



Maps as Cornerstones of Flood Warning and Response

— A Handout for the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System —

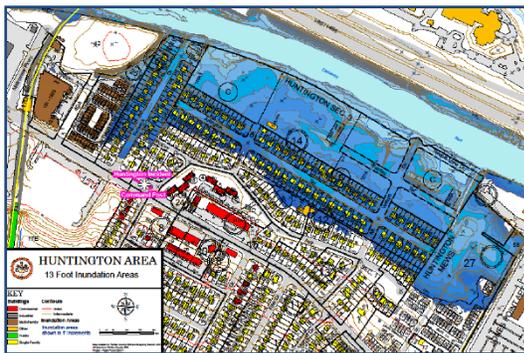
The 600 series of activities within the Community Rating System (CRS) relies on linkages between a community's emergency management mission and its floodplain management program. These credited activities focus on life safety, particularly flood warning programs, and can result in additional CRS discounts for your citizens. Activity 610 (Flood Warning and Response) forms the building block of the 600 series because, to receive CRS credit, a community must have these basic emergency management services.

The Cornerstones of Activity 610

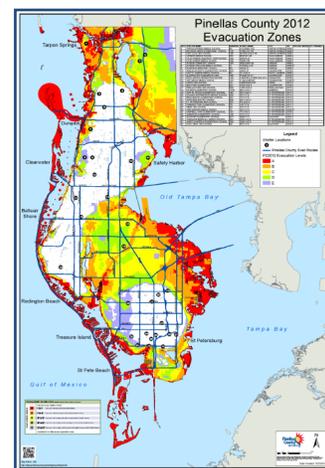
The community **MUST** have a flood warning and response program that correlates its flood threat recognition system, flood inundation map(s), and its adopted flood warning response plan. This CRS requirement is a basic component of any local emergency management program. Documentation of your program for CRS credit must include a copy of the flood inundation map, flood stage forecast map, or storm surge map (showing multiple levels of inundation) that depicts your community's flood threat. Such maps are used for multiple planning purposes by emergency management and must be addressed in the adopted flood warning response plan, comprehensive emergency management plan, or emergency operations plan. These documents are logically tied into whatever flood threat recognition system your community uses to provide early notice of a flood, such as river gages, ALERT (automated local evaluation in real time) systems, tidal gages, SLOSH (sea, lake, and overland surges from hurricanes) modeling, and others.

Maps of riverine flood threats and coastal storm surge zones are based upon different formats and processes, but both show the areas threatened by flooding. Examples of both are depicted below.

The adopted flood response plan (by whatever name) must discuss the actions taken by the community at each level of inundation shown on the map referenced in the plan. In large counties, there may not be detailed mapping and flood warning planning for the entire Special Flood Hazard Area. In such cases, some counties designate the entire area subject to the 1% chance flood as the initial area to be notified by the emergency alert system or other flood alerts, and have detailed multilayered flood levels only in the populated areas (as shown in the riverine flood inundation map below). A flood threat recognition system and flood response plan designed and implemented under such a scenario can be considered a CRS-creditable flood warning and response system.



A flood inundation map for a riverine area



A SLOSH-generated evacuation map