

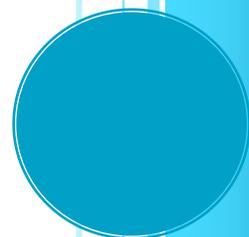
# ASFPM FLOODPLAIN REGULATIONS COMMITTEE STATUS REPORT

*Annual Conference—Grand Rapids, Michigan (2016)*



Lisa Jones and Michael Powell, Co-chairs

5/23/2016



## ASFPM FLOODPLAIN REGULATIONS COMMITTEE STATUS REPORT

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### Introduction and Overview

The [ASFPM Regulations Committee](#) serves as the Association of State Floodplain Managers policy committee on floodplain regulatory, codes and standards. This includes the implementation of these codes and standards, advocating for improved regulations, and tools to improve the enforcement of floodplain regulations.

In support of the ASFPM goals and objectives for 2015/2016, the committee had three broad focus areas. Those areas are 1) develop educational programs and resources focused on implementing more nonstructural measures, 2) improve the science and practice of all aspects of floodproofing, and 3) assist in the broad application of all nonstructural measures. It is the overall objective of this committee to help the nation shift from first reliance on structural measures to first reliance on nonstructural measures.

### 2015/2016 Committee Co-chair Activities

- ICC and hazardous materials (pollutants) – Pollutants, such as asbestos and its subsequent disposal, are excluded from coverage under ICC, and yet they are a factor in triggering substantial damage/improvement. Both co-chairs have been working on this issue as it relates to insurance and regulatory issues.
- Floodproofing certification issues and insurance – The Floodproofing certification insurance rules have changed, requiring submission of construction plans and operation/maintenance plans to FEMA for approval before credit for floodproofing will be recognized for insurance rating. This new requirement has had impacts on flood mitigation activities as owners of properties are confused why they are no longer eligible for floodproofing credit – even when FEMA grants were used to floodproof the building.
- Vent field guide – We need to continue to distribute and if openings do contribute towards reducing damages, then underwriters should be required to use it to verify information contained in the elevation certificate along the lines as the do for verify building diagram numbers.
- Providing technical assistance to and participating in conference calls with to the workgroup established in conjunction with requests by the Florida Association of Floodplain Managers to identify solutions to compliance problems of public restrooms in coastal floodplains.

### 2015/2016 Committee Activities

1. Reviewed draft versions of the Elevation Certificate and Floodproofing Certificate and provided comments to FEMA.
2. Reviewed draft versions of the revised Technical Bulletin on Flood Openings and provided comments to FEMA.

3. Planning of the Floodplain Regulations Committee issues meeting June 20 at the ASFPM conference in 2016.
4. Participating in conference calls with the ASFPM Flood Insurance Committee, FEMA and state floodplain managers to identify strategies for improving utilization of the NFIP Increased Cost of Compliance coverage. Underutilization of the ICC coverage provision is hampering the enforcement of community substantial damage regulations, reducing cost sharing opportunities for federal grants to mitigate flooded properties, and contributing to the damage/rebuild/damage cycle.

## **Future Actions**

Continue to work with FEMA to improve technical bulletins.

Continue efforts to improve ICC effectiveness and implementation.

Review and identify issues related to the National Marine Fisheries Service Biological Opinion in the effects of the NFIP (including FEMA's response, and especially the regulatory recommendations).

Continue working on issues related to the NFIP requirements for certification of floodproofed properties, increasing awareness of the need to incorporate these standards into floodproofing projects and regulations.