



NFIP/CRS UPDATE

June/July 2020

The 2021 Addendum to the 2017 CRS Coordinator's Manual

As discussed in previous *NFIP/CRS Update* newsletters, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) plans to issue a 2021 Addendum to the 2017 *CRS Coordinator's Manual*, to be effective January 2021. The Addendum will be used by communities in conjunction with the current *Coordinator's Manual*, and will serve as a “bridge” between the existing guidance materials and the more comprehensive update that is anticipated to be needed as FEMA continues to implement the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) transformation.

The 2021 Addendum will include two new prerequisite requirements, several new credit opportunities, and some updates and modifications aimed at simplifying credit and reporting requirements. Previous newsletters focused on the forthcoming Class 8 freeboard prerequisite and this newsletter highlights the changes to the Class 9 prerequisite for Elevation Certificates and changes to Activity 310 (Elevation Certificates). More information and guidance will be provided for the new credit opportunities in coming months. Beginning in September, the Community Rating System (CRS) Webinar Series will focus on the 2021 Addendum and new credit opportunities. [Click here to view the webinar schedule and register for a webinar.](#) ≡≡≡

The New Class 8 Freeboard Prerequisite

A new Class 8 prerequisite will be included in the 2021 Addendum that will require communities to adopt and enforce at least a 1-foot freeboard requirement (including equipment or mechanical items) for all residential buildings constructed, substantially improved, and/or reconstructed due to substantial damage, throughout its Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) where base flood elevations have been determined. Communities will need to be enforcing the freeboard prerequisite by the first CRS verification cycle visit after January 1, 2021. See [Frequently Asked Questions on the Class 8 Freeboard Prerequisite](#).

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Changes to Activity 310 in the 2021 Addendum—Class 9 Prerequisite & More

Through the 2021 Addendum to the 2017 *CRS Coordinator's Manual*, the CRS will be changing the Class 9 prerequisite for FEMA Elevation Certificates, and changing credit in Activity 310 (Elevation Certificates). The changes to the prerequisite and Activity 310 are to clarify and simplify the CRS requirements for communities related to Elevation Certificates.

The CRS has always required communities to collect and maintain Elevation Certificates as a Class 9 prerequisite. Details of what must be correct on them and information about other required construction certificates has traditionally been included under Activity 310. The requirement of 90% accuracy for all Elevation Certificates collected by the community since its last verification cycle visit was established with the 2013 *CRS Coordinator's Manual* and explained in Activity 310. With the 2021 Addendum, the Class 9 prerequisites will explicitly include the 90% accuracy threshold to assist new and participating CRS communities understand the program requirements.

In the 2021 Addendum, other Class 9 prerequisites will be unchanged. Section 211(3) of the 2017 *Coordinator's Manual* is expected to be revised to read:

The community must

- (a) Maintain FEMA Elevation Certificates and other floodplain construction-related certificates on all new buildings, substantially improved buildings, and buildings reconstructed due to substantial damage in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) after the community applies for CRS credit.
- (b) Achieve 90% accuracy on its Elevation Certificates and other floodplain construction-related certificates during its annual review.
- (c) Receive credit for construction certificate management procedures (CCMP) under Activity 310 (Elevation Certificates).

For item (a), when the CRS has said “Elevation Certificates,” it has historically meant to capture the Floodproofing Certificates, V Zone Certificates, and Engineered Opening Certificates, discussed under Activity 310. To help ensure that communities are aware of other certificate requirements, the CRS will more frequently use the term “floodplain construction-related certificates” or “construction certificates.” Item (a) also clarifies that communities must provide Elevation Certificates and other certificates for the reconstructed, substantially-damaged buildings in the SFHA.

In item (b), the required 90% accuracy is not changed, but in 2021 communities will provide construction certificates (Elevation Certificates, Floodproofing Certificates, and Engineered Opening Certificates) to Insurance Services Office (ISO) only at their annual recertifications. Communities will no longer provide all Elevation Certificates since the last cycle visit at its next cycle visit. In other words, Elevation Certificates will be submitted and reviewed annually, and not resubmitted at cycle time, as they are today.

Item (c) creates a new CRS element under Activity 310 for construction certificate management procedures. All CRS communities will be required to develop a construction certificate management procedure as part of the Class 9 prerequisite. The construction certificate management procedures

will be required at the verification cycle visit and all communities will receive 38 points. Credit for element EC—Elevation Certificates under Activity 310 will be retired with the 2021 Addendum. The Addendum will provide details of what must be included in the construction certificate management procedures. At a minimum the written procedures will need to include how a community requires, reviews, and corrects certificates, plus how a community stores and makes all certificates available to the public. Many communities already have construction certificate management procedures developed, and the CRS will provide additional guidance on developing construction certificate management procedures in the coming months.

Changes are also coming to the way Elevation Certificates and construction certificates are handled in the CRS starting January 1 with the 2021 Addendum. When SFHA permit lists and all Elevation Certificates and construction certificates are submitted at annual recertification, they will no longer receive a courtesy review, nor will they be scored for CRS credit. Instead they will be reviewed for 90% accuracy. Communities will be given two chances to meet this requirement. That is, a first review of all certificates by the CRS Resource Specialist, and one opportunity for the community to make all corrections. The 90% accuracy must be met at the second review for continued participation in the program. The CRS has always stressed reviewing construction certificates and correcting them immediately and this remains important. If you need to change internal procedures to correct final construction certificates as they are submitted, please start doing so now. Post-FIRM Elevation Certificates (element ECPO) and Pre-FIRM Elevation Certificates (element ECPR) criteria and credit in Activity 310 will not change.

Under Activity 310, credit for ECPO and ECPR will not change.

The benefit to these changes is that after January 1, 2021, communities will no longer “resubmit” Elevation Certificates at the verification cycle visit that were previously submitted at recertification, which significantly reduces the required cycle visit documentation.

In upcoming newsletters, we will provide more information about these changes. The important thing to know right now is that the community must meet the 90% threshold annually. Review our [training calendar for webinar dates and times](#). We recently posted a 25-minute video on our [Training & Videos page](#) called “CRS Activity 310 Changes for 2021.” If you have any questions, please contact your [CRS Resource Specialist](#). ≡≡≡

Applying the Repetitive Loss Allowance for Increased Cost of Compliance Coverage

Most CRS communities know that when a building is covered by a standard flood insurance policy under the NFIP, Increase Cost of Compliance (ICC) coverage is provided for the payment of a claim for the cost to comply with state or community floodplain management laws or ordinances after a direct loss by flood. ICC will help pay up to \$30,000 for the cost to elevate, floodproof, demolish, or relocate the building. What many may not know is “cost to comply” can apply to substantial damage and repetitive loss. The key is what is stated in the state or community floodplain management law or ordinance.

All NFIP communities include, at a minimum, an NFIP definition of substantial damage that says “damage of any origin sustained by a building whereby the cost of restoring the building to its before-damage condition would equal or exceed 50% of the market value of the building before the damage occurred” in the local floodplain ordinance or other code. When the local ordinance or code has language that includes repetitive loss or cumulative substantial improvement, then an ICC benefit can be provided sooner to help policyholders take mitigation steps. In other words, a policyholder doesn't have to wait for a single event substantial damage, or substantial improvement.

NFIP Definition of Repetitive Loss

The NFIP definition of a repetitive loss property is, “...any insurable building for which two or more claims of more than \$1,000 were paid by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) within any rolling 10-year period, since 1978. At least two of the claims must be more than 10 days apart but within 10 years of each other. A repetitive loss property may or may not be currently insured by the NFIP.”

A CRS community that has credit for cumulative substantial improvement requirements (element credit under Activity 430 (Higher Regulatory Standards), may already have made the tie to repetitive loss and ICC benefits.

The CRS Class 9 prerequisite requires any community that has one or more repetitive loss properties to take certain actions to address its repetitive losses. The CRS defines repetitive loss categories in Section 500 of the [Coordinator's Manual](#). To determine which repetitive loss category a community is in, the CRS uses the NFIP repetitive loss list.

The goals of the CRS include reducing flood losses and supporting the insurance aspects of the NFIP. Addressing repetitive loss furthers these goals and leads to more flood-resilient communities. A community with a repetitive loss ordinance in place could trigger an ICC claim payment due to repetitive loss. Taking advantage of the ICC allowance for “repetitively damaged” buildings is a way to combine the mitigation of repetitive loss buildings with NFIP flood insurance benefits. The ICC claim payment provided to the policyholder must be used toward the costs of undertaking a mitigation measure that will substantially reduce or eliminate the flood risk to flood-damaged buildings insured under the NFIP.

Learn more in this [Increased Cost of Compliance \(ICC\) Coverage: Guidance for State and Local Officials](#) publication, or go to the CRS Resources website to learn more about [Activity 430 \(Higher Regulatory Standards\) and ICC](#). The CRS is preparing a handout, “Increased Cost of Compliance Coverage and the CRS,” that will offer ordinance options and more information. We will announce its publication in an upcoming newsletter. ≡≡≡

Updates on CRS Training

The CRS Webinar Series is back! Please visit the [Training & Videos](#) page of the CRS Resources website for updates to the schedule. The July CRS course (E0278) at the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) was cancelled. The (4-day) field-deployed CRS courses and 2-day CRS courses are being rescheduled, as needed. See Training Opportunities on page 11. ≡≡≡

New Process for Repetitive Loss Data

As many CRS Coordinators, floodplain managers, and other CRS enthusiasts know, FEMA's protocols for repetitive loss data are changing. ISO will no longer distribute NFIP repetitive loss data to CRS communities. All communities must request repetitive loss data (repetitive loss lists) directly from the FEMA Regional Office.

As described in Section 501.b of the *Coordinator's Manual*, a community currently due for a CRS verification cycle visit will need a current repetitive loss property list, and new communities applying for CRS entry also will need a current list.

Before repetitive loss data can be provided by the FEMA Regional Office, communities must have an Information Sharing and Access Agreement (ISAA) in place with FEMA. The ISAA is a written form that must be fully executed before FEMA may release any NFIP data to the community. A fully executed ISAA is valid for three years, and multiple data requests may be made under the ISAA.

- To begin the process of obtaining repetitive loss data, a community should coordinate with its FEMA Regional individuals (see below) and request a blank ISAA or template.
- The ISAA form requests basic community information, but a community's legal team should be prepared to review the form as well.
- The community's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) will need to fill out the ISAA, and it is then to be returned to the FEMA Regional CRS Coordinator.
- The FEMA Regional Office will route the form to FEMA headquarters for review and approval processing.
- FEMA headquarters will return the form to the Regional Office indicating any revisions necessary or indicating it is approved. If the ISAA is approved, then it is returned to the community's CEO for final signature.
- Once signed by the community official, the CEO will send the final signed copy to the FEMA Regional Coordinator for final routing and processing by FEMA headquarters.
- Once complete, FEMA headquarters will return the FEMA final processed document to the Regional Coordinator. The Regional Coordinator will then provide the document back to the community's CEO.
- Upon receiving the executed ISAA, a community may request repetitive loss data from the FEMA Regional CRS Coordinator.

When requesting repetitive loss data, it is important to know there are two different definitions for repetitive loss used by FEMA—the original definition under the NFIP and the definition created by the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 that is used for grants and planning (see next article). The CRS uses the original NFIP definition, and communities should be sure that repetitive loss data are requested using the NFIP definition. To help ensure the correct data are being provided, a community should let its ISO/CRS Specialist know it will be requesting data for CRS purposes. The ISO/CRS Specialist will help by providing a transmittal sheet to submit to FEMA that clarifies which data set is being requested. This important step ensures a community will receive the appropriate repetitive loss list.

Below are the FEMA Regional individuals to contact to request an ISAA.

I	Molly Kaput	Molly.Kaput@fema.dhs.gov
II	Marianne Luhrs	Marianne.Luhrs@fema.dhs.gov
III	Richard Sobota	Richard.Sobota@fema.dhs.gov
IV	Victor Geer	Victor.Geer@fema.dhs.gov
V	James Sink	James.Sink@fema.dhs.gov
VI	John Bowman	JohnE.Bowman@fema.dhs.gov
VII	Chris Parsons	Christopher.Parsons@fema.dhs.gov
VIII	Marijo Brady	Marijo.Brady@fema.dhs.gov
IX	Edie Lohmann	Edith.Lohmann@fema.dhs.gov
X	Scott Van Hoff	Scott.VanHoff@fema.dhs.gov

Corrections to the Repetitive Loss Update Worksheet

To accompany the new process for obtaining repetitive loss data for your community, FEMA also has a new process in place for submitting any corrections you need to make to your community's repetitive loss list using the AW-501.

Historically, CRS communities submitted to ISO corrections to their repetitive loss properties, such as duplicate listings, address corrections, verified mitigation efforts, and incorrect community identification numbers. ISO is no longer processing these corrections, as FEMA has brought this task in house. All corrections are now to be sent directly to FEMA at [NFIPUnderwriting Mailbox@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:NFIPUnderwritingMailbox@fema.dhs.gov). Below is guidance as outlined in the *Flood Insurance Manual*. Documentation required to correct or update a property's prior loss information includes but is not limited to the following:

Invalid Loss History Association—Documentation that shows

- Incorrectly linked addresses and/or losses; or
- A second address added to a Property Locator Record.

Property Value Updates—The property value is based on market value, which must be shown on one of the following documents:

- Property tax assessment; or
- Property appraisal.

Mitigation Action

- Elevation Certificate based on finished construction of the new or improved building;
- Color photographs of the building before the improvement;
- Color photographs of the building after the improvement;

- Photographs of the flood vents/openings (if applicable);
- Source of funding for the mitigation action (state, local, or individual);
- Demolition permit (if the building was demolished and rebuilt);
- Building permit (if the building was elevated or rebuilt); and
- In Zone B, C, or X, a signed statement from a community official that shows mitigation was approved by the community.

Required documents should be mailed to NFIP Bureau and Statistical Agent, Attn: Underwriting, 8400 Corporate Drive, Suite 350, Hyattsville, Maryland 20785, or sent via email to NFIPUnderwritingMailbox@fema.dhs.gov. ≡≡≡

Resources to Promote Flood Insurance

In keeping with FEMA’s goal of doubling flood insurance nationwide by the year 2022, the CRS is encouraging participating communities to strengthen their outreach efforts in helping residents understand how flood insurance can help protect them from economic losses and recover more quickly. Below are excellent resources to earn credit under CRS Activity 330 (Outreach Projects) and Activity 370 (Flood Insurance Promotion). Learn more and [find additional resources here](#).



Your community can draw upon these resources to supplement its public information activities or start new ones—and perhaps earn CRS credit as well.

- The [FloodSmart website](#) and its [Agents page](#) have an array of materials targeted toward consumers and insurance specialists.
- [NFIP Claims Handbook](#) (FEMA F-687) guides policyholders in filing claims for flood damage.
- There are free materials available from [FEMA’s media library](#). ≡≡≡

Keep Your Contact Information Current

If there are any staff changes (i.e., a new CRS Coordinator) or contact information updates in your community, please let your ISO/CRS Specialist know so we can update our files. If we cannot get in touch with the right person at cycle or recertification time, it creates unnecessary delays and difficulty with maintaining your classification. ≡≡≡

Success with CRS

A snapshot of the numerous floodplain management and CRS activities being carried out in Gloucester County, Virginia. For more details, see the [Gloucester County's website](#). For more stories, see the [Success with CRS website](#).

CRS Helps Pull it All Together for Gloucester County, Virginia

“The Community Rating System serves us as a comprehensive program aid,” said Paul Koll, Building Code and Floodplain Management Official for Gloucester County, Virginia. “Because it is point driven, it helps us stay focused on the tasks we want to undertake and we can see results. This is critical when you are trying to pull a lot of activities together and trying to get local officials to understand what you are doing.”

The infographic is a yellow-bordered document with several sections. At the top left, a blue banner reads 'Take Shelter' next to a house icon with a family inside. Below this, text explains that sheltering in place means taking immediate shelter where you are - at home, work, school or in between. It also means 'seal the room.' In other words, take steps to prevent outside air from coming in. It is important to listen to TV or radio to understand whether the authorities wish you to remain indoors or take additional steps to protect yourself and your family. For more information about sheltering in place, please visit www.ready.gov/shelter.

Below the 'Take Shelter' section are two boxes. The first is titled 'Public Disaster Sheltering' and lists: if you can, seek shelter with friends or relatives; public shelter space is limited and very basic; contact local hotels and motels outside the immediate disaster area; evacuation shelters provide basic food and water; bring clothing, bedding, bathing and sanitary supplies, special food and pre-filled prescriptions, medications and entertainment items; alcoholic beverages, firearms and illegal substances are not allowed in emergency shelters; take your Disaster Supply Kit with you; cooperate with shelter managers; and remember, shelter sites change based on the emergency so stay tuned to the local news for opening announcements. The second box is titled 'How Do I Know I Need to Shelter in Place?' and lists: a CodeRED notification, sometimes called an 'All Call' or 'Reverse 911'; emergency alert system broadcasts on radio or television; news media sources such as radio and television; NOAA Weather Radio alerts; and residential route messages announced to neighborhoods from vehicles equipped with public address systems.

At the top right, a blue banner reads 'Protect the Floodplain' next to a house icon. Below this, a section titled 'Maintain Your Drainage:' lists: check ditches and remove debris or obstructions; remove loose objects and debris from the roof; check for long-term standing water in gutters and correct any blockages; keep trees trimmed and away from the roof; and ensure downspouts funnel water away from the building and do not allow water to accumulate near the perimeter. To the right of this is a section titled 'Gloucester County contains valuable natural resources including:' which lists: Wetlands, Rivers, Beaches, Streams, Forests, and Plants and animals that inhabit them. It also lists programs: Mitigation Open Space Plan, Chesapeake Bay Preservation, Erosion and Sediment Control, Wetlands Protection, and Floodplain Management Plan. Below this is a small image of a bird and text stating: 'To help preserve and protect these valuable resource areas Gloucester County has adopted the following locally administered programs: Always check with the Gloucester County Building Inspection Office (603-2744) before you build on, clear, grade or fill your property. All floodplain development requires a permit. For questions about Resource Protection Areas (RPA), please call 804-693-1217.'

At the bottom right, a blue banner reads 'Be Safe in a Flood' next to a yellow diamond sign that says 'WHEN FLOODED TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN'. Below this is a section titled 'Flood Safety Tips:' which lists: do not walk through flowing water; do not drive through flooded areas; and evacuate the flood hazard area.

Gloucester County lies along the lower Chesapeake Bay, bounded on the southwest by the York River. About one-quarter of its 288-square-mile jurisdiction is water—streams, creeks, and coastal wetlands. The county faces coastal and riverine flooding, tropical storms, hurricanes, and flash floods from intense thunderstorms.

At the time this story was published on the [“Success with CRS” website](#) a couple years ago, the unincorporated county had 1,700 NFIP policies in force for more than \$1.4 million in annual premiums. As of April 2020, the county has been a CRS Class 6, with a current premium discount of 20%. This is a huge selling point to the citizens and county officials. As insurance premiums rise, the CRS discount becomes more and more valuable. Koll said, “As a plus, as we reduce flood losses, we also reduce the county’s expenses for emergency response simply because fewer responses are needed.”

Environmental Protection

“The CRS has been very helpful in getting our citizens and our environment together,” he said. The state’s Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act of 1988 requires tidewater counties to take steps to plan for and manage the “adverse environmental effects of growth and development” on the sensitive areas along the Bay and waterways. This has included establishing and managing special resource protection areas, controlling erosion and sediment, and protecting water quality. “Doing what the state of

Virginia requires us to do as part of that Act helps us to focus on the CRS as well, because when we document those things we earn CRS credit for protecting natural functions,” said Koll.

Higher Regulatory Standards

When Gloucester County joined the CRS back in 1995, it had in place only minimum NFIP standards for floodplain management. Since then, several standards have been added that receive CRS credit because they go beyond the minimum requirements and therefore further reduce potential losses. These have included a 2-foot freeboard standard and protecting critical facilities.

The Virginia Building and Code Officials Association, of which Koll is a member, helped develop Virginia’s statewide building code. Koll said, “In the last two code revisions, we were able incorporate a 1-foot freeboard standard for VE Zones. In the 2015 revision of the codes—yet to be adopted—we got an ‘Area of Limited to Moderate Wave Action (LiMWA)’ added to our Flood Insurance Rate Maps.” It will require that V-Zone construction standards be applied to development in what were previously coastal A Zones. The county gets an “automatic” higher standard, and accompanying CRS credit—just by adopting and enforcing the uniform building code.

Outreach

According to Koll, a big part of Gloucester County’s success in the CRS and in floodplain management has been getting timely and accurate information out to the citizens. “It’s important to not only get support from the Board of Supervisors, but from the citizens as well,” he said.

Gloucester County has an active Floodplain Management Planning Committee with representatives of insurance agents, real estate agents, floodplain residents, emergency management, zoning, and parks and recreation. The Floodplain Committee realizes how important it is to get the information out and make sure that everyone knows what it means to build and live in a floodplain.

The Floodplain Committee reports to the Board of Supervisors at designated intervals. The committee conducts workshops and makes floodplain management presentations to professional groups. The committee’s outreach program also includes a quarterly newsletter, mailings to every county resident, and a PowerPoint presentation aired on a cable network several times a year. “We have a thorough and easy-to-access emergency services and floodplain management website,” said Koll.

When the CRS Program for Public Information (PPI) credit option became available, the Floodplain Committee created a PPI subcommittee to enhance the county’s outreach initiatives. In developing the PPI, more citizens were brought into the outreach program. “The participation of stakeholders has been a huge factor in our outreach success,” Koll said. “They helped us develop the language for the messages in the PPI.”

CRS Users Group

Gloucester County helped to set up a 12-county regional CRS User Group, made up of CRS and non-CRS counties and communities. “By meeting regularly, we get to pass on and share information about our CRS and floodplain management programs,” said Koll. This group “has been one of the best things we’ve done. The CRS has helped us bring all of these things together. Everyone gains from it.” ≡≡≡

Remember Your Recertification Schedule

The table (below) is another reminder of when your annual recertification is due. Each quarter, communities are notified 45 days ahead of the deadline and given the recertification packet to sign and return. If you do not receive a recertification packet, you can assume you were not required to recertify that year. This happens when you recently went through your cycle verification, are currently going through your cycle verification, or have a cycle verification scheduled for later in the year. Please pay attention to the emails you receive about this.

Direct any questions to the CRS Resource Specialist that contacts you for your recertification or Elevation Certificate review. We now have three CRS Resource Specialists responsible for processing annual recertifications and reviewing Elevation Certificates. They will be happy to help you. ≡≡≡

CRS Annual Recertification Schedule			
CC-213 Recertification and Required Documentation Due to ISO By:			
1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
February 1	May 1	August 1	October 15
Alaska Connecticut Florida: Miami-Dade County Florida: Monroe County Illinois Indiana Iowa Kansas Maine Michigan Minnesota Mississippi New Hampshire New York North Dakota Ohio Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Dakota Vermont Wisconsin	Colorado Delaware Florida: All Others Kentucky Massachusetts Missouri Nebraska Puerto Rico West Virginia	Arkansas California Idaho Louisiana Montana North Carolina South Carolina Utah Virginia Wyoming	Alabama Arizona Georgia Hawaii Maryland Nevada New Jersey New Mexico Oklahoma Oregon Tennessee Texas Washington
Annual Recertification Information Distributed to Community By:			
December 15	March 15	June 15	September 1

Online Resources

Check the [CRS Resources website](#) regularly to see what's been added. All documents referred to in the *CRS Coordinator's Manual* are posted here as soon as they are available. If you cannot find information or a document, please notify your ISO/CRS Specialist or NFIPCRS@iso.com. Here are some helpful posts on the website.

- [CRS Credit for Stormwater Management](#) is a full guide, including examples, to help communities tailor their stormwater management and watershed management programs in ways that reduce flood losses, protect natural processes, and earn CRS credit. This 2020 edition provides background on the creditable management techniques, discusses the legal aspects of such management, and describes various ways to document the creditable activities.
- **Webinar Schedule**—A schedule for the remainder of 2020 is posted under the [Training & Videos page](#) of the CRS Resources website. This link has registration information. Also, see the webinar schedule below.
- The most recent issue of the *NFIP/CRS Update* newsletter, in case you missed it, along with all other past issues, can be found under the 100s page of the [CRS Resources website](#).
- **Success with CRS** is a [website with articles](#) about the many ways communities have found their own types of success through the CRS. ≡≡≡

Training Opportunities



CRS Webinars

The CRS offers 1-hour webinars to help communities understand and meet their CRS requirements. Many will be recorded, so they can be accessed later. Registration is free but required, as space is limited. Some courses provide continuing education credits for certified floodplain managers (CFMs). See all of the [CRS webinar trainings available](#) on the CRS Resources website. All webinars begin at 1 p.m. Eastern/10 a.m. Pacific.

- **The Role of the CRS Community Coordinator**—August 18, 2020
- **Activity 450 Watershed Management**—August 19, 2020
- **Preparing an Annual Recertification**—September 15, 2020
- **Changes to Activity 310 Elevation Certificates**—September 16, 2020
- **Changes in the CRS: The 2021 Addendum to the CRS Manual**—October 13, 2020
- **CRS & Substantial Damage Properties Management Plans**—October 14, 2020
- **Changes in the CRS: The 2021 Addendum to the CRS Manual**—November 17, 2020
- **Activity 370 (Flood Insurance Promotion)**—November 18, 2020
- **Changes in the CRS: The 2021 Addendum to the CRS Manual**—December 15, 2020
- **CRS & Substantial Damage Properties Management Plans**—December 16, 2020

If you'd like to have a webinar on the FEMA Elevation Certificate, or a particular CRS activity, contact your ISO/CRS Specialist. For more on the CRS webinars, go to the Training tab of the [CRS Resources website](#). If you have questions about or suggestions for the CRS Webinar Series, contact Becca.Croft@atkinglobal.com.

Workshops and Training related to the CRS

- **The Community Rating System (E0278)** (field-deployed course is L0278) October 5–10, 2020

This is the all-purpose training course for the CRS. It is taught at EMI (see below) and at sites throughout the country at the request of interested communities, groups, or states, pending available funding.

- Attendees of E0278 CRS courses based on previous *CRS Coordinator's Manuals* may want to repeat this course. Therefore, restrictions on repeat attendance have been waived.
- For continuing education credit (CECs) for certified floodplain managers (CFMs), the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) will award CECs earned at the E0278 CRS course.
- No more than two persons per community may attend at one time.

Prerequisite: To enroll in the CRS course, you must be a CFM, have completed the NFIP course (E0273), or be a full-time floodplain manager with more than two years of floodplain management experience.

- **Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP (E0273)** August 10–13, 2020; August 31–September 23, 2020; November 30–December 3, 2020

E0273 is also field deployed periodically. Contact your [State NFIP Coordinator](#) for more information.

- **Unified Hazard Mitigation Assistance—
Developing Quality Application Elements (E0212)** April 19–22, 2021
- **Unified Hazard Mitigation Assistance—
Application Review and Evaluation (E0213)** September 27–28, 2021
- **Unified Hazard Mitigation Assistance
Project Implementation & Program Closeout (E0214)** September 29–30, 2021
- **Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts I (E0194)** November 2–5, 2020
- **Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts III (E0284)** August 2–5, 2021
- **Retrofitting Flood-prone Residential Building** August 17–20, 2020; June 14–17, 2021
- **Fundamentals of Building Science (E0312)** September 14–17, 2020
- **Residential Coastal Construction (E0386)** October 26–29, 2020

CRS communities can receive CRS credit points after their staff members complete certain training sessions. Under Section 432.o, regulations administration (element RA) of the *CRS Coordinator's Manual*, five points are provided for each member of a community's floodplain permit staff who graduates from courses E0194, E0273, E0278, E0282, E0284, or E0386 (up to 25 points). Graduating from E0279 is worth up to five points under Activity 360 (Flood Protection Assistance).

About the Emergency Management Institute

Note that on-campus training at EMI has been suspended until August 1, 2020.

FEMA's EMI in Emmitsburg, Maryland, offers training on topics related to floodplain management, mitigation, and construction, including the basic CRS course (E0278). These are oriented to local building, zoning, planning, and engineering officials. Tuition is free for state and local government officials, travel stipends are available, and on-campus lodging is free. Free transportation is provided from the airport to the campus and back to the airport. The only out-of-pocket expense is a meal ticket—all-you-can-eat breakfast, lunch and dinner. Go to the welcome page of the [welcome page of the EMI website](#) for details. The application to attend can be found [on this page on the EMI website](#), or call EMI at (800) 238-3358 or (301) 447-1035. Signed applications should be submitted through the state's Emergency Management Training Officer. ≡≡≡

Bring the CRS to Your Home Town

The CRS conducts the field-deployed CRS course (L0278, the same as EMI's E0278) throughout the year, depending on funding availability. A state, CRS Users Group or organization that would like to host a course or discuss CRS training opportunities should contact its FEMA Regional CRS Coordinator (see the [CRS Resources website](#)). ≡≡≡

Statement of Purpose

The *NFIP/CRS Update* is a publication of the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System. It provides local officials and others interested in the CRS with news they can use.

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