

## **Texas:**

### **Texas Floodplain Management Association (TFMA)**

The Texas Floodplain Management Association enjoyed another very successful year in 2010 with our membership continuing to grow and our Certified Floodplain Manager Program experiencing phenomenal interest. Since TFMA started our own CFM Program in 1996 (long before ASFPM established a "National Certification" Program), we have certified to date, 2061 Certified Floodplain Managers. Of course, over the years we have lost CFMs due to changing of jobs, retirement and in some cases even death. Current numbers of CFMs are stated below. TFMA continues to manage our CFM Program and remains one of only six accredited states by ASFPM to do so.

TFMA continues to develop special partnerships with various federal, state and local agencies as well as the private sector to promote sound floodplain management, hazard mitigation and flood safety awareness. One special partnership is with our State NFIP Coordinating Agency – the Texas Water Development Board. Working together, we are now able to bring more training and continuing education opportunities to our members.

The following is a summary of TFMA accomplishments and successes for 2010 and 2011:

#### **Membership and Certified Floodplain Manager Program:**

At the close of 2009, TFMA had a total membership of 1573. Of those, 1290 were active Certified Floodplain Managers. During the year, we added 90 new CFMs and 127 new members.

At the beginning of 2010, TFMA was forced to take action to decertify 71 CFMs. This action was necessary due to failure of the CFM to submit proof of continuing Education and to complete the CFM renewal process in the allocated time. Some decertified members have since regained their CFM by retaking the CFM exam and submitting proof of CECs. However, some of the CFMs are lost forever, due to job loss, transfer and retirement.

During 2010, we had 223 new members join TFMA, we certified 247 new CFMs. Total membership at the end of 2010 stood at 1705.

At the start of 2011, TFMA again took decertification action on 62 CFMs. We are very pleased that this number is lower than last year, due in large part to the work of the TFMA Certification Committee to explain to the membership in more detail the steps and requirements necessary to renew certification.

As 2011 progress, we have added 31 new CFMs and to date have had 73 new members join the Association. As of April 2011, TFMA now has a total membership of 1737 with 1398 active Certified Floodplain Managers.

For reference: TFMA Annual Membership Fee is \$40 and Annual CFM Renewal Fee is \$45. CFMs are required to pay both annual fees as well as submit proof of at least 8 hours of Continuing Education Credits (CECs) to maintain their professional certification.

#### **TRAINING, CONTINUING EDUCATION & CFM EXAM OPPORTUNITIES**

TFMA continues to work our special partnerships with FEMA Region VI staff and the staff of the Texas Water Development Board to provide ample training opportunities for the TFMA members to gain more experience and expertise in our chosen profession of floodplain management. Various workshops and classes offer the opportunity to gain continuing education credits for the CFM and also opportunity to learn more about the NFIP prior to taking the CFM exam.

The FEMA E273 4-Day “Managing Floodplain Development Through the National Flood Insurance Program” Training Course continues to be the stalwart of TFMA’s CFM program. At the conclusion of the course, the CFM exam is offered to course attendees as well as others who have pre-applied for the exam. A person must be an active member of TFMA and must complete a CFM Exam Application and pay a \$100 exam fee prior to being placed on the list of approved exam takers.

The following is a summary of the CFM exam opportunities offered in 2010 and to date for 2011:  
2010

**February 26, 2010 – Corpus Christi, Texas (FEMA 4-Day Course)**

Number taking exam – 41 Number Passing – 30 Passing Rate – 73% Average exam score – 75

**April 7, 2010 – Houston, Texas (Special 1-Day workshop)**

Number taking exam – 16 Number Passing – 10 Passing Rate – 62.5% Average exam score – 71

**April 7, 2010 – Richardson, Texas (Special 1-Day Workshop)**

Number taking exam – 14 Number Passing – 12 Passing Rate – 86% Average exam score – 76

**May 14, 2010 – Denton, Texas (FEMA 4-Day Course)**

Number taking exam – 10 Number Passing – 8 Passing Rate – 80% Average exam score – 79

**May 14, 2010 – Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (ASFPM National Conference)**

Number taking exam – 4 Number taking exam – 2 Passing Rate – 50% Average Exam score – 70

**2011**

**February 7-11, 2011 – Lubbock, Texas (FEMA 4-Day Course)**

Attendees: 17 Exam Takers: 17 Number Passing Exam: 14

May 16-20, 2011 – Austin, Texas (FEMA 4-Day Course)

July 18-22, 2011 – Galveston, Texas (FEMA 4-Day Course)

September 12-15, 2011 – Richardson, Texas (FEMA 4-Day Course)

In addition to the 4-Day courses, TWDB has now initiated an aggressive training program for Texas Floodplain Managers. Most of the new training classes are utilizing the advanced training modules developed by FEMA and provided by ASFPM.

The following is a schedule for this training in 2011:

February 16, 2011 – Richardson, Texas

“National Flood Insurance Program Rules & Regulations In Depth” – G194.2

February 24, 2011 – El Paso, Texas

“Local Floodplain Managers Role & Responsibilities” – G194.1

March 23, 2011 – Crockett, Texas

“Basic Floodplain Management Workshop”

March 30, 2011 – Georgetown, Texas

“Local Floodplain Managers Role & Responsibilities” – G-194.1

April 7, 2011 – Brownsville, Texas

“Higher Standards & No Adverse Impact Concepts in Floodplain Management” – G282.1

April 26, 2011 – Buda, Texas

“Letters of Map Change & Local Floodplain Management” – G-194.3

May 10, 2011

“National Flood Insurance Program Rules & Regulations In Depth” – G-194.2

May 12, 2011 –

“Flood Insurance For The Floodplain Manager” – G282.3

June 2, 2011 – El Paso, Texas

“Flood Insurance For The Floodplain Manager” – G282.3

June 8, 2011 – Harlingen, Texas

“Intermediate Floodplain Management” Workshop

July 13, 2011 – Wichita Falls, Texas

“Intermediate Floodplain Management” Workshop

July 20, 2011 – Luling, Texas

Intermediate Floodplain Management” Workshop

August 2, 2011 – Abilene, Texas

“NFIP Regulations, Adopting & Enforcing Your Local Ordinance, Local Government Role, Permitting, Letters of Map Change”

### **CONFERENCES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED BY TFMA**

TFMA annually hosts two conferences a year. Our annual Spring Conference serves as our Awards and Recognition Conference and also hosts a number of private sector vendors/exhibitors. Every two years, the Spring Conference is also our Election Day for Directors and Officers of the TFMA Board of Directors. The 2011 Spring Conference will feature the election process. The Spring Conference provides Early Bird Training workshops as well as numerous concurrent Technical Session Tracks. TFMA also hosts its Annual Banquet at the conclusion of the Spring Conference.

TFMA hosts a slightly shorter annual Fall Technical Conference. This conference also features Early Bird Training Workshops as well as Concurrent Technical Sessions. At both conferences, the CFM Exam is offered after a one day NFIP refresher course. Both conferences also provide ample opportunities for our CFMs to earn Continuing Education Credits. The following is a summary of the 2010 and 2011 Conference schedule:

#### **TFMA Spring Conference 2010 – June 7-10, 2010**

Fort Worth, Texas

Number attending: 423

CFM Exam Takers: 20 Number Passing Exam: 16

Number of Exhibitors: 21 Number of Sponsors: 6

#### **TFMA Fall Technical Conference 2010 – October 12-15, 2010**

“Crafting Partnerships & Tools To Make a Flood Safe Texas”

San Marcos, Texas

Number attending: 338

CFM Exam Takers: 20 Number Passing Exam: 17

#### **TFMA Spring Conference 2011 – April 11-14, 2011**

“In the Face of Nature’s Fury – Can Floodplain Management Make a Difference?”

Sugar Land, Texas

Number attending: 376

CFM Exam Takers: 19 Number Passing Exam: 16

Number of Exhibitors: 19 Number of Sponsors: 10

#### **TFMA Fall Technical Conference 2011 – September 20-23, 2011**

San Antonio, Texas

TFMA often co-sponsors or otherwise supports other conferences and agency activities. The following is a list of those activities:

**FEMA Region VI CAP Meetings – Denton, Texas**

(All Five State Coordinating Agencies as well as all Five State Floodplain Management Associations attend these meetings to obtain state and federal agency updates)

January 26-29, 2010

August 4-6, 2010

March 2-4, 2011

**FEMA Hazard Mitigation Conference – Denton, Texas**

May 2-6, 2011

**STATE OF TEXAS ANNUAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE**

February 15-18, 2010 – San Antonio, Texas

April 26-29, 2011 – San Antonio, Texas

**TEXAS RISK MITIGATION CONFERENCE**

June 28-29, 2010 – Austin, Texas

Sponsored by: Texas Leadership Institute

**NATIONAL FLOOD WORKSHOP**

October 24-26, 2010 – Houston, Texas

Sponsored by: Weather Research Center – Houston, Texas.

Now in planning stages for next workshop.

February 27-March 1, 2012

**ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS**

TFMA was one of the first State Floodplain Management Associations to become a State Chapter of ASFPM and our Chapter support of ASFPM continues to this day.

TFMA Annually supports ASFPM conferences by promoting and encouraging Chapter members to become individual members and to attend out of state conferences. Travel scholarships are offered to TFMA Board Members to assist in attending national conferences.

TFMA donated \$3000 to the Oklahoma Floodplain Management Association to assist with their activities in hosting the ASFPM National Conference on May 16-20, 2010 in Oklahoma City.

In 2011, TFMA made a donation of \$3000 to the ASFPM Foundation to assist in the enhancement of the Floodplain Manager Game which was developed by Curtis Beitel, P.E., CFM a TFMA member. An additional \$1000 donation to the ASFPM Foundation was given during the annual Spring Conference this year.

TFMA will sponsor a Texas booth at the ASFPM National Conference scheduled for May 15-20, 2011 in Louisville, Kentucky to promote the ASFPM conference next year in San Antonio, Texas.

In 2012, TFMA will host the ASFPM National Conference in San Antonio, Texas on May 20-25, 2012 Heidi Carlin, CFM is the TFMA Host Contact for the 2012 National Conference. A Regional Planning Committee has been established to help plan for next year's event. Besides TFMA, representatives from San Antonio River Authority (SARA), the City of San Antonio and Bexar County are assisting with the planning effort. The first meeting of the group was held on March 15, 2011 in San Antonio and other meetings are planned throughout this year and next as we approach next year's conference.

**CONTINUED SPECIAL PARTNERSHIP WITH NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE AND OTHER AGENCIES FOR FLOOD SAFETY AWARENESS AND OUTREACH**

TFMA continues to support and promote numerous NWS programs including:

Basic & Advanced SkyWarn Storm Spotter Training classes which are offered during the spring all across Texas.

“Turn Around Don't Drown” (TADD) promoting flood safety awareness for motorists.

NOAA All-Hazard Radios

Community Collaborative Rain, Snow and Hail Network (CoCoRaHS)  
“StormReady” Community Preparedness Program for disaster resilient communities.

Promoting National Severe Weather Awareness Week, February 20-26, 2011; National Flood Safety Awareness Week, March 14-18, 2011 and Lightning Safety Awareness Week, June 10-25, 2011. As part of Flood Safety Awareness Week, TFMA co-sponsors with the City of Austin TADD Flood Safety Poster Contest in the Austin Independent School District. TFMA provides ribbons for 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> place poster winners and provides Gift Cards for 2<sup>nd</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> place winners. Winning posters become part of the TFMA’s annual TADD Calendar. Over 7000 calendars were published and given away in 2011.

TFMA, working with National Weather Service co-founded and co-chairs the Texas Flash Flood Coalition. TFFC has grown in popularity and now includes a number of federal, state and local agencies working together to reduce the risk of flood deaths in Texas. We have achieved a number of successes including having flood safety information and TADD placed in the State of Texas Drivers Handbook. TADD is also being taught in Defensive Driving and Drivers Education classes.

TFMA has developed a new flood safety outreach program for school kids. The program includes a Tex Anna TADDpole Coloring and Activity Book and a Power Point presentation. Also in development stage is a Power Point on Natural Hazards in Texas for school kids. NWS, TFMA and TFFC are working together to distribute state-wide and then nationwide.

#### **OTHER TFMA ACTIVITIES**

TFMA continues to publish a quarterly Newsletter – “The Lightning Rod”. The newsletter improves and grows with each issue and now features numerous colored pictures, graphics and excellent articles. In addition, TFMA now generates additional revenue by selling ads in the newsletter.

TFMA maintains an active website that serves as a data base for membership, certification and tracking of continuing education credits for CFMs. Members/CFMs can join or renew membership and certification on-line and pay fees by credit card. Registration and payment by credit card on-line also helps facilitate our conferences and training activities.

TFMA sent out a “Freeboard” survey to determine how many TFMA member communities are practicing floodplain management with higher than FEMA minimum floodplain development criteria. We have responses from 230 Texas communities and that number continues to grow as we track “Higher Standards “ in Texas communities. The survey is posted on the TFMA website and is utilized by many communities to justify going to higher standards in their local floodplain management program.

TFMA Regional Directors from TFMA Regions 4 & 10 (Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex) started hosting quarterly Regional luncheon meetings. The success of these meetings continues to grow and at the last meeting, held on March 31, 2011, over 200 attended. This type of outreach is critical to TFMA’s service to membership and continues to bring in new members.

TFMA purchased a Ward’s Stormwater/Floodplain Simulator Model. The model will be loaned out to TFMA communities for use at fairs, schools and other public outreach and educational activities. A loan agreement was modeled after a similar agreement developed by the State of Montana for their model.

