

KANSAS

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

TIPS



April 2017

The Shocking Truth About Floods

There are water restoration companies that come in after a flood or a broken water pipe to clean up and repair the water damage. The manager for one of those companies told us about getting a phone call from a client with a flooded basement. The client was calling to arrange to have the company come out and do the clean up of the flooded basement. The client was on his cell phone and walked down in to the basement as he was speaking. He stepped in to the water in the flooded basement in his bare feet so he wouldn't get his shoes wet. An electrical extension cord in the basement was also under water.

Stories like this one should remind us all of the importance of flood safety and dealing with electricity. Flood waters can conduct electricity. Floods are often caused by rain and storms. Those same storms can knock down power lines. Although flood waters may appear to be shallow, slow moving and safe everyone should stay out of the water.

Newspapers like to run pictures of people riding their swimming pool floats around in flooded streets. It encourages unsafe behavior. Floodwaters can carry bacteria, hazardous chemicals and also electrical hazards. Stay safe by staying out of the water.

There are some key points to keep in mind when dealing with flooded basements in our homes and business.

- Watch out for outlets, switches or electrical appliances in the water.
- The breaker box is often in the basement. Don't go wading through the water to get to the breaker box to turn it off. Call the utility provider and have the electricity shut off at the meter.
- Hire a licensed electrician who understands the safety concerns better than anyone.
- Do not attempt to use electrical appliances while you are standing in the water. This includes power tools and wet vacuums.
- Keep electrical tools and appliances a safe distance from the water. Think about any cords for those electrical appliances that may also get dragged in to the water as you move around.
- Some electrical appliances can be flooded and then dried out and salvaged. Be sure to thoroughly dry out any appliances before you attempt to use them.
- Wear chest waders if you absolutely must go in to the water.
- Use a flashlight instead of touching the electric light switches.
- Have a buddy standing by to call for help if you get in to trouble.

Kansas Flood Safety Awareness Week was March 6-10, 2017. As we go in to the month of April we can expect more rain. That rain could bring flooding. Please spread the word about flood safety and the potential danger of electricity associated with flooding.

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The Association of State Floodplain Managers Conference is Coming

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) will be holding their annual conference in Kansas City, Missouri from April 30 to May 5th. It is within driving distance for many of us here in Kansas. The conference will be in Arizona and Ohio the next two years. The Kansas Association for Floodplain Management (KAFM) is hosting this conference. This may be the best chance for many people in Kansas to ever attend this great conference.

This conference will be attended by over 1,000 people who all have an interest in floodplain management. You'll meet a lot of great people at the conference. Federal agency and small town community officials will both attend and speak. Lots of different perspectives are heard. Engineering companies that do flood studies, companies that make flood barriers and mitigation planners are just some of the many vendors you'll be able to meet. Those who have never attended the conference will find that their eyes will be opened to a great many things they never had thought about before when it came to floodplain management.

It saves money to join ASFPM as a member to get the member discount for the conference. For that reason, almost everyone at the conference also becomes an ASFPM member. ASFPM is a great organization and you should become a member if you can. ASFPM does a lot of great things to advance floodplain management for all of us.

ASFPM created a document called "Flood Mapping for the Nation". This document is a cost analysis to the approach of creating updated flood maps for the entire country. ASFPM is on your side if you are dealing with maps that are not based on good LiDAR or you are still using an older paper map.

ASFPM is a collective voice in Washington, D.C. for all of us involved in floodplain management. As an ASFPM member you can join a committee on any topic you like and become part of that voice. There are committees on mapping, regulations, insurance, flood mitigation, nonstructural floodproofing, higher education, natural and beneficial functions, stormwater management, No adverse impact and training and outreach.

Have you ever applied for a mitigation project for your community? ASFPM successfully lobbied for increased mitigation funding for grant programs such as the Pre Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant. Real dollars coming to our communities to reduce future losses from disasters.

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is up for reauthorization this year. The ASFPM is working with members of Congress to help shape what a 2017 NFIP reauthorization might look like.

Federal Agencies seek guidance from ASFPM on flood related programs, policies and rule making. Read many of those official comment papers on the ASFPM website. As a member you can also contribute.

The ASFPM Flood Science Center has published many papers. Paper topics include the testing of flood barriers, floodplain management training and legal no adverse impact workshops. Find and read more at the ASFPM website.

ASFPM has field deployed the L-273 course called "Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP". It is normally offered in Emmitsburg, Maryland but it came to Kansas through ASFPM. The course was offered recently in Kansas City and Wichita. A lot of the Floodplain Managers from Kansas took one of those courses.

Visit the website www.floods.org to learn more about the ASFPM conference and ASFPM membership. Hope to see you in Kansas City the end of this month.

Permits, Permits and Permits

Certain language is in most floodplain management regulations, community ordinances or resolutions. This language is usually found in a section of the regulations listing the duties and responsibilities of the Floodplain Administrator. Look for the following language in your own regulations:

“Review of all applications for floodplain development permits for proposed development to assure that all necessary permits have been obtained from Federal, State, or local governmental agencies from which prior approval is required by Federal, State, or local law; “

A new development in the floodplain could very well require a permit from the local community, Division of Water Resources and USACE. It is common for one proposed development to have three permits at three levels.

A concern that some community officials have is how they should know what Federal or State permits are required? The email version of this newsletter will have an attachment to it called, “Working in Streams, Rivers, Lakes and Wetlands.” This came from Kansas Department of Health and Environment. This document provides a good background on what permits might be needed under different situations. It also provides contact information for the various permit agencies and a summary of regulations.

Another good place to start is with the Kansas Department of Agriculture’s Division of Water Resources (DWR). Under the Environmental Coordination Act DWR will notify seven other State agencies before approving a permit. Contacting these agencies and allowing them 30 days to comment causes some delay in getting final approval of a DWR permit but it also simplifies the process. An applicant doesn’t have to contact seven other agencies about permits from all of them. This saves a lot of time and confusion for permit applicants and community officials.

The seven agencies that DWR coordinates with are Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks and Tourism, Kansas Biological Survey, Kansas State Historical Society, Kansas Forest Service, Kansas Corporation Commission and State Conservation Commission.

Learn about the different agencies to contact and when to contact them to avoid any potential problems. The contact number for the Water Structures Program at DWR is 785-564-6650.



Training Opportunities

The Floodplain Management Program will host the following training sessions throughout Kansas. If you are interested in any of the no-cost training opportunities, please contact Tom Morey at 785-296-5440 or Steve Samuelson at 785-296-4622. A training registration form is in this newsletter.

Elevation Certificates and Letters of Map Amendment

This free class is designed for community officials responsible for administering floodplain management as well as surveyors and engineers who complete Letters Of Map Amendment (LOMA) and Elevation Certificate forms. The course will focus on accurate completion of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) technical forms, building diagrams and base flood elevation. Approved 3.5 hours toward CFM. Limited to 20 participants. Please read the announcement about the River Boundaries course.

- Dodge City – May 18, 2017 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Post Flood Responsibilities

This free class is intended for community officials responsible for administering floodplain management regulations. The course focuses on what to do during and after a disaster event. Topics include substantial damage, permitting, Increased Cost of Compliance and violations. Allowed 3.5 hours for certified floodplain managers. Limited to 20 participants.

- Lawrence – June 15, 2017 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

River Boundaries and Unnumbered Zone A Determinations

A group of engineers and surveyors has offered to teach a free course to compliment the morning class on elevation certificates in Dodge City. The target audience for this class are surveyors and community officials. This is not a class by instructors from Division of Water Resources and is a unique opportunity for surveyors to get continued education. Students are welcome to attend both the morning and afternoon session or to attend only one session of their choice.

- Dodge City - May 18, 2017 1:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Find more information about floodplain management from Kansas Department of Agriculture
Division of Water Resources on line at:
<http://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/dwr/floodplain>

Email saves money on postage. The electronic newsletter also has links and the photos are in color. If you are getting this newsletter by postal mail and would prefer email please contact Steve Samuelson at steve.samuelson@ks.gov.

Mark your calendar. The Kansas Association for Floodplain Management 2017 conference will be September 6 and 7 in Lawrence. More information will be posted at the website: www.kafm.org. Registration will be done through a link on the website. If you have questions about registration please contact Don Slone, Chairman, at 913-667-1708.

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
6531 SE Forbes Ave., Suite B
TOPEKA, KS 66619
Fax to: 785-296-7155

For questions about training, please contact Steve Samuelson by email at steve.samuelson@ks.gov or by phone 785-296-4622, or contact Tom Morey at tom.morey@ks.gov and 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 785-296-4622, or email steve.samuelson@ks.gov to report the change.

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Kansas Department of Agriculture
Division of Water Resources
Topeka Field Office
Floodplain Management
6531 SE Forbes Ave., Suite B
Topeka, KS 66619

ASFPM 2017 National Conference in Kansas City

The 2017 Association of State Floodplain Managers National Conference will be April 30 to May 5, 2017 in Kansas City, Missouri. This conference is an excellent opportunity for floodplain managers to receive training on mapping technologies, regulations, permitting, outreach and best practices. It is estimated the conference will be attended by more than 1,000 floodplain management professionals. This conference is a great chance to meet people for networking and to learn the latest news in floodplain management. Don't miss out on this opportunity for this conference when it is so close.

KDA/DWR Water Structures Floodplain Program Staff

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