

Flood Lines

New Hampshire Floodplain Management Program
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Summer Yard Work and the NFIP: What Floodplain Administrators Need to Know

Written by Katie Nelson, State Floodplain Program Coordinator

As we officially enter summer, we also enter the most popular time of year for planting our gardens, fixing up our yards, and finally doing those home improvement projects that we have been putting off. For homes located in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA), or “floodplains”, permits may also be required for many of these projects.

For participating National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) communities, floodplain administrators should check their building permit process to ensure that in the floodplain, permits are being required for all projects that meet the definition of development, not just “building” projects. Development is defined by the NFIP as any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to buildings or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading paving, excavation or drilling operations or storage of equipment or materials.

You, the floodplain administrator, do have some discretion to exempt obviously insignificant activities from the permit requirement, such as planting a garden, farming, putting up a mailbox or erecting a flagpole. You may also want to exempt routine maintenance, such as painting or re-roofing.

The key is whether the project will present a new obstruction to flood flows, alter drainage, or have the potential to be a substantial improvement. These determinations can only be made by the permitting official(s), not the builder, so make sure your exemptions are clear.

For the installation of fences, best judgement should be utilized as fences should be parallel to a floodway, to limit disruption to the flow of water. Fences that allow the flow of water to pass through may also be better suited for areas with frequent flooding or at high-risk of flooding.

Sheds and other small accessory structures located within a floodplain should be permitted and built to meet the requirements in the community’s local floodplain regulations. This also includes the use and storage of RVs as well as other equipment or materials.

If you find that the current building process is missing the ability to permit these types of development in floodplains, your community should consider adopting a floodplain development permit that can cover all development in a floodplain, in addition to your current building permit application. The NH Floodplain Management Program has a [template available on our website](#) that is a great place to start.

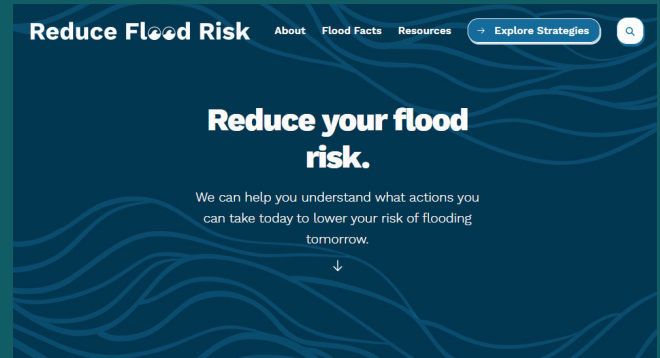
Wishing you all an amazing (and flood-free) summer!

ReduceFloodRisk.org

Learn what actions you can take today to lower your risk of flooding tomorrow


ReduceFloodRisk.org is a newly launched website that helps property owners and buyers in flood prone areas identify strategies to reduce their property's risk of flooding. The Flood Science Center at the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) has created this centralized, searchable library of flood mitigation strategies and resources. The interactive platform allows users to explore what mitigation options would work best on their properties.

The site also includes a variety of outreach materials including promotional videos, PowerPoint presentation, brochure, postcards, and door hangers.



Reduce Flood Risk

Floods are the nation's most common and costly natural disaster. Take action now.



Visit [ReduceFloodRisk.org](https://www.ReduceFloodRisk.org) for mitigation strategies tailored to your home.



Reduce Flood Risk

If you don't think it will happen to you, consider 98% of counties in the US have experienced a flood.




Visit [ReduceFloodRisk.org](https://www.ReduceFloodRisk.org) for mitigation strategies tailored to your home.



Reduce Flood Risk

Changing weather patterns, new development, and limited drainage can turn a heavy rain into a flash flood in minutes.



Visit [ReduceFloodRisk.org](https://www.ReduceFloodRisk.org) for mitigation strategies tailored to your home.



Reduce Flood Risk

Flood mitigation practices provide \$6 in benefits for every \$1 invested



Visit [ReduceFloodRisk.org](https://www.ReduceFloodRisk.org) for mitigation strategies tailored to your home.



In Case You Missed It...

Webinar Recording Available

Floodplain Management Basics for NH Community Officials

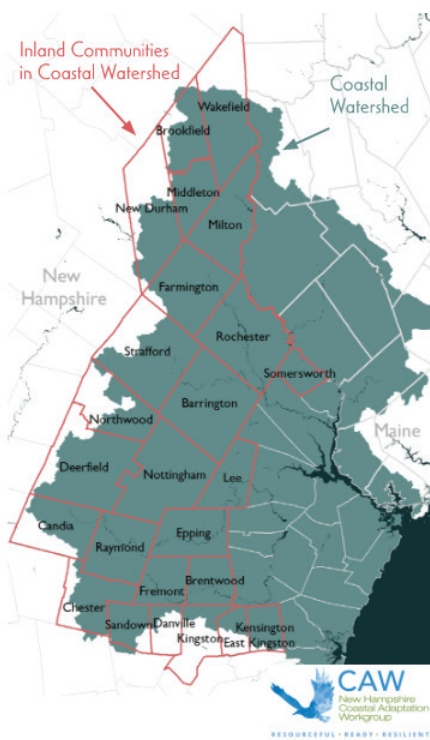
This past May, the New Hampshire Floodplain Management Program hosted a Floodplain Management Basics for NH Community Officials webinar, covering the topics of flood insurance, floodplain mapping, community floodplain regulations and more. The recording of this webinar is now available for viewing on the [Office of Planning and Development's YouTube](#) page.

Saco River Watershed Mapping Project Underway Community Input Requested

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is currently undertaking a Risk MAP project for the Saco River Watershed. This project is currently in the Discovery process, which is when FEMA reaches out to the communities in the project area to gather data regarding the areas of concern with the existing flood study and to ultimately inform which areas of the watershed will receive updated engineering studies. A virtual Discovery Meeting was held on May 10, 2022 and May 11, 2022. **FEMA is seeking input on the draft Discovery Maps from all communities in the watershed. If your community is interested in submitting input, please submit the input questionnaire and any data and comments by June 30, 2022.** Please submit all input to the FEMA Project Manager, Christopher Markesich by email at Christopher.Markesich@fema.dhs.gov or by phone at (617) 832-4712. The final Discovery Maps and Report is expected to be issued to communities by fall of 2022. Information about FEMA's other mapping activities currently underway in NH can be seen on our [Current NH Floodplain Mapping Activities](#) webpage.

- [May 10, 2022 Discovery Meeting Recording](#)
- [May 10, 2022 Saco River Discovery Meeting Slides](#)

NH Coastal Adaptation Workgroup Survey Now Available Inland Communities Resilient Communities Survey



The NH Coastal Adaptation Workgroup wants to hear from residents, municipal employees, board, commission, and committee members, business owners, and other stakeholders in communities in the 25 inland communities in NH's coastal watershed. Please share your concerns, interests, and what your community is doing to become more resilient to climate change.

Complete a short survey to help us bring resources, information, and assistance to your community! The survey will be open until June 30, 2022 at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ResilientNHCommunities>.

Publication Spotlight: Revised NFIP Technical Bulletin 7

FEMA's Building Science Branch has released the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) **Technical Bulletin 7**, Wet Floodproofing Requirements and Limitations For Buildings and Structures Located in Special Flood Hazard Areas in Accordance with the National Flood Insurance Program.

Technical Bulletin 7 (TB 7) provides guidance on the NFIP floodplain management requirements for the design and construction of wet floodproofed buildings and structures in Special Flood Hazard Areas.

TB 7 discusses limitations on the use of wet floodproofing and how to evaluate the feasibility of using wet floodproofing measures for historic structures, agricultural structures and functionally dependent uses.

The bulletin also discusses NFIP regulations and how building design criteria apply to new construction, substantial improvement and substantial damage.

The major updates in TB 7 include:

- Updated to be consistent with the requirements of **FEMA Policy #104-008-03**, Floodplain Management Requirements for Agricultural Structures and Accessory Structures, and FEMA P-2140, Floodplain Management Bulletin, Floodplain Management Requirements for Agricultural Structures and Accessory Structures.
- Expanded discussion on best practices and measures to reduce flood damage when NFIP compliance is not required.
- Clarification of when wet floodproofing measures that require human intervention can be used.

To learn more about the eleven NFIP Technical Bulletins, visit the **FEMA National Flood Insurance Technical Bulletins** webpage.



Wet Floodproofing Requirements and Limitations

For Buildings and Structures Located in Special Flood Hazard Areas in Accordance with the National Flood Insurance Program

NFIP Technical Bulletin 7 / May 2022



FEMA

Publications, Media, and Resources Available

NFIP 101: Introduction to Floodplain Management Training Course

FEMA has developed a new, free NFIP 101: Introduction to Floodplain Management Training Course, covering administration and enforcement of floodplain management regulations at the local level. The course is a great reference for new staff, or to brush up on specific topics and concepts for seasoned floodplain administrators. The course is available online and is eligible for 12 continuing education credits from the Association of State Floodplain Managers.

Elevation Certificate Training Series

This eight-video training series provides guidance on how to complete each section of a elevation certificate as per requirements of the Community Rating System (CRS) program. The series also covers general issues that are commonly encountered and how to correct an elevation certificate that was filled out incorrectly.

Introductory Video to Section 1206 of Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA)

FEMA developed this introductory video to DRRA 1206 to arm floodplain administrators, emergency managers, elected officials, and other stakeholders in the recovery process with the information needed for successful reimbursement of these new eligible activities. Through the Floodplain Administrator's, "Maria," story following a devastating disaster in her community, viewers will learn key eligibility requirements for communities, work and costs covered under the policy, and how to seek reimbursement for these new activities.

Introduction to Storm Surge

This document by www.weather.gov can serve as an introduction to storm surge, describing causes, factors that influence storm surge, and different techniques used for observation measuring. The document also described the difference between storm surge and storm tide.

Upcoming CRS Webinars

The CRS webinar series provides both live and on-demand training to communities that are not yet participating in the Community Rating System (CRS), local government staff who are new to the CRS, and those with experience in the program. The series includes both basic introductory sessions and more advance topics, most averaging about an hour in length. All sessions are free but registration is required. Many of the courses are eligible for CECs for Certified Floodplain Managers (CFMs). Upcoming webinars include:

- **July 19:** Annual CRS Requirements
- **July 20:** Floodplain Management Planning (Activity 510)
- **August 16:** Preparing an Verification Visit
- **August 17:** Stormwater Management Regulations (Activity 450)

New Risk Rating 2.0 Resources

Additional resources have been added to the New Hampshire Floodplain Management Program's Risk Rating 2.0 webpage. New resources include updated fact sheets and guides on topics such as rate and discount explanations and FAQs.

Can you identify where this photo was taken?

Here at the NH Floodplain Management Program, we recently came across some historic flooding photos taken in New Hampshire. Can you identify where this photo was taken? We believe it may have been after the great 1936 flood in Penacook. Please let us know of any guesses you may have! You can contact Katie Nelson at 603-271-1755 or at Kathryn.O.Nelson@livefree.nh.gov.



Learn more about the Historic Flood of 1936

Northern New England was victim to severe flooding in March of 1936, causing substantial amount of damage and setting peak flow records for many river basins throughout the northern New England states. After a cold winter with several winter storms, a warm front with record setting rain fall fell over New England, causing rapid melt of snow and breaking of ice on rivers. The National weather Service notes that new flow records along the Connecticut River were established from Hartford, CT all the way up to northern New Hampshire. In Hooksett, over 18 feet of water flowed through downtown. Learn more:

[Historic Flood March 1936](#), *National Weather Service*

[The 1936 Flood that Engulfed New England](#), *New England Historical Society*

[Flood of 1936 Caused Immense Damage 86 years ago](#), *WMUR 9*

June is National Pet Preparedness Month

June is National Pet Preparedness Month! Be prepared by making a plan for your pet in the case of a disaster or emergency. That includes making an emergency kit for your pet and never leaving your pet behind in any type of event. Learn more at ReadyNH.gov.



**PREPARE PETS
for FLOODING**

During a flood, water levels and flow speed can quickly change.

MAKE a KIT for your PETS!

ReadyNH.gov
TAKE ACTION. BE SAFE.

Be Ready to Go!
Never leave your pets behind!

Connect with us!

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Learn more: www.nh.gov/osi/planning/programs/fmp