



# FACTSHEET

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SECRETARY

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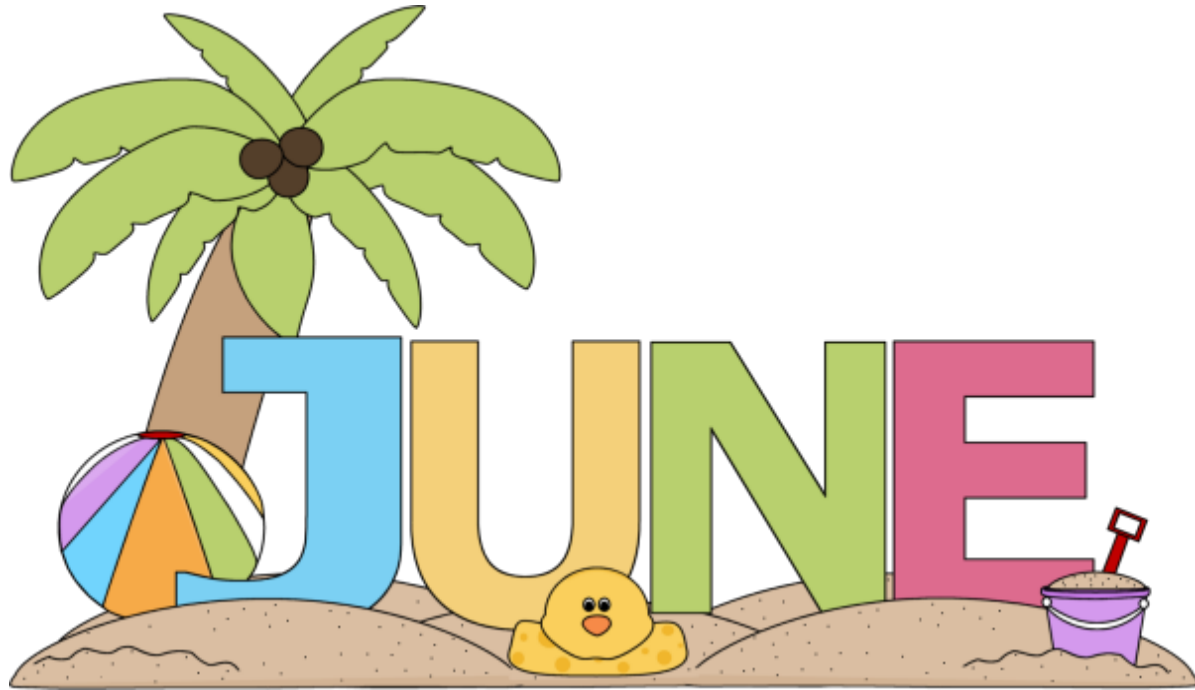
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**Inside this issue:**

Update on FEMA Ending the BRIC Program	1-2
Requirements for Flood Openings in Foundation Walls and Walls of Enclosures	3
Frequently Asked Questions	4-5
FEMA Launches Direct to Customer Flood Insurance Premium Quoting Tool	6
What Should You Do....	7-9
CRS Corner	10
2025 Hurricane Info	11
Survey	12
Contact Information	13

## Update on FEMA Ending the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program

On April 4, FEMA announced that it is ending the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program (BRIC). These actions ensure that grant funding aligns with the President's Executive Orders and Secretary Noem's direction.

As the program is concluding, the Fiscal Year 2024 BRIC funding opportunity is cancelled, no applications submitted will be reviewed and no funds will be awarded.

In addition, for all BRIC applications from Fiscal Years 2020-2023, if grant funds have not been distributed to states, tribes, territories and local communities, funds will be returned either to the Disaster Relief Fund or the U.S. Treasury.

# Update on FEMA Ending the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program (cont.)



The program resulted in a lack of concrete results and a majority of funding being awarded to only a few states.

FEMA is working to develop a new approach to mitigation that is more responsive to state and local requirements, achieves clear mitigation goals, and results in more-timely obligation of funding.

## Outstanding BRIC Projects and Next Steps

FEMA will be reaching out and coordinating with recipients on projects. The agency's website will be updated with a full list of projects selected for funding over the last four years. The status will show what is fully obligated, partially obligated and cancelled.

- Recipients will be able to complete fully obligated projects that have started construction and will be able to expend all associated funds. FEMA will also obligate management costs associated with partially or fully obligated projects.
- Fully obligated projects that have not started construction will not be approved and will end.
- For phased projects, FEMA Regions will work closely with applicants on already obligated projects to determine the best path forward for those projects. This may include ending the project after the completion of Phase 1 or at another appropriate stopping point.
- FEMA will not be extending project deadlines without the Senior Official Performing the Duties of the FEMA Administrator's approval.
- Management costs will only continue for partially or fully obligated projects.

## Unobligated Funds

For previous funding cycles, FEMA will cancel all of the BRIC projects selected but not obligated across fiscal years 2020-2023.

As of April 18, FEMA estimates approximately \$4 billion will remain in the Disaster Relief Fund to assist with disaster response and recovery for communities and survivors. In addition, approximately \$649 million of funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) will be returned to the U.S. Treasury or reappropriated by Congress in the next fiscal year. The 2021 IIJA law made \$1 billion available for BRIC over five years, \$133 million to date has been provided for about 450 applications.

*(Taken from FEMA News, April 22, 2025)*



## Requirements for Flood Openings in Foundation Walls and Walls of Enclosures

Below Elevated Buildings in Special Flood Hazard Areas  
In Accordance with the National Flood Insurance Program

NFIP Technical Bulletin 1 / March 2020



FEMA

## FEMA Tech. Bulletin 1: Requirements for Flood Openings in Foundation Walls and Walls of Enclosures

This Technical Bulletin explains the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requirements for flood openings in foundation walls and walls of enclosures below elevated buildings in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) that are designated as Zone A (A, AE, A1-30, AH, and AO) on Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). The flood opening requirements are intended to equalize hydrostatic forces (loads or pressure caused by standing or slow-moving water) on walls, thus preventing damage to or collapse of the building.

[Download](#)



# Frequently Asked Questions

## You have questions, we have answers.



### Flood Insurance

⇒ *Am I required to buy flood insurance?*

Under federal law, most mortgage holders will be required to purchase flood insurance when they are mapped into a high-risk area.

⇒ *Does my homeowners insurance policy cover flooding?*

No. Flood damage is not typically covered by a homeowners insurance policy. You need a specific policy addition to cover flood damage. Under federal law, most mortgage holders will be required to purchase flood insurance when they are mapped into a high-risk area.

⇒ *Is my property in a flood zone?*

Zoning can be determined by contacting your community Floodplain Administrator or a Certified Floodplain Manager who can easily determine what flood zone your property is in by your address.

### NFIP

⇒ *What happens when a participating NFIP community chooses not to adopt the effective flood map and compliant floodplain management ordinance?*

As part of a community's agreement to participate in the NFIP, they adopt and enforce these ordinances, including flood maps. If communities do not, FEMA will place them on probation or suspension from the program. This is done only after FEMA has provided assistance to the community to help it become compliant. If a community does not pass an ordinance that adopts updated flood maps before they become effective, they will be suspended, which means flood insurance policies cannot be written or renewed. Likewise, federal financial assistance cannot be provided for:

- Post-disaster repair or reconstruction of buildings in an SFHA; or
- Loans for new acquisition or constructions in an SFHA.

⇒ *What is community probation?*

Probation is a FEMA-imposed change in a community's status resulting from violations and deficiencies in the administration and enforcement of NFIP local floodplain management regulations.

⇒ *When can a community be placed on probation?*

A community can be placed on probation 90 days after FEMA gives written notice to community officials of specific deficiencies. Probation is imposed only after FEMA has consulted or tried to consult with the community, and the community has not been able to resolve deficiencies and violations.



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# Frequently Asked Questions

## You have questions, we have answers. (cont...)



### ⇒ *How long will probation last?*

Probation lasts a minimum of one year, even if program deficiencies are corrected and violations are remediated to the maximum extent possible before the end of the one-year period.

If program deficiencies and violations have not been resolved to the maximum extent possible at the end of one year, or if program deficiencies were serious and violations were multiple and substantive and future compliance remains questionable, FEMA may extend the probationary period in one-year increments. Probation may be continued for up to one year after the community corrects all deficiencies and remedies all violations to the maximum extent possible.

### ⇒ *What penalties are imposed when a community is placed on probation?*

A surcharge is added to the premium for each NFIP flood insurance policy sold or renewed in the community. The surcharge is in effect for at least one year after the community's probation period begins. The surcharge is intended to highlight the community's noncompliance to policyholders. This is in an effort to avoid suspension of the community, which has serious adverse impacts on those policyholders. Probation does not affect the availability of flood insurance.

### ⇒ *What is community suspension?*

Suspension of a participating NFIP community occurs when the community fails to adopt adequate floodplain management regulations, including reference to the most current flood map. FEMA may also suspend a participating community when the community fails to enforce its floodplain management regulations, or if it repeals or amends previously compliant floodplain management measures.

FEMA will give written notice of the impending suspension and grant the participating community 30 days to show why it should not be suspended. If the community is suspended following a period of probation, the community is given written notice of the impending suspension and granted 30 days in which to show cause why it should not be suspended. If suspended, NFIP flood insurance policies cannot be written or renewed. Policies in force at the time of suspension, however, continue in force for the policy term.



(Taken from FEMA F-084 / March 2022)



## FEMA Launches Direct to Customer Flood Insurance Premium Quoting Tool



Today, FEMA is announcing it is expanding ways people can access flood insurance products.

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is making it easier to access flood insurance pricing information by launching a Direct to Customer Flood Insurance Quoting Tool. Customers will be able to get a flood insurance policy quote for their property and be provided local and national carrier information to assist them in purchasing their quoted policy.

FEMA is expanding the tools for customers to learn about their flood risk, insurance costs and to close the insurance gap to create a more resilient nation. This effort means customers have a new way to learn about flood insurance and connect with companies that service flood insurance policies.

“I encourage Americans to visit [Floodsmart.gov](https://www.floodsmart.gov) to get a flood insurance quote,” said Cameron Hamilton, Senior Official Performing the Duties of FEMA Administrator. “It’s quick and easy and takes just a few minutes. Insured survivors recover faster. With spring flooding and hurricane season both approaching fast, it’s important to take this first step so you can better protect the life you’ve built.”

“In this country, less than 4% of households have flood insurance, yet 99% of all communities have experienced a flood. FEMA is working to make flood insurance more accessible and promote customer choice with its Direct to Customer (D2C) initiative,” said Elizabeth Asche, Ph.D. the senior executive of the National Flood Insurance program.

“The D2C platform provides customers direct access to a property’s flood risk and the ability to purchase a flood policy from just about anywhere. We believe this new approach will appeal to customers that have never considered a policy before and we’re counting on it to help us narrow the insurance gap.”

Flooding is the most common disaster across America and it is not covered under most homeowner’s insurance policies. Flood insured survivors are more resilient and recover more quickly following a disaster.

On average, 40% of NFIP flood insurance claims occur outside high hazard areas. That’s why it’s important to protect property with flood insurance even if one lives in an area with low-to-moderate flooding risk since it brings peace of mind to homeowners and renters no matter where they live.

FEMA encourages homeowners and renters nationwide to learn more about their unique flood risk by accessing the tool on [Floodsmart.gov](https://www.floodsmart.gov). This service is free and there is no cost to receive a quote.

Over the next year, the NFIP plans to expand the tool so customers will have the option to purchase policies directly through the tool.

Currently, the National Flood Insurance Program provides about \$1.3 trillion in coverage for approximately 4.7 million policyholders in about 22,500 communities across the nation.

To learn what’s covered under an NFIP policy visit [www.floodsmart.gov/whats-covered](https://www.floodsmart.gov/whats-covered).

*(Taken from [fema.gov](https://www.fema.gov), Press Releases, 4/07/2025)*

# What Should You Do Before a Hurricane?

## Make plans to stay safe.



Determine your best protection from high winds and flooding. Have a plan to evacuate and a plan to shelter safely. Take time now to gather the supplies and knowledge you will need when the storm arrives.

### Plan to Evacuate

If advised to evacuate, do so immediately and go to a safe place.

- [Know where you will go](#), how you will get there, and where you will stay.
- Plan well in advance if you will need help leaving or use public transportation.
- Mobile/manufactured/trailer homes and recreational vehicles (RVs) cannot provide safe shelter from tropical-storm or hurricane-force winds.

### Plan to Shelter Safely

- Be ready to live without power, water, gas, phone, and internet for a long time.
- Practice going to a designated safe shelter for high winds. The next best protection is a small, interior, windowless room in a sturdy building on the lowest level that is not likely to flood.
- If you are in an area that is likely to flood, designate a location on higher ground that you can move to before floodwaters reach you.

### Hurricane Preparedness Videos

Learn what steps to take to prepare you and your loved ones for disasters. In English, Spanish, and ASL.

[Disaster Preparedness: Hurricane \(English\)](#)

[Disaster Preparedness: Hurricane \(Spanish\)](#)

[Disaster Preparedness: Hurricane \(American Sign Language\)](#)

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# What Should You Do During a Hurricane?

If ordered to evacuate, leave immediately.



If authorities advise or order you to evacuate, grab your emergency kit and go right away. If you are not in a mandatory evacuation zone, you will need to decide whether to leave the area, move to higher ground nearby, or stay in your home. If you decide to stay home, remember that even if the high winds and floodwaters do not reach your home, you may lose power and water, and you may not be able to leave your home for several days if the roads are impassable.

## Evacuating

- If local authorities advise you to evacuate, go right away.
- Bring your [Go Kit](#).
- Follow evacuation routes and do not try to take shortcuts because they may be blocked.
- Check with local officials for shelter locations. [Download the FREE Red Cross Emergency App](#) to find shelters near you.

## Staying at Home

- Determine your best protection for high winds and flooding.
- Take shelter in a designated storm shelter or an interior room for high winds.
- Stay away from glass windows and doors.
- Move to higher ground before flooding begins.

*Never walk, swim, or try to drive through floodwater.*

**Remember: Turn Around! Don't Drown!**

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# How Can You Stay Safe After a Hurricane?

Don't return home until you're told it's safe.

If you evacuated, don't return home until local officials have declared that it is safe to enter your community and you have the supplies you will need. If your home was damaged by hurricane-force winds or flooding after the storm, it should be carefully inspected and thoroughly cleaned.

## Tips to Stay Healthy

- *When in doubt, throw it out!* Throw out food that got wet or warm. Ask your healthcare provider for guidance if you have refrigerated medicines that got warm.
- Avoid drinking tap water until local officials say it is safe.

## Take Care of Yourself

- It's normal to have a lot of feelings.
- Eat healthy food and get enough sleep to help you deal with stress.
- You can contact the Disaster Distress Helpline for free if you need to talk to someone at 1-800-985-5990 or text "TalkWithUs" to 66746.



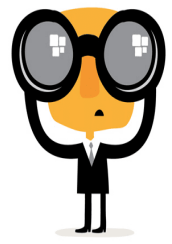
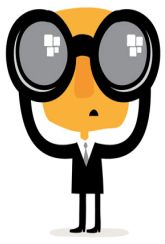
## Safety Basics

- Wait for officials to say it is safe before going back home.
- Avoid damaged or fallen power lines, poles, and downed wires. They can electrocute you.
- Do not touch floodwaters because they may contain sewage, bacteria and chemicals that can make you ill.
- Prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Gasoline, propane, natural gas, or charcoal-burning devices should never be used inside a home, basement, garage, tent, or camper – or even outside near an open window. Carbon monoxide can't be seen or smelled, but it can kill you fast. If you start to feel sick, dizzy, or weak, *get to fresh air right away – do not delay.*

## How to Clean Up Safely

- Wear appropriate protective equipment including gloves, goggles and boots.
- Clean and disinfect everything that got wet.
- When cleaning heavy debris, work with a partner. Make sure that you have proper training before using equipment, such as chainsaws.
- Heart attacks are a leading cause of deaths after a hurricane. Be mindful of overworking.

(Taken from Redcross.org, Hurricane Preparedness)



# Be on the Look Out

**Your Annual Recertification and required documentation is due to ISO by: August 1st**

You should receive your packets by June 15th.

A recertification is a yearly check-in to confirm that your community is performing the annual requirements pursuant to the current "Coordinator's Manual" and "Addendum." This normally includes annual outreach requirements, publicizing and tracking services, preparing progress reports for plans, and records showing proper maintenance of your drainage system. Recertifications take place every year except for the year of your cycle verification visit.

If you do not receive a recertification packet, you can assume you were not required to recertify that year. This happens when you recently went through your cycle verification, are currently going through your cycle verification, or have a cycle verification scheduled for later in the year. Please pay attention to the emails you receive about this.

Direct any questions to the ISO/CRS Resource Specialist who contacts you for your recertification or Construction Certificate review. We now have [four ISO/CRS Resource Specialist](#) responsible for processing annual recertifications and reviewing Construction Certificates. They will be happy to help you.

*(Taken from NFIP/CRS Newsletter, August/September 2024)*

CONGRATULATIONS on your retirement, Susan! Thank you for your 31 years of service and leadership. Your leadership, wisdom, and guidance have been invaluable to all of us. We'll definitely miss having you around. We wish you a relaxing and joyful retirement filled with all the things you love.

~ The Crew





## 2025 Hurricane Info

Atlantic hurricane season is [forecast to be busier than usual in 2025](#) and some of the names you'll see might sound familiar from previous years, but there is one newcomer to note.

Big Picture: Where The Names Come From

- ♦ **Rotating Lists:** Atlantic storm name lists are maintained by a committee of the World Meteorological Organization and are repeated every six years. This year's list, shown below, was last used in 2019 and begins with Andrea.
- ♦ **Names Are Reused, Unless:** The exception is if a hurricane or tropical storm is so destructive and/or deadly that the committee votes to retire use of the name. If that happens, then the name is replaced with a new one of the same letter.

Here is the list of names for the 2025 Atlantic hurricane season:

2025 Atlantic Hurricane Season Names			
Andrea	Gabrielle	Melissa	Tanya
Barry	Humberto	Nestor	Van
Chantal	Imelda	Olga	Wendy
Dexter	Jerry	Pablo	
Erin	Karen	Rebekah	
Fernand	Lorenzo	Sebastien	

*(Taken from weather.com, April 14, 2025)*



As the State Coordination Office between the DHS/FEMA Regional Office and the communities of Louisiana that belong to the National Flood Insurance Program [NFIP], it is our job to provide any guidance or assistance needed to our Louisiana communities in order to assure the NFIP regulations are carried out and violations prevented. In order to better serve you, please take a moment to tell us how we're doing and how we could improve.

Thank you, Susan Veillon, CFM — Pam Lightfoot, CFM — Tatanisha White — Angela Gil — Michelle Brumfield.

### **Customer Satisfaction Survey**

Have you had contact with our office within the last 6 months? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, please check one: Email ☐ Phone ☐ Meeting ☐

(Please circle a number)	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Staff was friendly and courteous	5	4	3	2	1
I was treated with respect	5	4	3	2	1
Staff was knowledgeable	5	4	3	2	1
My questions & concerns were addressed in a timely manner	5	4	3	2	1
The staff provided me with useful information	5	4	3	2	1
I had an overall positive experience dealing with the staff of Floodplain Management	5	4	3	2	1

How could we improve our services?

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PLEASE MAIL completed survey to:

LADOTD Floodplain Management - Section 79  
P.O. Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

OR EMAIL to: [pam.lightfoot@la.gov](mailto:pam.lightfoot@la.gov)





LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION & DEVELOPMENT

Our goal is flood loss reduction . . .

If you or someone you know would like to receive future copies of this newsletter please contact our office:

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From: Susan, Pam, Tatanisha,  
Angela & Michelle

