

12/10/2020

Good Afternoon Florida Floodplain Managers and Building Officials,

The FDEM State Floodplain Management Office posted guidance for CRS communities to respond to the FEMA/CRS announcement of a new prerequisite to obtain or retain Class 8 or better. The requirement is to adopt and enforce a minimum elevation requirement of base flood elevation plus one foot of freeboard for all residential structures. The Florida Building Code satisfies this requirement for one- and two-family dwellings, multi-family buildings, and all non-residential buildings. The requirement also applies to manufactured homes, which means many CRS communities must consider amending local regulations.

- Guidance to amend local regulations to (1) require all new, replacement, and substantially improved manufactured homes to be elevated to at least BFE + 1 foot, or (2) not permit manufactured homes, is available here: <https://www.floridadisaster.org/dem/mitigation/floodplain/crs/> (CRS Class 8 Prerequisite). The guidance includes a simplified approach to evaluate the potential impacts to the community. Also at this link is the illustrated guidance explaining how freeboard applies to attached garages and enclosures below elevated buildings.
- Guidance to amend local regulations to allow wet floodproofed accessory structures and agricultural structures is available here: <https://www.floridadisaster.org/dem/mitigation/floodplain/community-resources/> (Local Floodplain Management Ordinances). Communities that are amending regulations for any reason should include accessory structures, even though not required for CRS. Communities may want to consider including the provisions for agricultural structures.
- At this link, <https://www.floridadisaster.org/dem/mitigation/floodplain/> (Community Resources), download excerpts of the flood provisions of the 7th Ed. FBC (including a summary of changes), FEMA's "Highlights of ASCE 24" and fact sheets prepared by Building A Safer Florida (BASF) about the 6th Ed and the CCCL. Check out the **Quick Guide** for FPM! A great starting point for newcomers, staff not directly involved in FPM, elected officials, and members of appointed boards and commissions. ALSO at that link you'll find the "Floodplain Administrator's Post-Disaster Toolkit" and the FEMA-approved, FBC-coordinated ordinance materials (Frequently Asked Questions, the model, instructions, and higher standards).

If you have any questions regarding this message, feel free to “reply” to this email or reach out to us at (850) 815-4556 or floods@em.myflorida.com.

We apologize to any of those who may have received this message before, as we have been proactively informing those communities who may be impacted by this change in the CRS Manual.

Thanks,

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