

MONTANA HIGHGROUND

April 2020



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Thank you, Montana DNRC Floodplain.
Stay safe and healthy, everyone! A special
thanks to Traci Sears for all her work and
guidance.

FEMA UPDATE

There have been some updates to FEMA
Technical Bulletins.

Read more on Page 2

DNRC AWARDS

See who was recognized at this year's
AMFM Conference in Kalispell

See more on Page 3

FEMA UPDATE

Technical Bulletins 1 and 5



Did you know FEMA was created in 1979 by Presidential Executive Order.

MARCH 24, 2020

The National Flood Insurance (NFIP) Technical Bulletins offer guidance for complying with building performance requirements. The technical bulletins are designed to help officials interpret NFIP Regulations. The last time FEMA updated the technical bulletins was over a decade ago.

Technical Bulletin 1 (TB 1), titled, Requirements for Flood Openings in Foundation Walls and Walls of Enclosures can be found in its entirety at the FEMA Media Library <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/2644>. The bulletin details the NFIP requirements for flood openings in exterior walls and walls of enclosures below elevated buildings. As noted from the bulletin, flood openings equalize flood forces by allowing the entry and exit of floodwaters. Other areas of detail in the bulletin cover what engineered flood openings are and what non-engineered flood openings are, what enclosures require flood openings, and the installation of flood openings.

Technical Bulletin 5 (TB 5), titled, Free-of-Obstruction Requirements can be found at the FEMA Library by clicking on the following link: <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/3490>. TB 5, highlights free-of-obstruction requirements in Coastal High Hazard Areas (Zone V). Also found in the bulletin is general construction methods that minimize flood damage in Zone V. Preventing obstructions that could divert or obstruct waves and floodwaters below elevated buildings and pose additional issues for foundations or adjacent buildings can be found in TB 5.

The update to Technical Bulletin 1 and 5 is the most recent updates that have been done. In 2019, Technical Bulletin 4, Elevator Installation was updated. Technical Bulletin 8, Corrosion Protection of Metal Connectors in Coastal Areas rounds out the bulletins updated in 2019.

For a complete list of the NFIP Technical Bulletins, visit:

https://www.fema.gov/nfip-technical-bulletins?utm_source=gd&utm_medium=ces&utm_campaign=tbs15

The Association of Montana Floodplain Managers (AMFM) held one of the last Association of State Floodplain Manager's (ASFPM) Chapter conferences for the spring of 2020. Participants sat in on presentations lead by industry speakers from around the United States. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is constantly changing due to new industry standards and increasing number of natural disasters that are impacting the country.

Staying informed and educated about these changes is critical to local communities. The administration of a local floodplain program is not for the meek of heart. Floodplain Administrators face many obstacles when trying to help reduce flood risk by decreasing flood damage and loss of live due to flood events. Every year DRNC tries to recognize those who are advocating for strong local floodplain programs. This year DNRC recognized several outstanding local floodplain advocates around the state.

2020 AWARDS

1. Floodplain Administrator of the Year – Annie Gillespie with Carbon County
2. Appreciation Award – Cody Marxer with Madison County
3. Appreciation Award – Josh Juarez with Stillwater County
4. Appreciation Award – Mary Fisher with Flathead County
5. Appreciation Award – Nicole Stephenson with Treasurer County
6. Appreciation Award – Bailey Minnich with the City of Whitefish
7. Appreciation Award – Samantha Malenovsky with Miles City

Congratulations to this year's award recipients! And thank you to all the local floodplain administrators trying to make your communities more resilient.

SPRING FLOODING EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

QUICK GUIDE AND SUGGESTIONS

Here are a few suggested items to make your own emergency supply kit as well as some helpful hints.

1. Water, one gallon per person, per day. Three days' worth is suggested.
2. Food, non-perishable
3. Battery-powered or hand crank radio. Extra batteries.
4. Flashlight and extra batteries.
5. First aid kit.
6. Local maps.
7. Dust mask and duct tape.
8. Plastic bags.
9. Hand sanitizer.
10. Multi-tool.

For more information on emergency supply kits, to learn more about simple steps to prepare for emergencies, and much more, visit the website www.ready.gov



MONTANA SILVER JACKETS 2018 TEAM OF THE YEAR

The 2020 US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Interagency Workshop kicked off February 24th through 27th. Federal, State, and Local agency partners met in St. Louis, Missouri for a week of roundtable discussions, technical sessions, and presentations on flood risk case studies. The Interagency Workshop took an 18-month break after various districts saw unprecedented flooding in the midwest.

The Montana Silver Jackets Team Lead, Worby McNamee with the Montana DNRC Program, presented during a breakout session on the benefits of Silver Jackets Projects to CRS communities. Alongside Bill Lesser from FEMA Headquarters, Worby McNamee shared what Montana CRS communities are doing with their Silver Jackets projects and in which CRS series the CRS communities are gaining points.

The highlight for the Montana Silver Jackets was the last day of the Interagency Workshop when the team was presented with the Silver Jackets Team of the Year award. The Team of the Year Award was for work done in 2018. USACE Silver Jackets executives from headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia and the USACE-Omaha Project Manager were on hand to present and accept the award.



RENEWABLE RESOURCE GRANT AND LOAN PROGRAM

Applications are due online and must be postmarked by mail by June 1, 2020

The Montana Legislature established the Renewable Resource Grant and Loan Program (RRGL) to fund the conservation, management, development and preservation of Montana's renewable resources. The RRGL program provides both grant and loan funding for public facility and other renewable resource projects. Projects that conserve, manage, develop or preserve Montana's renewable resources are eligible for funding. Numerous public facility projects including drinking water, wastewater and solid waste development and improvement projects have received funding through this program. Other renewable resource projects that have been funded include irrigation rehabilitation, dam repair, soil and water conservation and forest enhancement. Eligible applicants are: political subdivisions of state, local and tribal government including state agencies and universities, counties, incorporated cities and towns, conservation districts, irrigation districts, water/sewer/solid waste districts, and Tribes.

For more information and to access the RRGL application visit:

<http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/resource-development/renewable-resource-grant-program>

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ANNUAL CONFERENCE | DENVER, CO



This was an important year for the annual CAP Conference in Denver for FEMA Region VIII states. FEMA and state representatives discussed a number of NFIP/CAP specific topics including the new State Tier Framework Program, grant funding, endangered species requirements, changes to the insurance program, recovery responsibilities, and specific program changes and information.

Each state CAP is funded by FEMA grants. The demand on the state CAP representatives have dramatically increased for the past few years. State NFIP Coordinator Offices have acquired more responsibilities with no additional compensation. The State Tier Framework, finalized in January 2020, is a way for states to document and record their annual activities and accomplishments while identifying issues that they may need to improve on. The Tier program has been in the works for almost three years and is somewhat similar to the Community Rating System (CRS) Program. Each state is evaluated on a number of tasks that will be used to identify if the state is performing at foundational, proficient, or advanced levels. Moving forward, the Tier State Framework will help determine the amount of funding each state may receive annually under the CAP Grant. Every state in Region VIII also worked together to provide joint discussions on pressing program issues and to solicit FEMA input concerning federal program assistance and requirements.

As wildfires and floods continue to increase throughout the nation, states and local communities will be responsible for making sure they do their part in administering and advising sound development in and around high flood risk areas. There is strength in numbers and western states have similar issues not often relevant to other states. We are fortunate that FEMA Region VIII representatives work closely with their states and help advocate for our programs and western state issues. The annual conference is always an opportunity for the states to collaborate on tools and information that can help strengthen local and state programs.

For more information about FEMA and the Community Assistance Program follow the link:
<https://www.fema.gov/community-assistance-program-state-support-services-element>

Congratulations!

Alex Hogle

MADISON COUNTY FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR

We are pleased to announce that Alex Hogle has taken over as Floodplain Administrator for Madison County. Alex is also the Director of the Planning Department in Madison County, if you have any questions for Alex feel free to email him at ahogle@madisoncountymt.gov

Carl Hamming

ANACONDA-DEER LODGE FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR

We are pleased to announce that Carl Hamming has taken over as Floodplain Administrator for Anaconda-Deer Lodge County. Carl Hamming was previously the FPA for Powell County. If you have any questions for Carl feel free to email him at chamming@adlc.us

Farewell!

Worby McNamee

WATER CONSERVATION SPECIALIST

We are sad to announce that Worby McNamee has decided to move on from the State Floodplain office. Worby will be moving on to work with Lewis and Clark County in the Planning Department. The Community Assistance Program will miss him but wish him all the best in his new position.



CFM MODERNIZATION

LOUIE GREENWELL, GISP, CFM, PRESIDENT, ASFPM CERTIFICATION BOARD OF REGENTS (CBOR)

Converting the national CFM exam from a paper to digital format is a critical component of the CFM Modernization Initiative, which is part of ASFPM Certification Board of Regents' (CBOR) 5-year strategic plan. Last year, we released an RFP to solicit proposals to support us with the conversion of the exam and options for providing the exam in electronic format at testing center locations or at conferences. ASFPM staff is actively negotiating with a vendor we feel provides the association with the best approach/solution to achieve our objectives.

It is anticipated that an electronic exam could be ready to pilot as early as Spring 2021. With 5 testing locations in Montana (Billings, Bozeman, Great Falls, Kalispell and Missoula) future exam takers will be able to schedule their exam on the day and location of their choosing. However, while the preferred examination delivery method is at testing center locations, the current pandemic crisis reminds us that online alternatives are needed to provide maximum flexibility for those wanting to take the exam.

While there are lots of details still to be addressed, it is exciting to imagine a near-term future whereby:

- Examinees will register for the exam online, take the exam at their convenience and receive same day results;
- ASFPM will have students' digital registration information (including their exam preparation, or lack thereof), and exam results (useful for exam question analytics); and
- The exam will be in a secure, robust digital environment.



Visit ASFPM for updates on exam registration and modernization news
www.floods.org

TRAININGS AND MEETINGS



MILES CITY FLOOD AWARENESS

April 21, 2020

Miles City Flood Awareness Day location is TBD

Please contact Samantha Malenovsky at smalenovsky@milescity-mt.org for details



2020 MONTANA DNRC RESOURCE SEMINAR

Fall 2020

The 2020 Montana DNRC Floodplain Resource Seminar will be held in Great Falls. Registration will open in the summer, for more information please visit www.floodplain.mt.gov



UPCOMING CFM EXAM DATES



DATE: TBD | TIME: TBD

Montana DNRC Resource Seminar

Please email Traci Sears at tsears@mt.gov for updates



ABOUT THE MONTANA HIGHGROUND

We are always accepting articles and ideas for this newsletter! Please email your contributions at anytime to tsears@mt.gov.

The Highground Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Montana DNRC Floodplain Program. This newsletter & other DNRC Floodplain Program activities are funded, in part, through grants from FEMA.

Persons with disabilities who need an alternative accessible format of this document should contact the DNRC Public Information Officer at 406-444-0465.

ALWAYS REMEMBER
TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN!

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