

# FLOOD VENTS: THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE RI FLOOD MITIGATION ASSOCIATION



Winter 2015-2016 Newsletter

## 2016 RIFMA Annual Meeting—April 7<sup>th</sup> Incentivizing Actionable Resilience to Flooding

Early-bird registration is now open for the annual conference, which will focus on **implementation**, highlighting projects, plans, and actions being taken to mitigate and reduce flood risks today and in the future. RIFMA will change it up this year by offering attendees an option between speaker presentations and trainings. With the success of our annual conferences, we have decided to move to a larger facility in Smithfield, where we will be hosted by Fidelity Investments. This venue also gives us the flexibility to offer breakouts, where we will offer a spectrum of workshops to dig deeper into topics of interest. **Early-bird registration is now open through March 4<sup>th</sup>**. Visit [www.riflood.org](http://www.riflood.org) to register.

## Updated Flood Insurance Rate Maps: Kent & Providence Counties

New Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the United States Geological Survey went into effect for portions of Kent and Providence counties on October 2, 2015. The Narragansett Bay Watershed Study updated a 40 year old analysis based on updated topographic information and high water mark data collected after the historic flooding of March 2010. The following communities were involved in the update:



KENT COUNTY		PROVIDENCE COUNTY	
Coventry	Central Falls	North Providence	
East Greenwich	Cumberland	North Smithfield	
Warwick	Cranston	Pawtucket	
West Greenwich	East Providence	Providence	
West Warwick	Johnston	Scituate	
	Lincoln	Smithfield	



## The Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS):

Executive Order 13690 was issued on January 30, 2015, which amended Executive Order (EO) 11988, to improve the Nation's resiliency to current and future flood risk, and establish the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard. This EO requires federal agencies to use a higher flood elevation and expanded flood hazard area than the base flood when new or substantial improvements to existing infrastructure are proposed using federal funds in the floodplain.

In implementing the Standard, federal agencies will be given the flexibility to select one of three approaches for establishing the flood elevation and hazard area they use in siting, design, and construction:

- Utilizing best-available, actionable data and methods that integrate current and future changes in flooding based on science,
- Two or three feet of elevation, depending on the criticality of the building, above the 1% annual-chance flood elevation, or
- 0.2%-annual-chance flood elevation

### What EO 13690 does Not Change:

- Does not prohibit building in the floodplains.
- Does not change the definition of federal actions.
- Does not apply to private investments in structures, facilities, or homes.
- Does not change community floodplain management requirements.
- Does not change FEMA's flood mapping standards or levee accreditation regulations.
- Does not change the rating/pricing practices of the NFIP.

## FEMA Updates: Elevation Certificate & Nonresidential Flood Proofing Certificate Renewed

The Office of Management and Budget has cleared its review of both the revised FEMA Elevation Certificate form and the Nonresidential Flood proofing Certificate form. Both will be effective until November 30, 2018. FEMA has indicated it will offer its usual 12 month transition period for the use of the new form. During that period, the previous form may still be used. CRS communities are encouraged to use the fillable form available on the FEMA website linked below. Note that FEMA’s Residential Basement Flood proofing certificate is on a separate renewal cycle; that form is valid through November 2016. FEMA is issuing a bulletin announcing the effectiveness of the new forms, and will be posting them on its website. You can access the updated forms on the [Bulletin W-16002 Attachments](#).

## Community Rating System

Join the Community Rating System (CRS) which is a program administrated by FEMA to provide lower insurance premiums under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Communities that exceed the NFIP minimum standards are recognized and policy holders receive between 5-45% discount on flood insurance premiums. Reduction percentages are based on point value assigned from the community implemented activities. Benefits provided to the community include:

- Enhanced public safety;
- A reduction in damage to property and public infrastructure;
- Avoidance of economic disruption and losses;
- Reduction of human suffering and/or loss of life, and
- Protection of the environment.

To learn more about the CRS at [www.crsresources.org](http://www.crsresources.org)

MUNICIPALITY	CLASS	SAVINGS	ENTRANCE DATE
Bristol	8	10%	May 1, 2013
Charlestown	7	15%	May 1, 2015
East Providence	9	5%	May 1, 2014
Middletown	8	10%	October 1, 1991
Narragansett	8	10%	October 1, 1992
North Kingstown	9	5%	October 1, 1993
Pawtucket	8	10%	October 1, 2014
Westerly	8	10%	May 1, 2013

## Potential Future Mapping Areas:

Recently, FEMA Region 1 has held several Discovery Meetings, on a watershed basis, in an effort to better understand local flood risk and encourage information exchange between local, state and federal partners. The goal of discovery is to work closely with communities to identify flood prone areas before a mapping project is scoped or funded. The following areas being considered mapping studies (pending funding): Cape Code Watershed, Pawcatuck Watershed, Quinebaug Watershed



## STORMTOOLS: Maps for Viewing Storm Surge and Sea Level Rise

**STORMTOOLS** is a series of maps for Rhode Island’s home and business owners, municipal officials and decision makers to better understand their risk from coastal inundation. These maps provide information on flooding from different scenarios of storms and sea level rise, as well as information on the location of critical infrastructure and population density useful for planning purposes. RIGIS will make the maps will available in the coming month.

The ArcGIS online mapping tool makes access easy to these maps. Stormtools for Beginners and Stormtools for Municipalities can be found at [www.Beachsamp.org/restources](http://www.Beachsamp.org/restources).



## FORTIFIED: Rhode Island is on track to have New England's first FORTIFIED™ Home Hurricane certification



Left: FORTIFIED™ gold standard home, Right: retrofitted FORTIFIED™ Bronze Roof

Two homes in South Kingstown are in the final stages of FORTIFIED HOME™ certification - a newly constructed coastal home built to the Gold standard and an existing home retrofitted with a roof submitted for Bronze certification. The Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety's FORTIFIED Home™- Hurricane program helps homeowners strengthen their home against the devastating power of tropical storms and hurricanes. Whether building a new single-family home or updating the resilience of your existing home, using FORTIFIED Home™ - Hurricane will make any home more resilient and durable, and help a homeowner protect what is priceless during a disaster. For more information, check out [www.disastersafety.org](http://www.disastersafety.org).



Are you a motivated professional who would like to advance Rhode Island's program to help homeowners strengthen their homes against the devastating power of tropical storms and hurricanes? The FORTIFIED-Wise Professional Accreditation training course covers the critical aspects of the FORTIFIED Home program and provides participants with a solid understanding of the FORTIFIED Home building principles, construction practices, and verification requirements. A training will be offered in March 10th in Rhode Island. For more information contact [kyetter@archtest.com](mailto:kyetter@archtest.com)



### Flood Facts

- Approximately 16,000 structures in designated Rhode Island floodplains.
- Average annual flood premium in Rhode Island is \$1372.
- Rhode Island hosts the only CRS Users Group in Region 1.
- Know the Risk: Use the RI Floodplain Mapping Tool available on the [RIEMA website](http://RIEMAwebsite).

### Why be a CFM? Carissa Lord, CFM

For some, continuing education is a job requirement, for others it's a way to build their knowledge base. Throughout my career, I have experienced both incentive for being a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM).

Through the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM), the CFM Program is a nationally recognized program of floodplain managers that have committed themselves to "professional-development that enhances the knowledge and performance of local, federal, and private-sector floodplain management professionals." This commitment formally begins with an exam, and is maintained through continuing education requirements.

But what's in it for me? If I put in the time to study for the exam, pass the test, and maintain the certification, what do I get out of it? ASFPM has identified the following motivators for becoming a CFM.

- Confidence in professional knowledge;
- Professional/public recognition;
- Job advancement or increased salary potential;
- Motivation for continued education;
- Personal satisfaction;
- Greater credibility in the workplace.

For me, being a CFM means being part of a community of floodplain experts that is always learning, and always growing. Our community is made up of engineers, planners, architects, educators, product developers, and many others. What can you bring to the table?

For more information about CFM, and to see the listing of Rhode Island's 24 CFM professionals, go to [www.floods.org](http://www.floods.org)

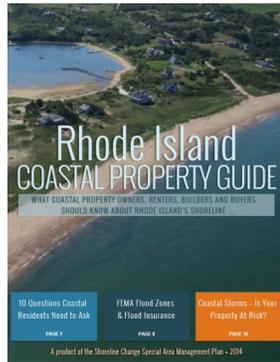


## Coastal Property Guide

This handy guide provides answers and key resources to answer 10 important questions about coastal property in Rhode Island. The guide is useful for both current and prospective coastal property owners.

The Beach SAMP team at URI and CRMC still have Coastal Property Guides in print for officials to hand out to local citizens and businesses.

Contact [beachSAMP@etal.uri.edu](mailto:beachSAMP@etal.uri.edu) for more information.



## MyCoast: A Quick & Powerful Coastal-Incident Reporting

The MyCoast free app for iPhone or Android allows Rhode Islanders to quickly submit photos of coastal events, such as storm damage or nuisance flooding, caused by extreme tides (also called [king tides](#) or moon tides). The app automatically geolocates photos and provides local data on meteorological and tidal conditions. The public can view the photo gallery and reports online. To participate or to view the photos, go to [MyCoast.org](http://MyCoast.org) or contact [CRMC](#), [URI-CRC](#) or [Save The Bay](#).



## Upcoming Events

### Incentivizing Actionable Resilience to Flooding— RIFMA Annual Conference

April 7, 2016. Smithfield, RI. Join us as we focus on actions and implementation programs focused to increase resilience. For more information go to [www.RIFloods.org](http://www.RIFloods.org).

### Keeping History About Water

April 10 –13, 2016; Newport, RI. A focus on the increasing and varied risks posed by sea level rise to historic coastal communities and their built environments. For registration and more information click [here](#).

### Rhode Island Coastal Erosion Control Workshop

April 21, 2016, 8am-3pm. Crowne Plaza, Warwick, RI. Tools, research, and actions to address coastal erosion. Register by email to [Shanon.bragg@eiprescott.com](mailto:Shanon.bragg@eiprescott.com)

### ASFPM training program and webcasts

Keep up to date on the latest mitigation information and programs. Go [here](#) or see [www.floods.org](http://www.floods.org)

### Upcoming Free Training and Webinars:

To register for events (seen on the right) click [here](#) to connect to the Training Center.

Date	Topic
Feb 4, 2016	STARR: NFIP Basics
Feb 16, 2016 & Apr 19, 2016	CRS Webinar Series: Introduction to CRS
Feb 17, 2016 & Apr 20, 2016	CRS Webinar Series: CRS and Higher Regulatory Standards
Feb 18, 2016	STARR: Elevation Certificates
Feb 26, 2016	APA: Adapting Urban Vacant Land to Mitigate Hazards (To register, <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a> )
Mar 3, 2016	STARR: Floodplain Development Permit Review
Mar 3, 2016	STARR: Inspecting Floodplain Development
Mar 15, 2016	CRS Webinar Series: Preparing for a Verification Visit
Mar 16, 2016	CRS Webinar Series: Flood Warning & Response (Activity 610)
Mar 17, 2016	STARR: Using Risk MAP Products in Floodplain Management

### RIFMA Board of Directors

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Visit the RIFMA homepage at [www.riflood.org](http://www.riflood.org)

Keep up to date with RIFMA through our new [Facebook](#) page.

Check out the ASFPM December [Newsletter](#) for updates on mapping, NFIP, winter flooding and new Apps.