



KANSAS

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER



April 2011

Emergency Management Institute

The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) offers affordable courses in floodplain management for people with a variety of experience levels. The EMI is located in Emmitsburg, Maryland, on the same campus as the National Fire Academy. Many Floodplain Managers from Kansas have taken a variety of courses at the EMI. Besides offering independent study courses and state-delivery courses, EMI offers “Managing Floodplain Development Through the NFIP” (course number E273). This is an excellent class for individuals without a lot of floodplain management experience. It is also a good refresher course for those with experience. Individuals with experience can also enroll in advanced level classes on floodplain management, CRS and HAZUS.

Classes at EMI usually begin on a Monday and continue until that Thursday, with travel on Sunday and Friday. To assist students, EMI reimburses for air travel and baggage fees. EMI also has a shuttle bus service to transport class members between the airport and campus on Sunday afternoons and Friday mornings.

While on campus, students stay in individual dormitory rooms at no charge. However, students must purchase a meal ticket that costs about \$100 to eat in the campus cafeteria for the entire week. A bargain? Think about it: EMI students get four days of great training, a free room, and free air transportation. The only expenses are the airport shuttle fee and the charge for the cafeteria meal ticket.

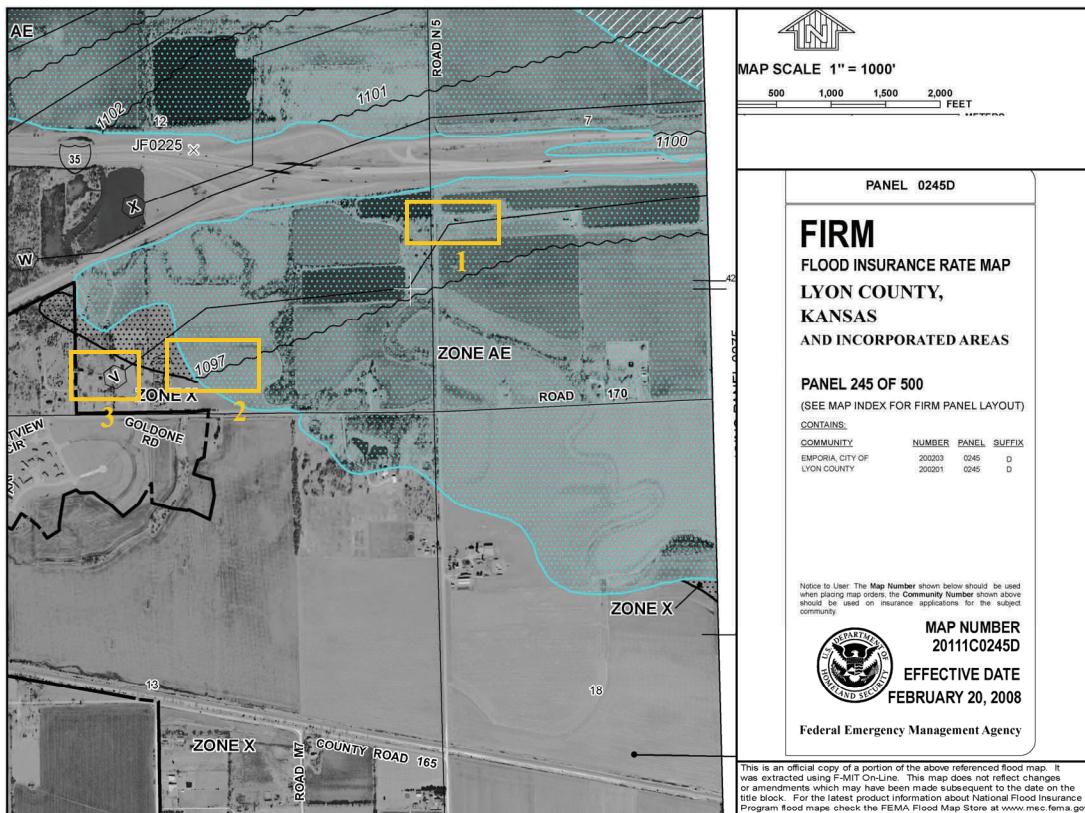
To learn more about the EMI visit <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMI/>. The site includes a schedule of upcoming classes, list of eligibility requirements and application form. If you are considering attending an EMI course, contact the County Emergency Management Coordinator in your local jurisdiction as well as seeking local approval by your governing body or department head. State employees desiring to enroll must first get approval from Paula Phillips at Kansas Division of Emergency Management.

EMI is an excellent opportunity to learn about floodplain management at very little cost. Alicia Benson, Tom Morey and Steve Samuelson have all attended floodplain classes at the EMI. Feel free to contact any member of the floodplain management team for more information or answers to your questions about the EMI.

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Accurate Base Flood Elevations



Failure to use the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) numbers can lead to non compliance. For example, in the above FIRMette, note the small Kansas house near the lake. See its roof inside Box 1. The line for cross section V is almost touching the building. The flood elevation on this FIRMette closest to the building is 1097' as shown in Box 2.

The base flood elevations shown on the flood maps are rounded off to the nearest foot. Because numbers often are rounded down or up, when reading a Flood Insurance Rate Map, use the FIS for an accurate base flood elevation. An FIS is not available for every community.

In this situation, cross section V, Box 3, is practically touching the structure. The floodway data table in the FIS shows that cross section V has a regulatory level of 1097.1. The building was built based on the level shown in Box 2. After the structure was built, it was discovered the building was not in compliance because it was one-tenth of a foot too low.

This is not the only property in Kansas that has been built out of compliance because of a failure to use the FIS. Even though, at times some are fortunate to have numbers rounded up giving properties an extra level of protection, don't rely on oft-used rounding process. Take the time and effort to use the FIS to accurately determine a correct base flood elevation.

Turn Around, Don't Drown



The National Flood Insurance Program is primarily a property insurance and regulation program that makes structures safer through its elevation regulations. Another way to ensure safety is to personally never drive in flood waters.

In 2009, four Kansas drivers drove into flooded roads and died. It's tempting to drive around barricades or try driving on flooded roads deliberately for fun. But not only do these drivers put themselves at risk, they also put the lives of rescue workers at risk. Heed the National Weather Service NOAA/NWS slogan: "Turn Around Don't Drown."™

April showers will bring the rains that will cause flooding and dangerous roads. Drive safe and spread the word about flood safety now. Take advantage of community websites, meetings, mass mailings, newsletters, bulletin boards, garden shows and any other outreach method to share the safety message. Please help the Floodplain Management Team at Division of Water Resources achieve our goal of ending flood related deaths.

Turn Around Don't Drown™ is a trademark of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, used with permission.

Training Opportunities

The Floodplain Management Program is hosting the following training sessions throughout Kansas. If interested in these cost-free training opportunities, please contact Tom Morey at (785) 296-5440 or Steve Samuelson at (785) 296-4622. A training registration form is included in this newsletter.

Basics of the National Flood Insurance Program

This is a course for officials responsible for administering their local floodplain management ordinance. The course focus on the NFIP and concepts of floodplain management, maps and studies, ordinance administration, and the relationship between floodplain management and flood insurance. Approved 3.5 hours toward CFM. Limited to 20 participants.

- Ottawa— April 12, 2011 8:30am-12:30pm
- Wichita—April 21, 2011 8:30am-12:30pm

Elevation Certificates and Letters Of Map Amendment

This class is designed for community officials responsible for administering floodplain management as well as surveyors and engineers who complete LOMA and Elevation Certificate forms. Focus will be on accurate completion of FEMA technical forms, building diagrams, and base flood elevation. Approved 3.5 hours toward CFM. Limited to 20 participants.

- Great Bend – April 14, 2011, 8:30am-12:30pm
- Wellington—April 5, 2011 9:30am-2:00pm with free luncheon by KAFM

Substantial Damage Estimator

This class is intended for community officials who make damage estimations in floodplains. The class will focus on the new SDE software and include exercises in using the new software. Personal laptop computer required for this class. Limited to 20 participants.

- Olathe – May 6, 2011, 8:30am-12:30pm

This newsletter is better by email. With the email newsletter you can click your mouse to go straight to a link. Email also saves postage costs. If you would like to receive this newsletter by email, please contact: alicia.benson@kda.ks.gov

The Division of Water Resources' weekly newsletter "Currents" can be read online at:
<http://www.ksda.gov/dwr/content/314>

Mark your calendar. The Kansas Association for Floodplain Management 2011 conference will be September 7 and 8 in Manhattan. More information can be found at the website www.ekafm.org. Registration should be paid to Jon Bristor, Treasurer, 110 E. 10th Street, Wellington, KS 67152, (620) 326-2207.

Kansas Department of Agriculture
Division of Water Resources
Floodplain Program
Training Registration Form

Name _____

Title _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

Name, date and location of training you will attend _____

*Please share this invitation with anyone else who could benefit from the training.

**Classroom locations will be sent to registered participants one week before the training.

Please mail or fax your registration to:

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
109 SW 9th STREET, 2nd FLOOR
TOPEKA, KS 66612-1283
Fax to:(785) 296-1176

If you have questions about training, please contact Steve Samuelson at
steve.samuelson@kda.ks.gov or (785) 296-4622, or Tom Morey at
tom.morey@kda.ks.gov or (785) 296-5440.

Please help us keep our records current. If the name that appears on this newsletter is for an individual no longer with your organization, please call (785) 296-7769, or send an e-mail to Alicia.benson@kda.ks.gov

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Kansas Department of Agriculture
Division of Water Resources
Floodplain Management
109 SW 9th St 2nd Floor
Topeka, KS 66612-1283

ASFPM 2011 National Conference in Kentucky

The 2011 Association of State Floodplain Managers National Conference will be May 15-20, 2011 in Louisville, KY. This conference is an excellent opportunity for floodplain managers to receive training on mapping technologies, regulations, permitting, outreach, and best practices. More than 1,200 floodplain management professionals and officials are expected to attend this event.

In past years DWR was able to provide financial assistance to community officials in Kansas to attend the ASFPM conference. These funds will not be available in 2011.

KDA/DWR Water Structures Floodplain Program Staff

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