



# FLOOD VENTS

## Save the Date! 2018 Annual RIFMA Conference

### 2017 Conference Comments

- *"Very much on point. One of the best conferences yet!"*
- *Great food!*
- *I had a hard time deciding which sessions to attend!*

Please join us on April 5, 2018 for our Annual Conference at Fidelity Investments in Smithfield, RI. Early Bird Registration opens in January! Are you interested in becoming a sponsor and representing your business or organization at this year's conference?

Please contact our Event Chair at [rhodeislandfma@gmail.com](mailto:rhodeislandfma@gmail.com) for information on sponsorship packages or visit our Conference Event page at [www.rifloods.org](http://www.rifloods.org) for more info.



### Call for Abstracts!

The Rhode Island Flood Mitigation Association (RIFMA) invites state and municipal staff and officials, consultants, non-profit leaders and other interested parties to submit abstracts for its 2018 Conference.

**Preference will be given to presentations that highlight our conference theme:**

***"Above and Beyond"***

*Exceeding minimum floodplain regulations to achieve greater results*

**You may choose from the following presentation formats:**

- participation in an "ignite" panel (each speaker presents 20 slides which automatically advance every 15 seconds, for a total of 5 minutes. Then participate in audience Q&A and discussion with other panelists for 10-15 minutes)
- oral presentation (15 minutes, with 5 minutes Q&A)
- "workshop"-type session (1 hour; must incorporate some sort of audience engagement (e.g., a brief hands-on exercise))

**Please enter submissions using the [Google Form](#) located on our website no later than midnight on **Friday, January 19, 2018**. Please direct questions to [RhodelslandFMA@gmail.com](mailto:RhodelslandFMA@gmail.com). You will notified via email no later than Friday, February 16, 2018 whether or not your abstract was selected.**

### Student Poster Competition

**Posters** allow presenters to discuss their research, designs, or tools with professionals in floodplain management. Posters should contribute to the conference theme of exceeding the minimum regulations in order to enhance flood resilience; sharing research and studies related to topics such as design, policy, economic benefits, incentives/barriers to action, legal aspects and public outreach. Posters will be on display in the main reception area from 8:30 AM through 4:30 PM.

### Interested in what we do?

ALL of our meetings are open to the public!

We meet monthly on the second Thursday at 2 pm.

Email us at [RhodelslandFMA@gmail.com](mailto:RhodelslandFMA@gmail.com) for more information.

## Professional Development

*Upcoming RIFMA*

*Workshop:*

***Introduction to the  
Floodplain Industry***

Geared toward entry-level professionals and those in related fields who would like to become more involved with floodplain management.

*Save the Date and  
spread the word!  
January 24, 2018*

The Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) has earned the prestigious distinction of being awarded national accreditation from the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP). This is a significant achievement. EMAP standards measure the effectiveness of an emergency management program.

### PREP-RI

Sign up for PREP-RI: This online module series aims to increase the capacity of municipal decision-makers to make effective choices supporting resilience to the current and future impacts of climate change. Relevant examples and lessons learned from Rhode Island communities are included, as well as ways to use resources and tools in decision-making. PREP-RI builds upon existing State efforts and is the product of collaboration among local experts and practitioners from a variety of fields. Each module consists of an audio presentation (10 to 12-minute Voice-over PowerPoint) and is supported with materials and the opportunity to secure a completion certificate. PREP-RI is a partnership of the URI Coastal Resources Center and RI Sea Grant at the Graduate School of Oceanography and the Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. Funding for this series was provided by the Rhode Island General Assembly. See PREP-RI at <http://prep-ri.seagrants.gso.uri.edu/>. Contact Pam Rubinoff at [prep-ri@crc.uri.edu](mailto:prep-ri@crc.uri.edu).

### National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Course

#### **RHODE ISLAND**

February 5-8, 2018: **Managing Floodplain Development Through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)**. University of Rhode Island Bay Campus, 218 South Ferry Road, Coastal Institute Building #26, Narragansett, RI, 02882. Deadline to register is December 15, 2017. Seating is limited to 35. Rhode Island local, tribal and state government employees will get preference if there is more interest than seats available. Course is free, but [registration is required](#). CFM exam is optional and requires an additional application and fee, see below for more information. Contact Melinda Hopkins for any questions on the class, email: [Melinda.Hopkins@ema.ri.gov](mailto:Melinda.Hopkins@ema.ri.gov).

February 9, 2018: **Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) Exam**. Exam time 9:00 am to noon at Rhode Island location listed above. Please complete the [CFM Exam Application](#) and submit with fee payable to the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) by January 31, 2018 in order to sit for this exam date. Please direct exam related questions to [cfm@floods.org](mailto:cfm@floods.org) or call (608) 828-3000. ASFPM recommends exam takers review the materials on the [CFM Exam Preparation](#) page prior to sitting for the exam.

#### **VERMONT**

January 8-11, 2018: **Managing Floodplain Development Through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)**. Essex Junction Regional Office, Fish & Wildlife Building, 111 West Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452. Deadline to register is December 15, 2017. Seating is limited to 35. Preference will be given to Vermont local floodplain managers if the class is filled beyond capacity. Course is free, but [registration is required](#). There is an optional charge for lunch (\$6/day) and/or break refreshments (\$5 for beverages only or \$10 for beverages and snacks for all four days). CFM exam is optional and requires an additional application and fee, see below for more information. After registration closes, you will be sent either a confirmation email or notification that you have been placed on a waitlist.

Contact Rebecca Pfeiffer for any questions on the class, email: [rebecca.pfeiffer@vermont.gov](mailto:rebecca.pfeiffer@vermont.gov).

January 12, 2018: **Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) Exam**. Exam time 9:00 am to noon at Vermont location listed above. Please complete the [CFM Exam Application](#) and submit with fee payable to the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) by January 3, 2018 in order to sit for this exam date. Please direct exam related questions to [cfm@floods.org](mailto:cfm@floods.org) or call (608) 828-3000. ASFPM recommends exam takers review the materials on the [CFM Exam Preparation](#) page prior to sitting for the exam.

## Local News and Announcements

On October 20 Senator Sheldon Whitehouse hosted the 8th annual Rhode Island Energy, Environmental and Oceans Leaders Day. Approximately 200 attendees gathered in Providence to discuss issues related to resilience, coastal preparedness and sustainability. Key note speakers included Todd Stern, former US Special Envoy for Climate Change



and chief negotiator at the 2015 Paris COP21 climate change conference; Sam Waterston, actor and board member of Oceana; and former Secretary of State and US Senator John Kerry. Panel topics included RI's "blue economy", energy innovation and modernization and methods for adapting to climate change.

Photo: RIDEM Director Janet Coit moderates a discussion with Senator Sheldon Whitehouse and Governor Gina Raimondo.

### RAPID PACE

Get yours now -- Rapid Property Assessment and Coastal Exposure (Rapid PACE) program offers free tools for checking property risk to storms, sea level rise: Try Rapid PACE, a free set of tools aimed at helping property owners determine their risks to the impacts - such as flooding and erosion -- of strong storms and sea level rise. Simply visit WEB LINK -- it's as easy as inputting a Rhode Island address. Site-specific information is compiled in the assessment and reflects current data from state government and University of Rhode Island mapping tools. Some information areas include marsh migration, flood evacuation routes, transportation impacts, and shoreline change maps. This program is provided by the URI Coastal Resources Center and Rhode Island Sea Grant at the URI Graduate School of Oceanography and is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Questions? Contact Pam Rubinoff at (401) 874-6135 or [rubinoff@uri.edu](mailto:rubinoff@uri.edu).

**Above and Beyond!**  
Community Rating System  
(CRS Communities)

Bristol: Class 7  
Charlestown: Class 7  
East Providence: Class 8  
Middletown: Class 8  
Narragansett: Class 7  
Newport: Class 7  
North Kingstown: Class 9  
Pawtucket: Class 8  
Warwick: Class 9  
Westerly: Class 7

### Rhode Island is the first state to include SITES in its public policy.

The Ocean State has taken a big step toward embracing sustainable development and landscapes. Building on the state's eight-year legacy of green public buildings policy, the Rhode Island legislature has passed a bill to expand its coverage to include public lands.

The Senate passed S-0952A/H-5427A, amending the state's Green Buildings Act, to apply to any "public real property site" in addition to public buildings, and specifying the Sustainable SITES Initiative (SITES) and LEED for Neighborhood Development as applicable rating systems for certification. This move makes Rhode Island the first state in the nation to reference the SITES rating system in public policy.

(Full story at [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org))

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*Do you have an announcement, event, or program that you would like to share with RIFMA members?*

*Contact us at [RhodeIslandFMA@gmail.com](mailto:RhodeIslandFMA@gmail.com) with the subject line "Newsletter"*

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*About RIFMA*

*Rhode Island Flood Mitigation Association (RIFMA) was formed In October 2006. The goal of the organization is to form a network of associates who could bring their ideas and experiences to a forum for people to share and learn from. The result of the Association is a network of floodplain managers who can improve the effectiveness and efficiency of all aspects of floodplain management in the State of Rhode Island. The Association includes:*

- City and County Officials
- Consulting Engineers and Surveyors
- State Government: CRMC, EMA, DEM, DOT, and DHS
- Watershed Districts
- FEMA, NOAA, NWS, USCOE, USGS, NRCS
- Insurance Agents

*The first RIFMA Board of Directors worked to create the basis of the Association with the help of many other individuals and to establish training opportunities for floodplain managers from around the state to gather, share ideas, and experiences at conferences and workshops.*

**2017/2018 Board Members:**

Wayne Barnes  
Sarah DeSimone  
Carissa Lord  
Chuck Lowe  
Kate Michaud  
Mark Pereira  
Dave Prescott  
Igor Runge  
Jen West

**Keep in Touch!**

[www.riflood.org](http://www.riflood.org)

[RhodeIslandFMA@gmail.com](mailto:RhodeIslandFMA@gmail.com)



**National News from the ASFPM**

[www.floods.org](http://www.floods.org)

**Draft of the 4<sup>th</sup> National Climate Assessment became public November 3...  
...and the news isn't good.**

Global annually average surface air temperature has increased by about 1.0C over the last 115 years. This period is now the warmest in the history of modern civilization. This assessment concludes, based on extensive evidence, that it is extremely likely that human activities, especially emissions of greenhouse gases, are the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Thousands of studies conducted by researchers around the world have documented changes in surface, atmospheric and oceanic temperatures; melting glaciers; diminishing snow cover; shrinking sea ice; rising sea levels; ocean acidification; and increasing atmospheric water vapor. Global average sea level has risen by about 7 to 8 inches since 1900, with almost half (about 3 inches) of that rise occurring since 1993. The incidence of daily tidal flooding is accelerating in more than 25 Atlantic and Gulf Coast cities. Global average sea levels are expected to continue to rise by at least several inches in the next 15 years and by 1-4 feet by 2100. A rise of as much as 8 feet by 2100 cannot be ruled out. Sea level rise will be higher than the global average on the East and Gulf Coasts of the United States.

Heatwaves have become more frequent in the United States since the 1960s, while extreme cold temperatures and cold waves are less frequent. The incidence of large forest fires in the western United States and Alaska has increased since the early 1980s and is projected to further increase in those regions as the climate changes, with profound changes to regional ecosystems. Annual trends toward earlier spring melt and reduced snowpack are already affecting water resources in the western United States and these trends are expected to continue. Under higher scenarios, and assuming no change to current water resources management, chronic, long-duration hydrological drought is increasingly possible before the end of this century.

Read the full report [here](#).