



Training Opportunities Abound During Spring Flood Season



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On February 12, the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association (OFMA), in conjunction with the Oklahoma Chapter of the American Planning Association, held its seventh annual legislative reception at

the State Capitol. Each year, this event provides an opportunity for Oklahoma's floodplain managers and planners to educate more than 200 members of the State Legislature and their staff on mutual goals related to wise land/floodplain development and the importance of long-range planning. OFMA's primary legislative objective for 2003 is annual mandatory training for local floodplain managers. Of the seven one-day training sessions offered last year, only 63 of the state's 369 floodplain managers took advantage of these very important opportunities to learn about new and constantly evolving rules and regulations and related techniques to reduce community flood risks. I urge all floodplain officials to take advantage of the many educational opportunities offered each year, especially upcoming OWRB-sponsored workshops in May, Flood Awareness Month in Oklahoma. Please review the B.F.E., the bimonthly OFMA newsletter, or the OFMA web site (www.okflood.org) for a training session near you that fits your busy schedule.

Training in 2003 kicks off in high gear at the OFMA Spring Conference workshop on March 11 at the Moore Norman Technology Center. This year's theme is "The Planning Process: Achieving Our Goals." Those attending the full day of OFMA-developed training will earn eight continuing education credits and gain valuable instruction in the flood map revision process. This year's meeting will include more time between sessions to allow Oklahoma's floodplain management officials additional time to share experiences and lessons learned.

A special one-day "Floodplain Management 101" workshop was held February 13 at the Payne County Expo Center east of Stillwater. Thanks to Payne County officials for making this excellent facility available at no cost. Instructors from the OWRB and Federal Emergency Management Agency trained 23 newly appointed floodplain board members and officials who now have the tools to protect property and lives from the ravages of floods.

I want to take this opportunity to hand out a special "thanks" to Janet Meshek, OFMA Chair, for her dedication to floodplain management and the expenditure of much of her spare time as the organization's leader and newsletter editor. Thanks again, Janet.

NFIP Facts for Oklahoma, 2002

- Policies in Force = 14,476
- Total Coverage = \$1,447,127,800
- Loss Payments in FY-02 = \$596,625
- Loss Payments Since 1978 = \$97,472,661
- Total Repetitive Loss Properties = 753
- Repetitive Loss Properties Insured = 252
- Structures in Identified Floodplains = 76,701
- Policies in Identified Floodplains = 9,673
- Percent of SFHA Structures Insured = 12.61%

(Data provided by Federal Emergency Management Agency)

Governor Henry Designates Flood Months

As part of the Water Board's continuing effort to educate the public on how to avoid potential flood disasters, especially during the spring flood period, Governor Brad Henry has designated March 2003 as "Flood Insurance Month" and May 2003 as "Flood Awareness Month" in Oklahoma. During those months, the OWRB, Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association, and others will spread

OWRB Floodplain Management Workshops

May 6, 2003

Midwest City, Community Center
NE Corner of Midwest & Reno
Titan Room

May 8, 2003

Bartlesville, Tri County Technology Center
(Cherokee-Delaware Room)
6101 SE Nowata Road

May 20, 2003

Woodward, High Plains Technology Center
3921 34th Street

May 22, 2003

Lawton, Public Library
110 SW 4th

May 28, 2003

McAlester, Eastern Oklahoma College

the word about the availability of affordable flood insurance, floodplain management techniques and flood safety procedures.

The OWRB is the state coordinating agency for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The NFIP assists Oklahomans by making flood insurance available at affordable rates and helping communities to make wise decisions concerning floodplain management and related land use.

In conjunction with Flood Awareness Month, the OWRB will host five floodplain management workshops throughout Oklahoma.



Especially during this spring flood season in Oklahoma, the OWRB reminds citizens of the dangers of driving into flooded roadways. Almost one-half of flood-related fatalities occur in vehicles.

Oklahoma's Participation in the National Flood Insurance Program

