Community Assistance Visit
A valuable tool in floodplain management

A Community Assistance Visit or CAV, the backbone of FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), is an acronym with which most Floodplain Administrators (FPA) are familiar. Before Map Modernization, before the Community Rating System (CRS), and before No Adverse Impact (NOI), there was the CAV. Some communities welcome a CAV while others dread it. In the 1970s, FEMA enrolled more than 15,000 NFIP communities. Allowing communities to participate in the NFIP made low-cost federally subsidized flood insurance potentially available to anyone. There was one catch, however. Communities must regulate development in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA). In Oklahoma, any time a community receives a new map they are required to adopt it and reference the title and date in the updated ordinance. Most older ordinances have a statement in the ordinance that reads as follows: “…the current map is effective and any revisions thereto.” With guidance from the Attorney General, the OWRB was instructed to remove this language and always adopt the new maps with a new ordinance or regulation. This is very time consuming but something we feel very strongly about at the OWRB. In the 1980s, the CAV represented the only opportunity the OWRB had to discuss floodplain management with local community officials, and that might only happen once every five years. While the CAV remains a valuable tool, many other programs introduced over the years have helped bridge the gap between state and local governments. Oklahoma was the second State in Region VI to require annual accreditation and training with local FPAs. The accreditation program allows us the opportunity to interact with the 403 participating Oklahoma communities at least annually. We hope to continue with that trend and build a relationship that can only aid in our quest to continually improve our floodplain management programs.

"A number of communities are selected and visited annually because of development pressure, flood history, high or repetitive insurance claims, or other NFIP compliance issues."
As the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) State Coordinator, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board partners with other state and federal agencies and local governments to prevent and mitigate the catastrophic effects of flooding disasters in Oklahoma. For more information, go to www.owrb.ok.gov/floodplain or call (405) 530-8800.

**Outreach:**

**OWRB is Here to Help Your Community**

As of this writing, there are 403 Oklahoma municipalities, counties, and tribes participating in the NFIP. From Cimarron County to McCurtain, Ottawa County to Jackson, there are NFIP communities managing floodplain development and making affordable flood insurance available to thousands across the state.

With so much at stake, it is important that the FPAs overseeing these local programs be accredited, and have the training and resources necessary to do the job effectively. Among the OWRB’s 2018 goals are an increase in state-level outreach and presenting new educational opportunities for FPAs.

The OWRB and OFMA have unveiled the new training schedule for 2018, which we are proud to announce will include training opportunities at locations throughout the state including, Oklahoma City, Broken Arrow, McAlester, Clinton, Langley, and a new location in Chickasha.

These workshops are designed to benefit FPAs of all experience and knowledge levels, but they also help the OWRB keep our databases current. We recognize that without good contact information, many of our outreach and accreditation efforts fall short of their goals.

“OWRB has placed language in the model ordinance stating that an FPA shall be designated and that person must be accredited on an annual basis.”

As you may know, legislation was passed in 2004 requiring all participating communities to designate a person to serve as FPA and to administer and implement floodplain regulations. The statute also requires that the FPA be accredited by the OWRB. The OWRB has placed the language in the state model ordinance stating an FPA shall be designated and that that person shall be accredited on an annual basis.

The OWRB maintains an FPA database that is updated after every Floodplain Management 101 and Advanced workshop. From class attendance rosters we know who is yet to be accredited, thus allowing us the opportunity to better inform you of your status by letter, e-mail, or phone call. Not only do you and your community benefit when you enroll in and attend workshops, but the OWRB and OFMA benefit as well.

*Please take the time to review your accreditation status as well as the class schedule and register for training on the OWRB’s Floodplain Management Training page or on OFMA’s website.*

**OFMA Regional Representatives Are Here to Assist You**

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association is a valuable resource for Oklahoma FPAs. Beyond their extensive training course catalog, they are a wealth of knowledge and experience at your fingertips. Have a question or concern about an issue in your community? Ready to become a member? Your regional representative is a great place to look for help.

**Visit okflood.org today for more information!**

**REGION 1:** Lincoln Irving, (405) 242-6277  
**REGION 2:** Joseph Remondini, (918) 361-8636  
**REGION 3:** James Kuykendall, (580) 814-2839  
**REGION 4:** Johnny A. Barron, (580) 481-3518  
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