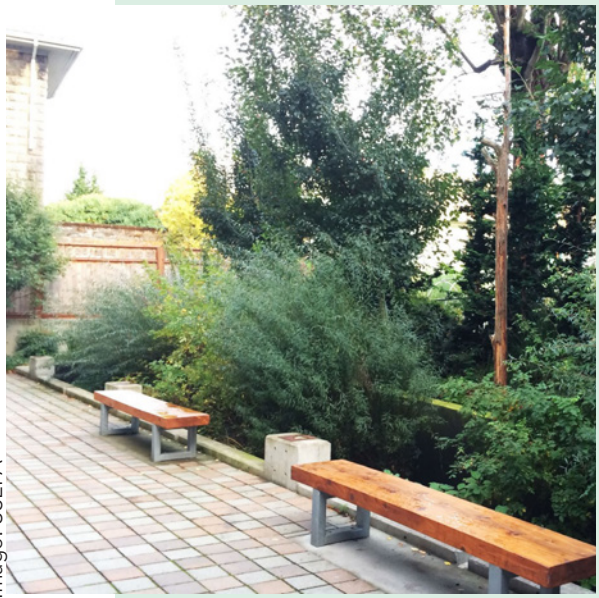


Image: USEPA

A courtyard bioswale serves dual purposes as stormwater management and attractive landscaping.

LID

FEMA Region 6 Update

By Rebecca Dake, Outreach & Training Specialist

Welcome, spring! However, with that comes severe weather season where warm, moist air creates conditions for thunderstorms, hail, tornados, and flooding. Add to that, the countdown is on until hurricane season. Please consider flood insurance coverage for your family, and recommend it to your citizens and customers.

Did you know?

The average all-time **National Flood Insurance Program** (NFIP) flood insurance claim payment in Texas is over $55,000. In the last five years, the average is over $107,000.

Not all disasters rise to the federal level, and when FEMA's disaster aid is available, assistance averages $6,000. Homeowners, renters, and business owners should call an agent today to get a level of coverage they can afford. Visit floodsmart.gov/flood-insurance/providers to find a provider.

Substantial Damage Assessments

NFIP-participating communities should be preparing standard operating procedures for assessing and permitting structures damaged by any source—not just flooding—in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). These are called substantial damage assessments. When structures are below the anticipated flood height for a 1% chance annual event (Base Flood Elevation-BFE) and all costs to restore the structure to its pre-damaged condition equal or exceeds 50% of the pre-disaster market value of the structure, the structure must be mitigated—for example elevated—rather than just repaired. This helps break the cycle of repeat loss and helps protect people and their property. It is a requirement of every NFIP-participating community, and it is adopted in your local ordinance. Do you know which structures in your community are subject to substantial damage determinations? A floodplain management best practice is to have an inventory of below-BFE structures and notify the owners before your flood season. Waiting until after substantial damage occurs, and then saying "you must elevate," can be much harder for citizens to accept. For more information, view Answers to Questions About Substantially Improved/Substantially Damaged Buildings at www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_p213_08232018.pdf.

LEFT: A house after the storm surge from Hurricane Sandy flooded it with 5 feet of water. **RIGHT**: The house being lifted on a taller foundation after the homeowners made the decision to elevate above the new flood level. Image: FEMA

Assistance for Communities

Code Implementation and Enforcement Assistance

When there is a major, federal disaster declaration for FEMA Public Assistance permanent work, Categories C-G, communities may now be able to be reimbursed for administering and enforcing their floodplain and building code ordinances in the disaster-damaged area for 180 days after the declaration date. For example, hiring temporary staff to handle the influx of permit requests and paperwork, and overtime for existing staff are potentially reimbursable at the cost share for the disaster. We suggest communities have a contract in place that meets federal requirements, so you can quickly begin widespread substantial damage inspections when and if the time comes. For more information, read the Section 1206 policy at: www.fema.gov/disasters/disaster-recovery-reform-act-2018/provisions-1204-1209.

Community Rating System Credits and Discounts

As of October 2020, there are 69 communities in Texas that participate in the Community Rating System, a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management practices that exceed NFIP minimum requirements. The more activities a community does and credits it gets, the larger a discount is available on NFIP flood insurance policies. FEMA published an Addendum to the 2017 Community Rating System Coordinator's Manual, which will be a companion guide until a new manual is released. The Addendum includes new opportunities for credit for: mitigating substantially damaged properties, protecting threatened and endangered species and their habitat, and promoting flood insurance. Notable changes include these prerequisites: the implementation of 1-foot of freeboard to reach Class 8 (a 10 % discount on flood insurance premiums) or better; and a plan for managing floodplain-related construction certificates (including elevation certificates) to reach Class 9 (a 5% discount on flood insurance premiums). For more information, view www.fema.gov/floodplain-management/community-rating-system.

NFIP Policy and Claims Data

In planning for severe weather and hurricane season, FEMA urges NFIP-participating communities to use the NFIP data they have to identify their most at-risk structures. Using permit files with elevation data, or other means to catalogue below-BFE homes and using NFIP claims data, communities can get a picture of structures below anticipated flood heights and ones with past NFIP flood claims. This is useful information for emergency management, first responder, floodplain and building codes, grants, planning and community development staff. Community officials can request detailed NFIP policy and claims data through an official request and information sharing access agreement. To start the process, contact John Bowman, FEMA Region 6 Floodplain Management & Insurance Branch Specialist, at johne.bowman@fema.dhs.gov.

Upcoming FEMA Training

You do amazing work to protect people and their property from flood damage. To give you the information you need to do your job, FEMA Region 6 offers free, virtual, monthly trainings on floodplain regulations and insurance, mapping and risk, and citizen mitigation education webinars.

Register for upcoming trainings today:

FEMA Region 6

Floodplain Monthly Training and Back2Basics Trainings

https://fema.connectsolutions.com/admin/show-event-catalog?folder-id=153531281

FEMA Region 6 Risk Map trainings

Virtual Brown Bags

https://r6virtualbrownbag.eventbrite.com

Citizen Mitigation Webinars

Ways to make homes and businesses more resilient

http://r6mitigation.eventbrite.com/

TWDB Base Level Engineering Mapping Website Updates

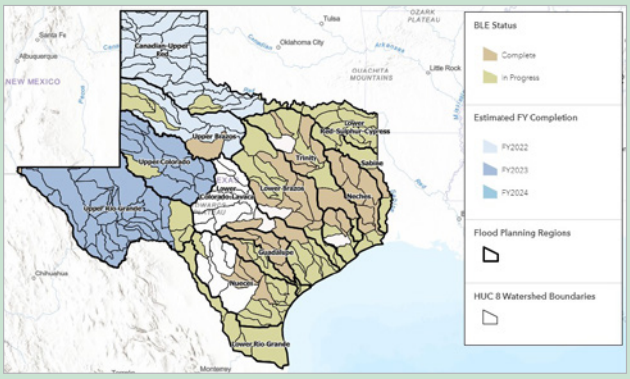
New flood mapping pages are up on the TWDB website. Users can access information about our mapping programs, general Base Level Engineering (BLE) and resources, as well as an interactive BLE status map.

The Interactive BLE status map provides the current progress of BLE development throughout the state and features the following:

- HUC 8 watershed
- Flood planning region
- Current status
- Funding entity
- Study type (1D/2D)
- Projected FY completion date

Base Level Engineering (BLE) is an efficient modeling and mapping approach that aims to provide technically credible flood hazard data at various geographic scales such as community, county, watershed, and/or state level. This data is meant to complement the current effective Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) data, but not replace it.

If you are interested in learning more about BLE and its applications, please visit TFMA's Floodplain Management Training page to register for upcoming webinars and training events.



Interactive BLE Status map application

HEC RAS Updates

By Uchenna Igwe, Teague Nall, and Perkins

Hydrologic Engineering Center River Analysis System (HEC-RAS) is a computer program developed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) that models the hydraulics of water flow through natural rivers and other channels. It is designed to perform 1D and 2D hydraulic calculations for a full network of natural or constructed channels, overbank, floodplain areas, etc.

The first version of HEC-RAS 1.0 was released in 1995. The latest version of HEC-RAS was released in December 2020. It supersedes version 5.0.7 and, all previous versions. New features that were added to version 6.0 are listed below.

New Features added to HEC-RAS 6.0

- Spatial precipitation and infiltration for 2D, SA, and XS
- Bridge hydraulics inside of 2D flow areas
- HEC RAS mapper editing tools
- 1D finite volume solver
- Wind forces to HEC RAS 1D and 2D
- Computational speed improvements for 2D
- DSS7
- Enhancement to pump stations in 2D areas
- New breach time series plot
- New hydrograph plotter
- Physically-based breaching option
- 3D graphics/animations
- Raster calculator in HEC-RAS mapper
- Terrain modification tools
- Enhancements to grid/mesh generation tools
- Initial condition for 2D areas
- Iterative matrix solvers
- New SWE 2D solver in HEC RAS
- New turbulence methods
- Remove dummy cells around 2D outer boundary
- Non-newtonian fluids option for 1D and 2D
- 2D sediment transport computations
- New 1D sediment features
- Water quality computations
- New debug report zip file option

HEC-RAS version 6.0 Beta 2 can be downloaded from the USACE official webpage.

Newly 2020 Certified Floodplain Managers

Exam opportunities across the state were very limited due to COVID restrictions and social distancing. With the protocols in place, TFMA was still able to certify 68 members to our increasing numbers. Congratulations on a job well done!

January

Shailaja Avatapalli, Dallas
Karen Eldridge, Georgetown
Andrew Fields, Longview
Louis Frisbie, Garland
Kevin Glaub, Fort Worth
Raheel Khan, Dallas
Chloe Magee, Dallas
Evodio Martinez, Dallas
Haoran Mu, Dallas
Robin Stevens, Fort Worth

February

Jeremy Davis, Missouri City
Kayla Davis, League City
Alberto Dorantes, Houston
Shervin Fard, Katy
Anthony Garcia, Irving
Arthur Genasci, Austin
Michael Haley, Friendswood
Kaleb Kentner, Weatherford
Aldo Lopez, Houston
Hailee Medwedeff, Friendswood
Tichatonga Mhlanga, Cross Roads
Eric Powell, Marshall
Santiago Pons, Houston
Jeff Prato, Kyle
Kamal Qaiser, Houston
Liz Rodriguez, League City
Caroline Short, Dallas
Christopher Sims, League City
Liting Tao, Houston
Bria Whitmire, Friendswood
Chengzhao Zhang, Houston

March

Jason Becker, Houston
Cole Boudreaux, Conroe
Nathaniel Coffman, Houston
Paul Giany, Conroe
Audrey Giesler, Conroe
Kaitlynn Homburg, Houston
Manwar Hossain, Houston
Rachel Todd, Houston
Christopher Tralmer, Houston
Brent Vaile, Houston

June

Adam Conner, Austin
Tatyana Luttenschlager, Sugar Land

August

David Fabre, San Antonio
Ashley Hebert, Georgetown
Claudius Sanchez, Midland

September

Danny Carder, League City
Mitchell Gatlin, San Angelo
Brian Glade, Waco
Abbey Hotard, Galveston
Zeferino Mendoza, San Angelo
Stephen Shane Smith, College Station

October

Karthik Balasubramanian, Pearland
Johnathan Carey, San Antonio
Veronica Escalante, Austin
Greg Melching, Deer Park
Alexander Rak, Dallas
Amanda Wallace, Austin

November

Bryan Mahlke, Tyler
Edith Robbins, Little Elm
James Stewart, Austin

December

Trotter Jahn, Rockport
Major Jones, Euless
Robert Pugh, Austin
Mary Tanguma, Victoria

Want to be certified?

Visit us at www.tfma.org for more information on becoming certified floodplain manager.

The Winter Storm

By Selina Cooper, Project Manager, TFMA

Who would have thought that Texas would be hit with one of the biggest arctic storms of the century in February? Many TFMA members suffered through days of no power that lead to days with no heat and without water. **But Texas is strong and so are our TFMA members.**

TFMA members continue to assess damages to their homes and communities. From their schools to their churches, many reported losses due to bursting pipes and water damages as a result. We asked TFMA members to share their stories with us. Here are a few that gave us permission to share.

The Irony of Them All

Brent K. O'Neal, PE, CFM – City of Grand Prairie

Our group had moved to a temporary location while our building was being renovated for part of 2020. We had to take boxes of things home to store in the interim. We moved back into our building at the end of 2020 and I, of course, had not brought everything home. I had a few boxes that were sitting in our living room.

The winter cold and power outages proved too much, and I had a waterline freeze and break the early hours of Sunday morning. The warm temperatures Sunday exposed the break, and of course, areas were flooded. One box in particular had something of note, my TFMA certificate. It has just a touch of water damage at the lower right corner.

Be Prepared

Lloyd Denman, PE, CFM

I believe the State, local, and individual mantra post-storm is obviously now "Be prepared!" for natural disasters which dovetails well with the TFMA mission.

I live in Dallas and all the neighbors on our north side of the street lost power for the better part of three days while the neighbors on the south side of the same street never lost power. Here is my post-storm 3-point sermon:

1. PREPARE a back-up power source with lots of reserve fuel and make sure it works before you need it. Also have a contingency relocation plan ready.
2. PREPARE to shut off water supply lines if pipes freeze or burst. Know where the shut off valve is, how to work it, keep it exposed for easy access, and practice the turn off maneuver before it is an emergency.
3. PREPARE to check on and help family, friends, and neighbors as you are able. You may be the difference maker.

The attached photo shows the propane generator that delivered enough power to keep the basics going (refrigerator, some LED lamps, phones, and one TV) during the power outages. We also have a vent-free gas fireplace that serves as an alternate source of heat for the home. The temperature was never below 60 degrees F inside and no pipes froze. We helped neighbors turn off water supply lines when their pipes froze and burst. One neighbor loaned us a spare propane tank from his BBQ grill. Helping each other is the Texas way.

Caught off-Guard

Sandra Deshotel MBA, CFM
Community Rating System Coordinator

The snow storm caught everyone In Texas off guard and unprepared. My family's personal story consists of 36 hours without power in an all electric house. I thought not having power during a Hurricane was bad, but not having power during freezing temperatures was the worst. We did the best we could to stay warm during this horrible situation. My husband gathered wood from everywhere he could think to go. The temperature dropped to 48 degrees in our home and my fingers begun turning blue. Our next option was to get a hotel room. I called over ten hotels with very little luck. Finally, we secured a hotel, only it was for the next day; which meant we would have to spend another night in this freezing house.

We huddled close to the fireplace with as many blankets as we could find. And, the next morning, packed our bags and headed to the hotel. On entering the hotel I noticed the alarm going off. I walked to the front desk clerk and gave her my reservation number. To my shock she told me she could not honor my reservation because they where fully booked. And, that the company I booked through did not check to see if they were open. In fact, they had just received power two hours before I walked in. I headed to my car but, something said turn around go back. I went back in and when the clerk saw me she said, "wait a minute" I have a room available. I was so excited about the news, until; I walked in the room and the smoke alarm was screaming at me; which lasted 15 minutes. Then I went into the bathroom there was no water, 30 minutes after that the lights went out. I had had enough and packed my bags and went home.

The end of this story is I still have no water. When the plumber came, he found that there was not just one leak as we thought but, over 20 leaks and we needed a complete new waterline. The best news of it all is, we survived, we have power, and everything else will take care of itself.

Our Hero

Kevin Glaub, CFM

Our family business had a pipe burst while we were in the middle of power outages and no water. We all pitched in and helped, but I want to single out our hero, my brother in-law Cody Richey from the City of Colleyville. He's a fire fighter and after four days of responding to non-stop calls on only a few hours of sleep here he is (photo below) in the middle of everything still helping.

He went back out the next day and the rest of the week, and continues to help north Texans get their lives back together from the storm today.

Advertise in
Texas Flood Today!

For more information, contact:
Selina Mirza Cooper, Project Manager, TFMA
Email: ssmirza@tfma.org
PH: 512-260-1366

Don't Forget to Register for the Annual Meeting!

April 13–14, 2021

NEW Address
2006 S. Bagdad Rd, Ste 120
Leander, TX 78641

(512) 260-1366
tfma@tfma.org

2019–2021 TFMA Board of Directors

Executive Board

President
John Espinoza, PE, CFM

Vice-President
John Johnston, PE, CFM

Secretary
Ben Pylant, PE, CFM

Treasurer
Stephanie Griffin, PE, CFM

Past President
Joe Fernandez, CFM

Executive Director
Wes Birdwell, PE, CFM

Regional Directors

Region 1
Steve Nelson, PE, CFM

Region 2
Erin Stiggins, PE, CFM, PMP

Region 3
Fernando Hernandez, PE, CFM

Region 4
Clair Davis, PE, CFM

Region 5
Colin Slagle, PE, CFM

Region 6
Abigail Knott, PE, CFM, ENV SP

Region 7
Doug Nicholson, CFM

Region 8
Mohamed Bagha, PE, CFM

Region 9
Yvette Dodd-Wallace, CFM

Region 10
Kim Dewailly, PE, CFM