



# FACTSHEET

Joe Donahue  
SECRETARY

March 2025 Issued quarterly by the Louisiana Dept. of Transportation & Development Floodplain Management Section Volume 25 Number 1

**Staff Contacts:**

Edward Knight, P.E.  
Public Works & Water  
Resources Division

Susan Veillon, CFM  
Manager and Editor-in-Chief

Pam Lightfoot, CFM  
Tatanisha White, Editor  
Angela Gil  
Michelle Brumfield  
Flood Insurance Program  
Coordinators  
(225) 379-3005



## The National Flood Insurance Program Technical Bulletin 2 has been released!

The LOUISIANA FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT FACTSHEET is published through assistance provided by FEMA under the Community Assistance Program State Support Services Element of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The contents do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Federal Government.

FEMA is pleased to announce the release of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Technical Bulletin 2 Flood Damage-Resistant Materials Requirements for Buildings Located in Special Flood Hazard Areas in Accordance with the National Flood Insurance Program (2025). This Technical Bulletin (TB) provides guidance on the NFIP’s requirements on the use of construction materials that are resistant to flood damage in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs).

Since all construction below the base flood elevation (BFE) is susceptible to flooding, the NFIP requires the use of flood damage-resistant structural and finish materials below the BFE in SFHAs. This TB is intended to provide the current guidance on what constitutes materials resistant to flood damage and how and when these materials must be used to improve a building’s ability to withstand flooding. TB 2 is referenced in ASCE/SEI 24-24 Flood Resistant Design and Construction and the 2024 International Building Code (IBC) and International Residential Code (IRC).

The major updates in TB 2 include:

- A brief description of the processes used to identify whether materials are flood damage-resistant, including recently adopted ASTM International 361 standards available to assist in the determination.

| Inside this issue:   |     |
|--|-----|
| The NFIP TB 2 has been released!   | 1-2 |
| Stay Protected During Storms   | 2-3 |
| NFIP/CRS Corner  | 4-6 |
| Welcome  | 6   |
| 2025 Kicks Off with a Bang: Success of the NDEMU/EMI Floodplain Management | 7-8 |
| Save the Date  | 9   |

*(continued on next page)*



## The National Flood Insurance Program Technical Bulletin 2 has been released! (cont'd)


- An updated classification of materials. This version of TB 2 simply rates materials as acceptable or unacceptable for flood damage resistance.
- The flood damage-resistant materials table in the previous TB 2 (2008) has been divided into two tables - one for Structural Materials and another for Finish Materials to make the tables more manageable.

To learn more about the 11 NFIP Technical Bulletins, visit FEMA National Flood Insurance Technical Bulletins





*(Taken from FEMA.gov, Update to the NFIP Technical Bulletins, January 22, 2025)*




## Stay Protected During Storms

*Hurricane Preparedness* weather.gov/hurricane 

# Stay Protected During Storms

-  Stay in your safe places from water & wind
-  Have a way to get weather alerts and forecast updates
-  Keep in mind that impacts can be felt far from the coast
-  Listen to local officials & avoid travel unless ordered to evacuate



*(continued on next page)*

## Stay Protected During Storms (cont'd)



During a storm, whether you've evacuated or are sheltering in place, know what to expect from the hazards you may face. Remain vigilant, stay up-to-date with the latest forecasts and alerts, and continue to listen to local officials.

### **Stay in your safe places from water & wind**

Always keep a safe distance from flooded and damaged areas. When you're at risk from storm surge or flooding, it's important to get to high ground away from bodies of water and any flood-prone areas. Evacuate if told to do so. Never drive through floodwaters or compromised bridges. Always pay attention to barriers and signage.

If your house becomes flooded and you're still there, get higher in your house to escape the flood waters. If the highest floor of your home becomes dangerous, get on the roof and call 911.

Though rain and storm surge cause more direct deaths, wind can also be very destructive and deadly in hurricanes. Winds can be stronger higher above ground level. This can put high-rise buildings at a greater risk. To protect yourself from wind, the best thing you can do is put as many walls as possible between you and the outside. An interior room without windows is the safest place you can be in a building. You can cover yourself with a mattress and wear a helmet for added protection. If your area is under an Extreme Wind Warning, take shelter immediately. Make sure to stay sheltered until the threat is gone.

### **Have a way to get weather alerts and forecast updates**

Make sure to have Wireless Emergency Alerts enabled on your phone to receive Warnings and other alerts. Always pay attention to the latest forecast as conditions can change quickly and storms can rapidly intensify from a tropical storm to a major hurricane. Even small changes in the storm's track can make a big difference.

### **Keep in mind that impacts can be felt far from the coast**

Remain vigilant even if you're far from the most damaging winds. Inland flooding can be felt hundreds of miles from the coast. Never drive through floodwaters! A car can be swept away with only a foot of water, and there's no way to know if the road itself has collapsed when hidden by water.

### **Listen to local officials & avoid travel unless ordered to evacuate**

Local officials can provide you with up-to-date information as the situation changes in your area. Evacuation orders may still be given at this late stage — leave immediately if ordered! Follow recommended evacuation routes — do not take shortcuts, as they may be blocked. Be alert for road hazards such as washed-out roads or bridges and downed power lines. Never drive through floodwaters.

*(Taken from NOAA, March 21, 2023)*



## Is Your Community Due for a 3-year or 5-year Cycle Soon?

### Here are some CRS Class Prerequisite Reminders

If your community is coming up on its 3-year or 5-year cycle verification visit, there are several things that you might be concerned about. “What will I need to provide?” “What will the Community Rating System (CRS) Specialist be looking for?” “How will it affect my community?” “What if I am doing something wrong?”

For starters, your Insurance Services Office (ISO) CRS Specialist is not coming to visit your community to see if you are doing “anything wrong.” They are visiting to see all the things you are doing right, to learn about new activities you are doing and to credit you with the proper CRS classification. Secondly, do not be anxious about the visit. Your CRS Specialist will be there to help you prepare! They can guide you through documentation requirements, provide simple tips to help with organizational issues, and work with you to make it as easy as possible. ISO has new ways for communities to upload documentation, and your CRS Specialist will assist you with this. While the CRS Specialist is there to evaluate your current activities, they are also there to help you progress towards a more comprehensive program.

If your community is due for a visit soon, one very important reminder is to make sure to check the activities that are prerequisites for your classification. For example, it’s unfortunate when a community has enough points to be a Class 6, but doesn’t have a Building Code Effectiveness Rating Schedule (BCEGS®) rating of 5/5 to meet the Class 6 prerequisite. Your CRS Specialist can help identify these concerns as far in advance as possible. In an effort to help all communities, the following is a list of issues to know or look into before your next verification visit:

### All Communities

Contact your Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Regional Flood Insurance Liaison, Gilbert Giron at (940) 383-7253 or [Gilbert.Giron@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Gilbert.Giron@fema.dhs.gov), to request your most recent National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) repetitive loss property data. You may want to do this as much as a year ahead of your cycle visit to give FEMA enough time to respond to your request. From the repetitive loss data, you’ll determine if you’re a Repetitive Loss Category A community (zero repetitive loss properties), Category B (1-49 repetitive loss properties) or Category C (50 or more repetitive loss properties). Your CRS Specialist can tell you what Repetitive Loss Category you were at your last cycle visit.



## NFIP/ CRS Corner (cont...)

### All Repetitive Loss Category C Communities

If you have 50 or more repetitive loss properties (Category C), make sure you either have an acceptable Activity 510 (Floodplain Management Planning) Repetitive Loss Area Analysis or Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) that examines your repetitive loss areas. You will also want to make sure the FMP has an assessment and review of historical damage to buildings, including all repetitive loss properties and all properties that have received flood insurance claims payments. This is usually achieved through your FEMA Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, which shouldn't be more than five years old. Also see Sections 500-507, and 510 of the 2017 [CRS Coordinator's Manual](#).

### Class 9 and Better Communities

New as of 2021, get your Construction Certificate Management Procedures (CCMP) in place. You can use [this template](#) as a model, or you can revise your current written permitting procedures to include all CRS criteria for elevation certificates, etc. Also see page A-10 of the [2021 Addendum to the CRS Coordinator's Manual](#). All CRS communities receive 38 points for CCMP.

### Class 8 and Better Communities

Make sure you have adopted and are enforcing at least 1 foot of freeboard for all residential buildings, new construction, and substantially improved, and/or reconstructed due to substantial damage, including manufactured homes and all associated machinery and equipment, prior to the visit. Although a community may have been enforcing freeboard on machinery and equipment and manufactured homes, it sometimes hasn't been codified. See page A-11 of the Addendum and the [Frequently Asked Questions document](#).

### Class 6 and Better Communities

Ensure you have a current (less than five years old) BCEGS® rating of 5/5 or better. Your CRS Specialist can help you with this.

### Class 4 and Better Communities

Ensure you have a current (less than five years old) BCEGS® rating of 4/4 or better. See Sections 211.c and 432.h of the CRS Coordinator's Manual. In addition, Class 4 and better communities have other prerequisites to meet. Your CRS Specialist can help you understand those, but please check with them well ahead of your visit if you are planning on improving your classification to this level.

### Summary

While the CRS program has a large CRS Coordinator's Manual and the 2021 Addendum, remember that all communities may lean on the CRS Specialists to assist with understanding,



## NFIP/ CRS Corner (cont...)

preparing, and making things simpler. It's important to contact your FEMA Regional Office to request repetitive loss data, and it's never too soon to check your community's class prerequisites.

*(Taken from NFIP/CRS Newsletter, Feb/March 2023)*



# WELCOME!!

The State Coordinating Office of the National Flood Insurance Program would like to introduce and welcome **Michelle Brumfield** to our team.

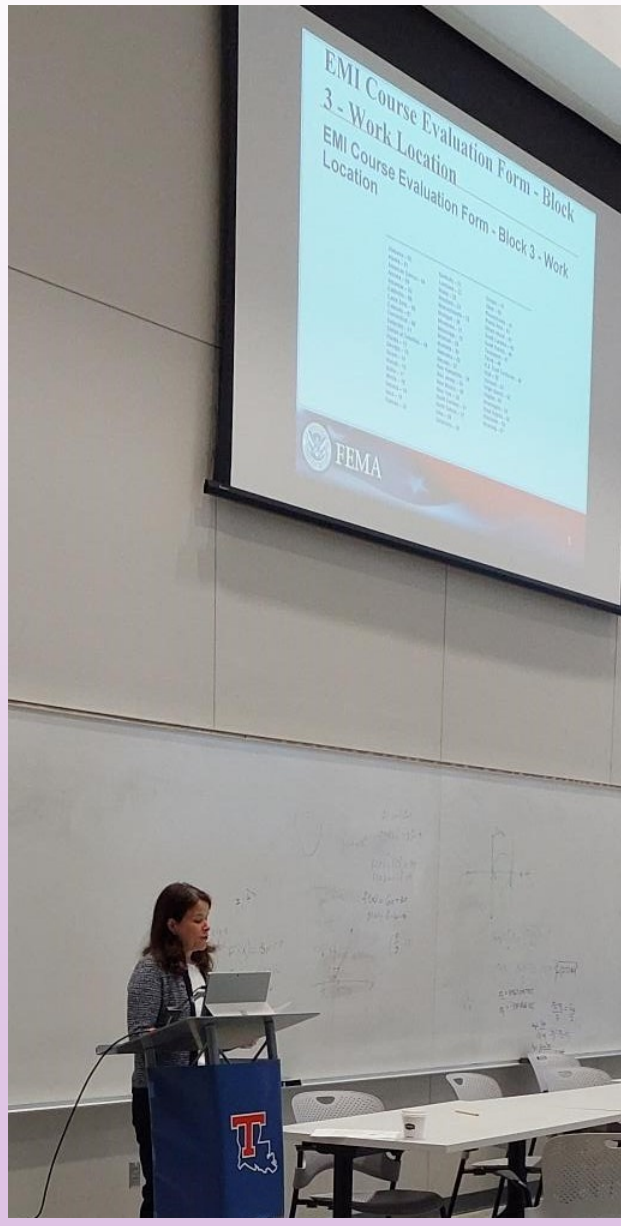




# 2025 Kicks Off with a Bang: Success of the NDEMU/EMI Floodplain Management Course



The year 2025 has already proven to be a remarkable one, as we kicked off the year with the highly successful four-day course, *Managing Floodplain Development Through the National Flood Insurance Program*, hosted by the National Disaster Education and Mitigation Unit (NDEMU) and the Emergency Management Institute (EMI). Held from January 27-30, 2025, the course brought together experts and participants dedicated to improving floodplain management across the nation.



(continued on next page)



## 2025 Kicks Off with a Bang: Success of the NDEMU/EMI Floodplain Management Course (cont'd)



We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our incredible instructors, whose expertise and dedication made this event truly outstanding:

- **Gilbert Giron, CFM, MPA**, Regional Flood Insurance Liaison, FEMA Region VI Mitigation Division
- **Dr. Carol Friedland**, Director of the LaHouse Research and Education Center & Professor of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, Louisiana State University (LSU) AgCenter
- **Dr. Monica Farris**, Assistant Professor & Director of the Center for Hazards Assessment, Response and Technology (CHART), University of New Orleans (UNO)
- **Dr. Rubayet Bin Mostafiz**, Assistant Director (Research) of the LaHouse Research and Education Center & Assistant Professor (Research) of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, Louisiana State University (LSU) AgCenter

We also want to extend a special note of gratitude to **Dr. Elizabeth Matthews**, whose hard work behind the scenes helped ensure smooth arrangements for our accommodations at the College of Engineering & Science facilities at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, Louisiana. Her dedication and effort made the experience seamless for everyone involved.

The event was a fantastic opportunity for professionals in the field to enhance their understanding of floodplain management, exchange ideas, and strengthen their capabilities in mitigating flood-related risks. We look forward to more opportunities like this to come together and create positive change in our communities.





# SAVE THE DATE!

## Registration is Now Open for the 2025 Annual Conference



Join 1,700+ fellow flood risk management professionals at the world's largest and most comprehensive floodplain management conference, May 18-22 in New Orleans and online.

This year marks 20 years since Hurricane Katrina, making New Orleans a fitting place to reflect on past challenges, celebrate resilience, and explore the latest advancements in flood risk management. Our conference theme, "Extraordinary Lessons Below Sea Level: 20 Years of Innovation," sets the stage for insightful discussions, hands-on workshops, and field-tested presentations on mapping, mitigation, climate change, post-disaster recovery, risk communication, and more. We hope to see there! [Register now](#)

## Take Your CFM Exam with Confidence

Interested in becoming a Certified Floodplain Manager, but aren't sure where to start? ASFPM hosts quarterly workshops for those interested in learning more about the CFM program and how to become certified. During the live virtual workshop, you'll gain insights about preparing for the exam and be able to ask questions about getting and maintaining your certification.

Join us on May 1 at 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 pm CT. [Learn more and register](#)





Our goal is flood loss reduction . . .

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION & DEVELOPMENT

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

LA DOTD  
Floodplain Management Section  
1201 Capitol Access Road  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

PHONE: 225-379-3005  
FAX: 225-379-3002  
E-MAIL: [tatanisha.white@la.gov](mailto:tatanisha.white@la.gov)  
WEBSITE: <http://floods.dotd.la.gov>



*From*

*Susan, Pam, Tatanisha,  
Angela, and Michelle*