



# Flood Lines

Spring 2020

Volume XIII Issue 2

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## Get Your Online Training Right Here!

If you're homebound (or even if you're not!) check out these great FREE online training courses from FEMA about National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) topics. FEMA's Emergency Management Institute offers many such independent study courses including the ones listed below. See the full course catalog [here!](#)

- [IS-285: Substantial Damage Estimation for Floodplain Administrators](#)
- [IS-273: How to Read a Flood Insurance Rate Map \(FIRM\)](#)
- [IS-274: How to Use a Flood Insurance Study \(FIS\)](#)
- [IS-1105.a: EC Made Easy: Elevation Certificate Overview](#)
- [IS-1103.a: Elevation Certificate for Surveyors](#)
- [IS-727: Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands](#)
- [IS-1112: Introduction to Flood Claims](#)



### IS-285: Substantial Damage Estimation for Floodplain Administrators

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[IS Home](#)

[IS Course List](#)

[Register for a FEMA SID](#)

[Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience](#)

[Curriculum](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

**Course Date**  
3/17/2020

**Course Overview**  
This training is designed to help assist tribal, local, and State officials in making substantial damage determinations in accordance with the NFIP using the FEMA Substantial Damage Estimator (SDE) software.

**Course Objectives:**

- Identify the purpose of conducting substantial damage assessments
- Recognize the features of the FEMA SDE Tool and how to use them
- Recall the substantial damage assessment processes for residential and non-residential structures

**Prerequisites**  
None

**CEUs:**  
0.4

**TAKE THIS COURSE**

[Interactive Web Based Course](#)

**TAKE FINAL EXAM**

Please note that the IS Program now requires a FEMA SID to be used instead of your SSN. If you do not have a SID, [register for one here](#).

[Take Final Exam Online](#)

**NOTICES**

Test questions are scrambled to protect test integrity



**Looking for even more training? Check out pages 5 and 7 for other online training resources!**

# New Hampshire Flood Awareness Week 2020 Recap: Why Your Community Floodplain Ordinance Matters!

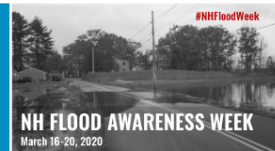
Did you know that March 16-20 was NH Flood Awareness Week? This year's theme was "Why community floodplain ordinances matter." So why **do** community floodplain ordinances matter? Here are a few key reasons:

- ◆ Building requirements in the ordinance ensure that development in at-risk areas happens in a way that protects people and minimizes property damage.
- ◆ If a new or substantially improved building in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) is not built in compliance with the community's ordinance, the flood insurance premium for the building will probably be much more expensive.
- ◆ When development occurs in a high risk area, it can potentially make flooding problems worse on neighboring properties. The community's ordinance requirements ensure that impacts from development are minimized to keep the entire community safer.

Consider sharing [NHOSI's fact sheet](#) that summarizes why your community's floodplain ordinance is so important—it's suitable for sharing all year round and may be helpful to your residents and others in the community!

## 5 Things You Need to Know About Your Community's Floodplain Ordinance

Most communities in New Hampshire choose to participate in the [National Flood Insurance Program \(NFIP\)](#). That means they adopt and enforce a floodplain ordinance that meets minimum NFIP requirements to manage development in areas at a high risk of flooding. Here are some key things you should know:



- 1** Development in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) shown on FEMA [flood maps](#) must meet permit and building requirements in the community floodplain ordinance and the State building code. These requirements ensure that development happens in a way that protects people and minimizes property damage.
- 2** Flood insurance is required as a condition of a loan for buildings in the SFHA. If a new or substantially improved building in an SFHA is not built in compliance with the community's ordinance, the flood insurance premium will probably be much more expensive.
- 3** When development occurs in a high risk area, it can potentially make flooding problems worse on neighboring properties. Your community's ordinance requirements ensure that impacts from development are minimized to keep the entire community safer.
- 4** Since floods can and do happen outside of SFHAs, communities may choose to adopt more restrictive requirements into their ordinance to reduce the impact of future floods on residents, businesses and the economy, community infrastructure, and the environment.
- 5** Residents and business owners are highly encouraged to take steps on their own beyond community, State, and NFIP requirements to keep safe and be ready for a flood:
  - Learn about simple, low-cost projects in FEMA's [Protect Your Home from Flooding guide](#).
  - Get [flood insurance](#) even if your property is not in the SFHA - most homeowners insurance policies do not cover floods.
  - Visit [ReadyNH.gov](#) to learn how to be prepared for a flood when it happens.

Contact your municipal office for more information about your community's floodplain ordinance or visit the [NH Floodplain Management Program website](#) for more information about the NFIP.



## Publication Spotlight:

### FEMA Floodplain Management Bulletin: Elevation Certificate

*Here we highlight publications that may not be brand new but still are great resources with important information for floodplain managers and others.*

Okay, so you're a community official. You know a little bit about FEMA Elevation Certificates, but you want to know even more....perhaps your community is interested in having applicants use the Elevation Certificate form to submit the as-built elevation data required for new construction/substantial improvements in Special Flood Hazard Areas. Or perhaps your community already requires the Elevation Certificate but you have questions about specific form fields. What do you do? Well, you could take [this free FEMA online training course](#). Or if you prefer to read and have more specific questions, you may want to check out FEMA's [Elevation Certificate Technical Bulletin](#)! This handy publication is organized as an FAQ and includes information that community officials, surveyors, and others can benefit from reading. [Check this great resource out online](#) or [order free hard copies from FEMA](#) today!



Floodplain Management Bulletin  
Elevation Certificate  
May 2004



FEMA 467-1

# New Hampshire Flood Mapping Update

Below is a status update for NFIP flood mapping activities in New Hampshire based on information provided by FEMA. *Note that we do not currently have information about the potential impacts of the Covid-19 outbreak (if any) on these schedules.*

## Coastal Mapping Project: Rockingham County

- FEMA is moving forward with finalizing preliminary flood maps issued in 2014 and 2016. A Letter of Final Determination (LFD) may be issued to communities in 2020. The maps will become effective 6 months after the LFD issuance.

## Salmon Falls—Piscataqua Watershed (Outside coastal area)

- Preliminary flood maps showing revised flood hazard information will be distributed following the LFD issuance for the coastal project above since some map panels are affected by both projects.

## Contoocook, Middle Connecticut, Millers, Pemigewasset, and Winnepesaukee Watersheds

- Updated field surveys and/or flood hazard analyses for new flood maps are currently in progress.

## Coos County Mapping Project

- Zone A floodplain boundaries are being updated and Zone AE areas redelineated based on more recent/detailed topographic data. Updates will be incorporated into the flood maps at a later date.

## Merrimack/Nashua Watersheds

- The development of revised flood maps is currently underway. Issuance of preliminary flood maps is anticipated in 2020.

## Town of Lincoln Levee Analysis and Mapping Project

- A revised preliminary map will be prepared and issued following completion of levee reconstruction and levee accreditation. This is expected to happen in 2020.

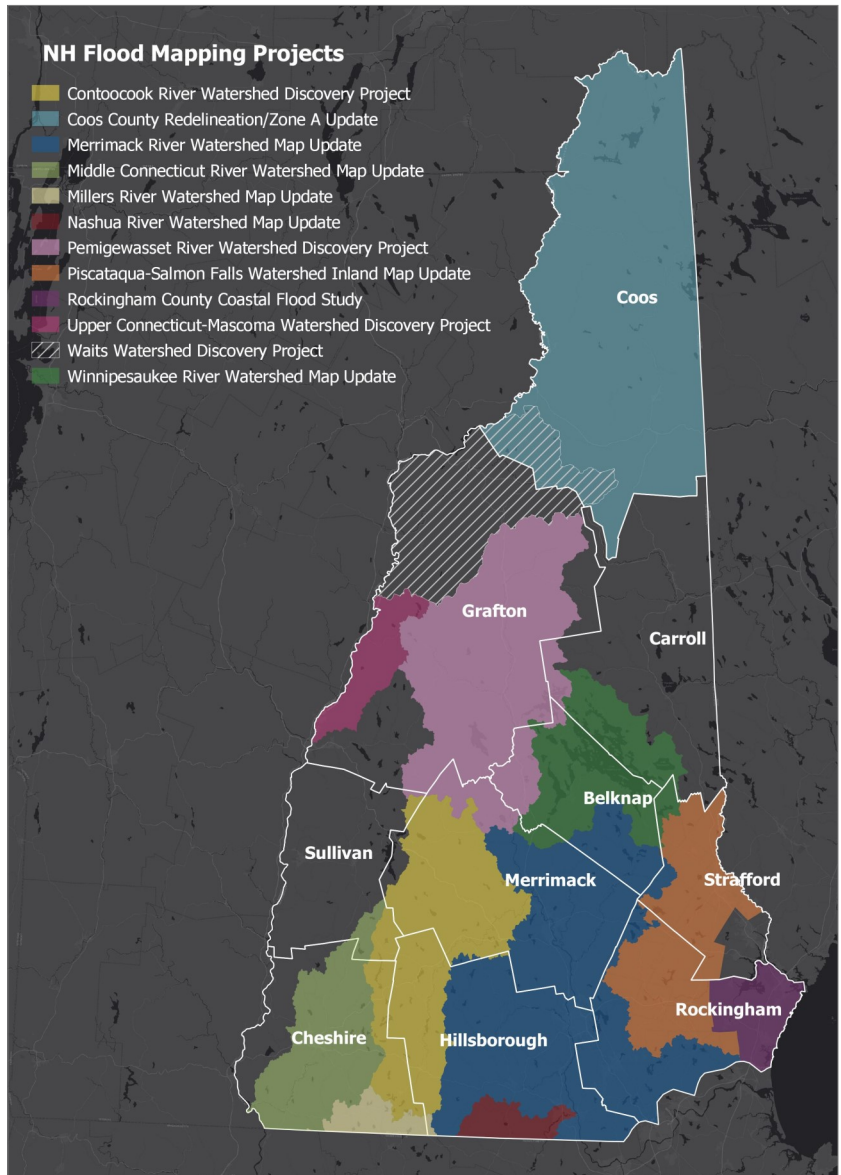
## Town of Farmington Levee Analysis and Mapping Project

- A web-based meeting with community officials is scheduled for March 31st to kick off this Levee Analysis and Mapping Project.

## Upper Connecticut-Mascoma (01080104) and Waits (01080103) Watersheds

- FEMA has initiated Discovery projects for these watersheds to determine whether a flood map update project is needed for the area, and if so, what the scope of the project will be.

For the latest information on FEMA flood mapping projects in New Hampshire, please visit OSI's [Current NH Floodplain Mapping Activities webpage](#). You can also view our interactive map showing project locations [here](#).



## New Elevation Certificate Form Released

FEMA recently released an updated Elevation Certificate form which is now available on the [FEMA website](#). The new Elevation Certificate is almost identical to the previous one but with an expiration date of November 30, 2022. Note that previously completed Elevation Certificates are not nullified by the release of a new version of the form. A completed Elevation Certificate remains valid as long as the structure it applies to has not been modified in a way that would require changes to the information included on the certificate.

## NFIP Reauthorization

In order for the NFIP to continue to operate, the program was required to be reauthorized by Congress by September 30, 2017. On December 20, 2019 after many other short term authorizations occurring since that deadline, the President signed legislation passed by Congress authorizing the program until September 30, 2020. Congress has remained deadlocked on moving forward with a number of bills proposing long-term reform of the NFIP as a program since last year. FEMA's [NFIP Reauthorization webpage](#) provides the latest on the status of the reauthorization.

## New Guide for Community Officials: Understanding and Managing Flood Risk

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) recently released a [three-part guide](#) intended to help community “officials gain a comprehensive understanding of choices that are available as they evaluate how to prepare for—and respond to—flood events in their communities.” While billed as a guide for elected officials, this is really a useful tool for other community officials too, particularly those involved in planning efforts or that enforce floodplain regulations. Here’s what you can find in each volume of the guide:

### [Volume I: The Essentials](#)

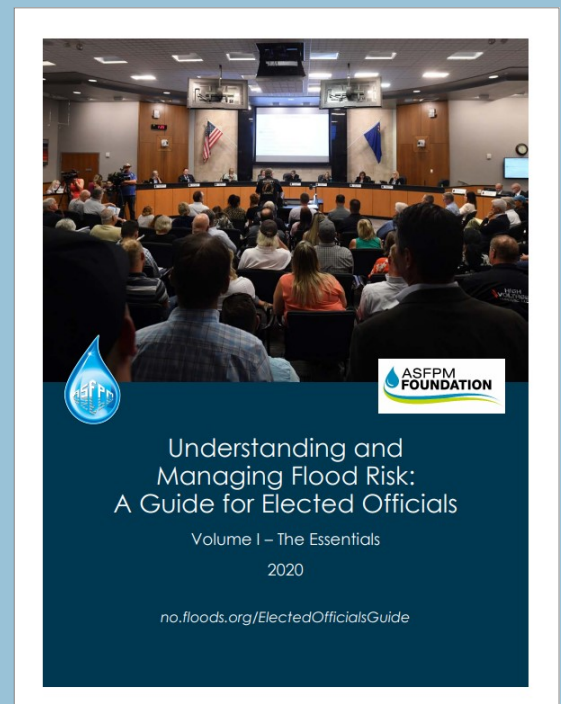
- ◆ How to begin addressing flooding in your community
- ◆ Lessons learned to help prepare your community for the next flood
- ◆ Basic concepts of mitigating flood hazards, including funding resources
- ◆ Suggestions for communicating with citizens

### [Volume II: Moving Beyond the Essentials](#)

- ◆ Basic concepts involved in managing floodplains
- ◆ Advice on managing, maintaining, and strengthening local floodplain management programs

### [Volume III: Success Stories](#)

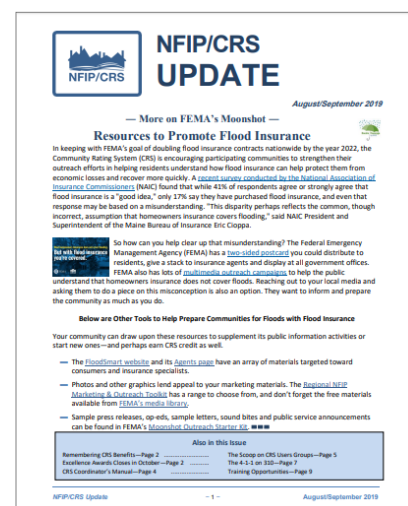
- ◆ Success stories from communities around the country that have successfully tackled flood mitigation



# Community Rating System (CRS) Update

## CRS Training Resources

Did you know that there are training videos about different Community Rating System (CRS) program topics on the [crsresources.org](https://crsresources.org) website that you can view at any time? Also, don't forget the CRS quarterly newsletter. You can read back issues [here](#) or [sign up for email delivery](#). And stay tuned for information about our next NH CRS Users Group meeting! Have no idea what CRS even is?? Learn more [here!](#)



## GIS Resources For Floodplain Managers: Online Training, Online Training, Online Training!

There are many free online training resources related to GIS software and applications! Below is a list of just a few of these resources if you have the interest and some time on your hands:

### ESRI/ArcGIS Resources

ESRI has many free online courses and tutorials related to their ArcGIS software suite. Just go to their [course catalog](#) and select 'free' as an option. Below are a few examples of free flood-related offerings:

- ◇ [Assess Open Space to Lower Flood Insurance Cost](#) (CRS Open Space Credit)
- ◇ [Predict Floods with Unit Hydrographs](#)
- ◇ [Find Areas at Risk of Flooding in a Cloudburst](#)

Looking for something a little more general? Starting April 22, ESRI will be offering a free [Massive Open Online Course \(MOOC\) about cartography](#). You'll perform course exercises using ArcGIS Pro software but can sign up for a trial version if you don't currently have a license.

### QGIS Resources

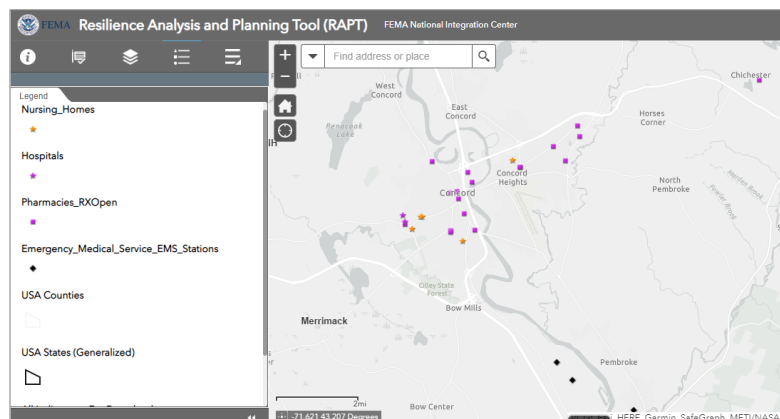
There are many, many online training resources for [QGIS](#), the free, open source GIS software too. Granted these resources are not quite as well organized as ESRI's training catalog since there are many different people all over the world putting together their own training programs and videos, usually on their own time and at their own expense.

- ◆ For newcomers to QGIS, check out Klas Karlsson's video [QGIS 3 for Absolute Beginners](#). The website [QGIS Tutorials and Tips](#) is another great resource with tutorials on many specific topics that will help you get started with the software.
- ◆ Catch [this ongoing series](#) of 7 free webinars about using QGIS for hydrological applications based on the book of the same name by Hans van der Kwast and Kurt Menke.
- ◆ Check out [this tutorial](#) developed by Canada's Carleton University for performing flood risk assessments in QGIS.

## New Publications and Resources Available!

- ◆ [Community Resilience Indicator Analysis \(CRIA\) and Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool \(RAPT\)](#)

To help local communities understand how certain data sets can 'paint a picture' of disaster resilience, FEMA developed the Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool (RAPT) which is available as [an interactive map viewer](#). This tool allows communities to visually analyze hazard data, critical infrastructure data, and population and community data that can inform vulnerability and capacity assessments. The foundation of the RAPT is the Community Resilience Indicator Analysis (CRIA) which contains a literature review of the most commonly used data sets associated with community resilience and discusses the methodology for how that data was incorporated into the RAPT.



- ◆ [Planning for Infrastructure Resilience](#) This report from the American Planning Association and the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) provides guidance for communities when considering new climate and flood realities, and includes data and tools to help them understand the risks of future flooding, conduct vulnerability assessments, and integrate the information into plans and policies.
- ◆ [Flood Mapping for the Nation: A Cost Analysis for Completing and Maintaining the Nation's NFIP Flood Map Inventory](#) This new report from ASFPM estimates the cost to complete and maintain up-to-date flood maps in the United States. The report estimates that the cost to complete flood mapping for the nation ranges from \$3.2 billion to \$11.8 billion while the steady-state cost to then maintain accurate and up-to-date flood maps ranges from \$107 million to \$480 million annually.
- ◆ [Urban Flooding: Moving Towards Resilience](#) This report from the ASFPM Foundation includes practical suggestions for obtaining better data, making planning decisions, and exploring funding opportunities to identify solutions to urban flooding. Also included are policy and program recommendations to effectively address urban flooding issues.
- ◆ [Ready Kids Website](#) FEMA's Ready Campaign relaunched a newly updated [Ready.gov/kids](#) website last fall. The updated website is a one-stop shop with interactive search features, tools and resources to help engage kids and young people on emergency and disaster preparedness. It also includes games and activities for kids to teach them about being prepared for disasters.
- ◆ [A Review of Social Media Use During Disaster Response and Recovery Phases](#) This report from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) includes an analysis of the current state of social media usage for disaster response and recovery and recommendations for action. Specifically, NIST recommended "the development of national codes and standards and uniform guidance for clear, consistent, recognizable, and accurate emergency communications, encompassing alerts and warnings, to enable safe, effective, and timely responses."
- ◆ [Emergency Operations Planning: Dam Incident Planning Guide](#) The newest publication from FEMA's National Dam Safety Program, this guide supports state and local emergency managers by summarizing the concepts that a community should consider when creating dam incident-specific elements of local emergency operations plans. It also provides guidance for dam owners and operators on how to engage with emergency managers prior to an incident to ensure a well-coordinated response.

### Cancellation of Upcoming Events Due to Covid-19

Due to the ongoing efforts to control impacts of the Covid-19 outbreak, the April 9th Floodplain Administrator 101 workshop in Litchfield and the April 30th NH Coastal Adaptation Workgroup spring workshop have both been cancelled. Stay tuned for more information about when these events will be rescheduled.

### NFIP Online Training Webinars

Free, online NFIP-related training is available through FEMA's contractor, STARR II. Many of the courses are eligible for CECs for CFMs. Be sure to check the website periodically as new webinars are always being added. To learn more about these webinars and to register, visit the [NFIP Training website](#) and click the "Upcoming" tab. When asked during registration which FEMA Region you are in, please reply "1". Upcoming webinars include:

- NFIP Basics (March 26, 1:00-2:00 pm)
- Tools for Determining Base Flood Elevations (April 16, 1:00-2:00 pm)
- Elevation Certificates (April 23, 1:00-3:30 pm)
- Floodplain Development Permit Review (May 21, 12pm—1pm)
- Inspecting Floodplain Development (May 21, 1:30pm-3:00pm)

***Are you a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) looking for CECs? Check out the Association of State Floodplain Managers' [new guide](#) for obtaining CFM CECs during the Covid-19 outbreak.***

### Surveying in Floodplains Workshop

***May 31, 2019, 9:30 am to 4:00 pm, Portsmouth, NH***

***[Note: as of March 23rd, this workshop was still scheduled. We recommend checking [the UNH website](#) to confirm it will still be held.]***

This workshop is part of the UNH Professional Development & Training program. It provides a general overview of floodplain management and the NFIP. You will receive guidance and helpful tips about how to review and use flood maps and complete Elevation Certificates, and learn how to apply to revise or amend the maps, comply with NFIP floodplain regulations, and minimize the cost of flood insurance. To learn more and to register, visit the [UNH website](#). Lunch is included and CECs are available for surveyors.



University of  
New Hampshire

Professional Development & Training

### New Hampshire Floodplain Management Program Contact Information

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