



NEWSLETTER
Spring 2020



ABOUT CAFM

The mission of the Connecticut Association of Flood Managers (CAFM) is to promote education, policies, and activities that mitigate current and future flood losses, costs, and human suffering caused by flooding and to protect the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains – all without causing unreasonable adverse impacts.

<https://ctfloods.org/>

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Our 6th Annual Conference was a success! The conference was held at Water's Edge in Westbrook on October 30, 2019.

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A Summary Report Based on the 6th Assembly of the
Gilbert F. White National Flood Policy Forum
Washington, D.C. 2019

ASFPM FOUNDATION: REPORT ON URBAN FLOODING

"A must read practitioners'
perspective on this emerging
threat"

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MORE!

FEMA Technical Bulletin Updates

How to Get CECs from Home

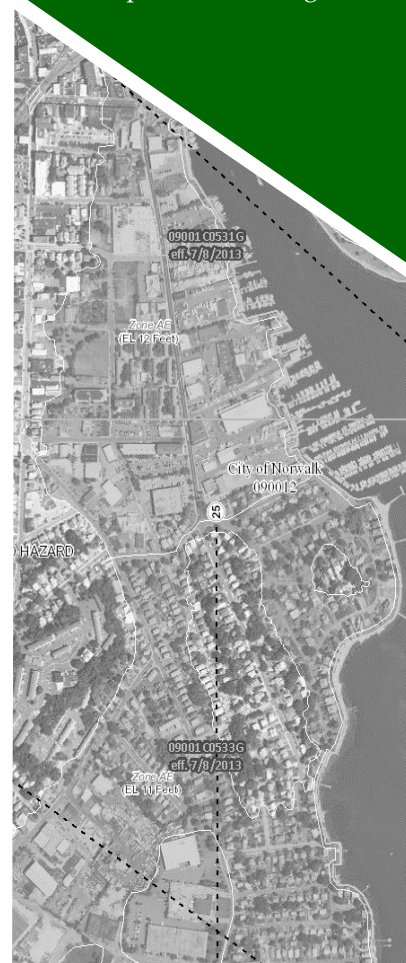
ASFPM Conference Goes Virtual

More News

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#ASFPM2020 is going virtual!



6th Annual Conference

& MEETING

CAFM convened its sixth Annual Conference and Meeting at Water's Edge in Westbrook, Connecticut on October 30, 2019. Topics included resilience tools and approaches, coastal and urban flooding issues, and historic flooding.

CAFM also held a meeting to discuss the development of a Community Rating System (CRS) user's group.

Approximately 90 CAFM members (old and new!) attended from municipalities, consultants, academia, and regulatory agencies.

CFMs in attendance received 5 CECs. Attendees are also eligible for 2.0 CECs for CAZEO and 4.5 CECs for AICP. Most of the presentations from the conference are available to download [on our website](#).

We also elected the 6th Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting portion of the conference. Congratulations to Douglas Colter in your position as Vice-Chair, and thank you to Phil Forzley for your service and best of luck in Vermont.

2020 CAFM Board of Directors

Chair: Joseph Canas, P.E., LEED AP, CFM

Vice-Chair: Douglas Colter, CFM

Treasurer: Dave Murphy, P.E., CFM

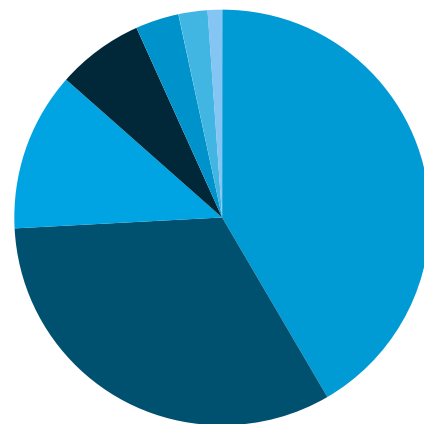
Secretary: John McGrane, P.E., CFM

At-Large: Scott Choquette, CFM

At Large: Diane Ifkovic

At-Large: Deanna Rhodes

Attendees



- CT Jurisdictions
- Consultants
- State Government
- Federal Government
- Academia
- Non-Profit
- Industry

Registration for the conference grants membership in CAFM for the year.

Not a member? Become a member today!

<https://ctfloods.org/become-a-member/>

Got newsletter ideas? Email Laura Ghorbi, PE, CFM

Across the United States, urban flooding is becoming more frequent and severe, with increasingly serious impacts to stormwater infrastructure, vulnerable neighborhoods, local and regional economies, and public health.



REPORT ON URBAN FLOODING

RELEASED BY ASFPM FOUNDATION

Across the United States, urban flooding is becoming more frequent and severe, with increasingly serious impacts to stormwater infrastructure, vulnerable neighborhoods, local and regional economies, and public health. Chronic to extreme, disruptive to catastrophic – urban flooding is rapidly becoming this nation’s number one factor contributing to increased future flood risk. Resilience in the face of this progressively serious problem demands attention and action *now*.

Urban flooding is not new, but it is different than how we experienced it a decade ago. Intensified by sea level rise and changing precipitation patterns, urban flooding is more frequent and intense, with underlying infrastructure designed to handle much smaller flooding events. *The water has nowhere to go.* As a result, major sectors of our economy are adversely impacted and people living and working in these more densely populated flood-prone areas are at increasing risk.

To catalyze attention and action, the [Association of State Floodplain Managers \(ASFPM\) Foundation](#) has published “Urban Flooding: Moving Towards Resilience. A Summary Report based on the 6th Assembly of the Gilbert F. White National Flood Policy Forum.”

The report draws from the wide-ranging discussions that took place during the Foundation-sponsored Forum last year and attended by more than 100 experts from local, state, and federal agencies; professional associations and environmental groups; and private sector organizations. It includes examples of time-critical efforts taking place now to prepare for future conditions that could be very different from today.

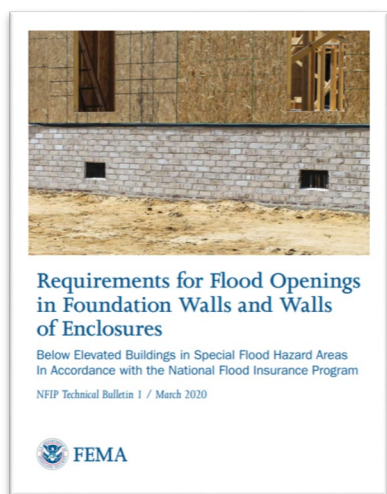
The report offers practical suggestions for obtaining better data and information, involving vulnerable populations in planning decisions, and exploring funding and financing opportunities to identify and advance solutions. Its summary policy and program recommendations focus on integrated approaches and immediate next steps, including organizing an urban flooding summit in 2021 to address more in-depth the issues and jump-start needed changes.

The report can be found on the [ASFPM Foundation Website](#). Please take a few minutes to download and read it. Then take a few more minutes to think about the role that you, and your agency or organization, could play in further discussions and idea sharing to collaboratively solve this complex problem.

Urban flooding has long been seen as a local issue. But it also needs to become a national priority, and for that matter a global one. The ASFPM Foundation is committed to help make it so. We welcome your help as we begin this important journey for a stronger, more resilient future.

FEMA TECHNICAL BULLETIN UPDATES

FEMA's Technical Bulletins serve to provide guidance for complying with the minimum National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) floodplain management requirements pertaining to building performance. Access the current Technical Bulletins and stay updated by visiting: <http://www.fema.gov/nfip-technical-bulletins>. So far, Technical Bulletins 0, 1, 4, 5, and 8 have been updated.



Technical Bulletin 1, Requirements for Flood Openings in Foundation Walls and Walls of Enclosures: Below Elevated Buildings in Special Flood Hazard Areas

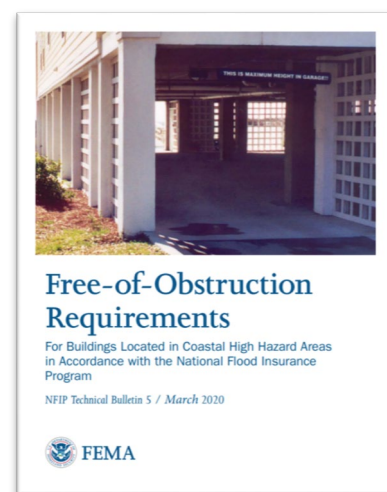
TB 1 explains the NFIP requirements for openings in exterior walls and walls of enclosures below elevated buildings. Flood openings equalize flood forces by allowing the entry and exit of floodwaters. Some updates include:

- New comprehensive tables comparing NFIP opening requirements with related building code requirements (IRC and IBC/ASCE 24)
- Enhanced guidance on the placement of flood openings in unusual configurations such as sloping sites, multiple enclosed areas, large enclosed areas, and sites with shallow flooding
- New guidance on above-grade enclosed areas and two-level enclosures
- Expanded discussion on completing the FEMA Elevation Certificate and the documentation required for certification of engineered openings

Technical Bulletin 5, Free-of-Obstruction Requirements: for Buildings Located in Coastal High Hazard Areas

TB 5 provides guidance on the NFIP free-of-obstruction requirements in Coastal High Hazard Areas (Zone V), as well as general construction methods that minimize flood damage potential in Zone V. Some updates to TB 5 include:

- New comprehensive tables comparing NFIP free-of-obstruction requirements with related building code requirements (IRC and IBC/ASCE 24)
- Clarification of the requirements for design certification in Zone V
- Revised guidance of below-BFE building elements
- New guidance on enclosed areas below elevated buildings, including louvers/lattice, above-grade enclosures, and two-level enclosures
- Revised guidance of site development practices such as accessory storage structures, the use of fill, swimming pools and spas, erosion control structures and others
- New guidance on detached garages



Some Thoughts from SmartVent

The City of Cape May and Sea Isle City, NJ have adopted a Flood Vent Inspection element into their floodplain management ordinance and it's resulting in many positives. With the newly released FEMA TB 1, now is the time for enhancement to your flood ordinance to ensure you are keeping pace with your resiliency plan, especially since the unacceptable measures section of the Technical Bulletin added another category of opening.

Reasons we have identified to adopt a Flood Vent Inspection include: Flood insurance, CRS credit, and foundation protection.

GET CFM CREDITS FROM HOME

With the cancellation or postponement of many events that provide opportunities for Certified Floodplain Managers to earn Continuing Education Credits. Thankfully several online initiatives are underway.

ASFPM WEBINAR SPRINT

[ASFPM Training Link](#)

Through June 30, a series of free or low-cost webinars designed to meet the diverse training needs of CFMs across the country will be offered on topics including flood insurance, regulations and standards, nonstructural approaches, and many others.

STARR WEBINARS

Floodplain Management Series (1-1.5 CECs)

- [NFIP Basics](#) – May 7
- [Tools for Determining Base Flood Elevation](#) – May 14
- [Floodplain Development Permit Review](#) – May 21
- [Inspecting Floodplain Development](#) – May 21

ASFPM ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Participation in the full virtual conference: 12 CECs

“Resiliency Where the West Begins” is going virtual! The dates are June 9-11, 2020. The virtual conference will include three days of live plenary sessions, over 50 concurrent sessions with more than 150 presentations, a virtual exhibit hall, sponsor interaction, live Q&A, and more! Visit www.asfpmconference.org for an updated virtual program schedule.

SELF-STUDY

Here are several sources:

- [FEMA-EMI, ISP Courses](#) (access the [pre-approved list](#))
- [COMET Independent Study Courses](#)
- [ASFPM Online University](#)

Thank you RIFMA for the idea and some great content!

FEMA NEWS

[New Policy \(Coming Soon!\): Floodplain Management Requirements for Agricultural Structures and Accessory Structures](#) (FEMA Policy # 104-008-03). This policy clarifies the requirements for granting variances and exceptions to the NFIP design and performance standards for agricultural and accessory structures in accordance with current FEMA regulations.

[Updated Guidance: Reducing Flood Losses through the International Codes: Coordinating Building Codes and Floodplain Management Regulations](#) (5th Edition).

Developed by the International Code Council and FEMA, this guide helps state and local officials integrate the I-Codes into their current floodplain management regulatory processes related to structures, buildings, and other development to satisfy the requirements to participate in the NFIP.

[FEMA Extends Grace Period for Flood Insurance Renewal Premiums](#). FEMA continues to take proactive steps to address the COVID-19 pandemic. To help serve its National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) customers who may be experiencing financial hardships, the agency is extending the grace period to renew flood insurance policies from 30 to 120 days. This extension applies to NFIP flood insurance policies with an expiration date between February 13-June 15, 2020.

FEMA published notice of the BRIC proposed policy in the Federal Register for public comment on April 10, 2020. Stakeholders may view the proposed policy and **provide comments until May 11, 2020**. Type identification number FEMA-2019-0018 into the "search function" at Regulations.gov or view the proposed policy at this [link](#). The proposed policy is broad and intended to establish the framework and requirements for BRIC.

LOCAL NEWS

- [Norwich residents soon eligible for flood insurance discount](#)
- [Stonington attains highest FEMA award for floodplain management](#)
- [Landmark Agreement Will Ensure Faster and More Complete Cleanup of Housatonic River](#)
- [Preserved pollen tells the history of floodplains](#)