



NFIP/CRS UPDATE

Special Bulletin October 2011

CRS Changes Unveiled *With Points!*

The ongoing paper, “2012 CRS Coordinator’s Manual Changes,” has just been updated to include final recommendations made by the CRS Task Force at its September meeting. The paper can be downloaded from the home page of <http://www.CRS2012.org>.

CRS communities will be happy to see that this latest version includes points! It will also be apparent that some activities will have more points available under the new *Manual* because they support the directions that FEMA and the Task Force want the CRS to take in the program’s effort to support community resiliency. Some of these are listed below.

- More emphasis will be placed on keeping the floodplain open and free of development (Activity 420—Open Space Preservation). The maximum credit for open space preservation is expected to double from 725 to 1,450 points.
- Protecting natural floodplain functions and incorporating low-impact development approaches into local regulatory standards likewise will be getting more attention (Activity 420—Open Space Preservation and Activity 450—Stormwater Management).
- Prohibiting or restricting filling in the floodplain will receive more attention in the new *Manual* (Activity 430—Higher Regulatory Standards).
- More attention will be paid to protection of human life and safety (all of the 600 Series activities).
- Master planning for better programs is emphasized (Activity 510—Floodplain Management Planning).
- A new activity is devoted to promoting flood insurance (Activity 370—Flood Insurance Promotion).

To balance the total discount and impact on the National Flood Insurance Fund, other activities will have their maximum points reduced. Among those with lower total points available are

- Activity 520—Acquisition and Relocation,
- Activity 530—Flood Protection, and
- Activity 320—Map Information Service.

Activity 620—Levees has been redesigned. Although the total points for the levee activity will be reduced from 900 to 237, only two communities in the CRS today can meet the

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prerequisites and receive the credit. Under the new 620 criteria it is expected that many more communities will be able to obtain credit.

Posted on the website are the comments received from 45 communities and other groups by the August 31 deadline. The Task Force gave these serious consideration in arriving at the final credit points mentioned above.

If you have been monitoring the proposed revisions as they moved through the summer iterations, you will note these major changes from what was proposed in the earlier (July) edition of the “changes” paper:

- No new requirements, including annual recertification requirements, will take effect until the ISO/CRS Specialist reviews them with the community, one-on-one, at its cycle visit.
- The proposal for a Class 9 CRS participation requirement that would require the community to prove that it holds flood insurance on all community-owned buildings in the Special Flood Hazard Area has been eliminated. Instead, the community’s CEO will certify that the community is aware of FEMA’s disaster assistance rule: that is, the amount of disaster assistance that will be available from FEMA after a flood will be reduced by the amount of insurance the community should have held on its buildings.
- The current CRS Class 7 requirement that a community have a BCEGS classification (rating) of 6/6 or better will become a CRS Class 6 requirement for a BCEGS classification of 5/5 or better. This will allow those communities that are “stuck” at CRS Class 8 because they have no BCEGS classification to advance to a CRS Class 7.
- There will be new Class 4 prerequisites related to natural floodplain functions credits and life safety (programs for response to flood warnings and dam and levee failure).
- Although the credit for maintaining elevation certificates in computer format (ECCF) under Activity 310—Elevation Certificates is being dropped, there will be a new credit for having building elevation data stored and available in the community’s GIS system (credited in Activity 440—Flood Data Maintenance).
- There will be more emphasis on developing a local “Program for Public Information,” with additional credit points for coordinating the following activities with the local program: Activity 330—Outreach Projects, Activity 340—Hazard Disclosure, Activity 350—Flood Protection Information, Activity 360—Flood Protection Assistance, and the educational elements of both natural functions open space (under Activity 420) and stream dumping regulations (under Activity 540).
- The 600 series of activities (610—Flood Warning and Response, 620—Levees, and 630—Dams) will be aligned so that their creditable elements are similar:
 - Recognition of a threat from a flood or levee failure or dam failure;
 - Dissemination of warnings;
 - Implementing an emergency response plan; and
 - Coordinating emergency preparedness, warnings, response, and other safety-related activities with owners and operators of critical facilities.

All three will have similar requirements for projects that reach out to the community’s residents and others. These projects are creditable under Activity 330—Outreach Projects.

Sign up for a New Webinar

Hear about points and final changes—Get your Questions Answered

A new series of two-hour webinars will be held in November and December to explain the changes (including credit points) that will take effect with the 2012 edition of the *CRS Coordinator's Manual*. The webinars are free and are open to everyone.

All changes covered in webinars are listed and explained in the October 20, 2011, edition of “2012 CRS Coordinator’s Manual Changes,” which is available at <http://www.crs2012.org>. One Continuing Education Credit (CEC) will be provided by the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) for those CFMs[®] who attend.

You must register at least two days before the webinar you wish to attend. Remember that you need to access the site (at the URL that will be sent to you after you register) five minutes before the starting time. To get complete instructions on registration, click on “Webinar Info” at the 2012 Manual website <http://www.crs2012.org>. If you still have questions, e-mail NFIPCRS@iso.com.

Webinars scheduled so far are listed below. Check the website for later additions.

SCHEDULE FOR WEBINARS on the 2012 CRS COORDINATOR’S MANUAL						
Date (2011)	Sponsor	Subject	Start Time			
			EDT	CDT	MDT	PDT
November 9	Palm Beach County, Florida, CRS Users Group	General overview	10:00	9:00	8:00	7:00
November 10	FAST—Floodplain Awareness Success in Texas (Houston–Galveston Area CRS Users Group)	General overview	2:30	1:30	12:30	11:30
November 14	Nationwide	General overview	1:00	12:00	11:00	10:00
November 15	CRS Committee of the Colorado Association for Stormwater and Floodplain Management	General overview	12:00	11:00	10:00	9:00
November 16	Nationwide	General overview	1:00	12:00	11:00	10:00
November 17	Southwest Florida, CRS Users Group	General overview	3:00	2:00	1:00	12:00
December 13	Nationwide	General overview	11:00	10:00	9:00	8:00
December 15	Nationwide	General overview	2:00	1:00	12:00	11:00

All webinars are 1½–2 hours long. More webinars may be scheduled, depending on demand.

Training Opportunities

CRS Training

Don't forget that the CRS offers "remote" workshops to help communities with their elevation certificate and other requirements. If you are interested in hosting a "webinar" on the FEMA Elevation Certificate or any other activity, contact your ISO/CRS Specialist.

Note the webinars that are being offered to brief communities about the changes coming in the 2012 *Coordinator's Manual*, in the article on page 3.

Emergency Management Institute Courses

FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) conducts courses on floodplain management and other CRS-related topics. These are oriented to local building, zoning, planning, and engineering officials. Tuition is free for state and local government officials and travel stipends are available. Call the training office of your state emergency management agency, see <http://training.fema.gov/>, call EMI at 1-800-238-3358 or (301) 447-1035, or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMICourses/EMICourse.asp>.

- **The Community Rating System (E278)** August 6–9, 2012; September 17–20, 2012

Note that, beginning in February 2012, the CRS course will use the 2012 edition of the *CRS Coordinator's Manual*.

Prerequisite: To enroll in the CRS course, you must be a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) or have completed the National Flood Insurance Program course listed below (E273) or be a full-time floodplain manager with more than 3 years of experience specifically related to floodplain management.

The CRS course is also offered at other sites upon request. Scheduled so far are

North Carolina (FEMA Region IV), October 26–28, 2011, Atlantic Beach, North Carolina (a "short," 2 ½ day course); contact John Gerber, (919) 715-5711 x106 or jgerber@ncem.org.

- **Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts I (E194)** February 13–16, 2012

- **Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts II (E282)** December 12–15, 2011

- **Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP (E273)** October 31—November 3, 2011; March 19–22, 2012

E273 is also field deployed periodically. Contact your State NFIP Coordinator for more information. Find your State Coordinator at <http://www.floods.org/index.asp?menuID=274>.

- Under Section 431.n, Staffing (STF) of the *CRS Coordinator's Manual*, five points are provided for each member of a community's floodplain permit staff who graduates from courses E194, E273, E278, E282, E284, or E386 (up to 25 points). Graduating from E279 is worth five points under Activity 360—Flood Protection Assistance.