

# The Index

Georgia Department of Natural  
Resources Floodplain Management  
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[www.GeorgiaDFIRM.com](http://www.GeorgiaDFIRM.com)

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## LINKS OF INTEREST:

[www.GeorgiaDFIRM.com](http://www.GeorgiaDFIRM.com)  
[www.FloodSmart.gov](http://www.FloodSmart.gov)  
[www.fema.gov/hazard/flood](http://www.fema.gov/hazard/flood)  
<http://msc.fema.gov>

*The Index is a publication of GA DNR Floodplain Management; for editorial comments or questions, please contact Tom Shillock at 404-675-1607, or write to [tom.shillock@dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:tom.shillock@dnr.state.ga.us). If you would like to join the mailing list, please contact Garrett Skinner at [Garrett.Skinner@atkinsglobal.com](mailto:Garrett.Skinner@atkinsglobal.com).*

## ASFPM CONFERENCE APPROACHES

The Association of State Floodplain Managers will be holding its 35<sup>th</sup> annual conference May 15-20 in Louisville, KY. The theme this year is "Flood Risk Management: The Winning Ticket." Over 200 plenary and concurrent sessions will be held during the week along with technical field tours and training workshops. Included will be two presentations related to mapping and outreach in Georgia. The entire conference will take place at the [Galt House Hotel & Suites](#) in downtown Louisville, just seven miles from the airport. You can find more details at [www.Floods.org](http://www.Floods.org).



## Upper Chattahoochee River Basin Map Update

**Preliminary Issuance of your communities revised FIRMs and FIS Report is only 4 months away!**

To prepare for preliminary issuance, GA DNR in coordination with your County's Floodplain Administrator will be hosting Draft Map Review Meetings. The Draft Map Review Meeting has been added to the Georgia Flood M.A.P Program providing stakeholders with the opportunity to review and comment on the draft engineering results in advance of FEMA's Preliminary Issuance of the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) Report.

Letters of invitation are being sent to each of the communities' chief elected officials and floodplain administrators within the UCRB study area (Forsyth, Gwinnett, Fulton, Cobb, DeKalb, Coweta, & Douglas). Meeting schedules will also be available on our website, [www.GeorgiaDFIRM.com](http://www.GeorgiaDFIRM.com).

Work maps presenting the draft floodplain boundaries will be sent to the CEO in advance of this meeting. The work maps will show the flood risk as portrayed on the effective FIRMs for your community overlaid with the draft floodplains reflecting your communities current flood risk. The comparison between the effective and revised floodplains will help you easily identify where major changes may be occurring and where additional outreach to your constituents may be needed. In addition to the work maps, a new digital product showing the changes since last FIRM will be available on our website. Additional instructions on how to access this information and how to use the data will be included with the work maps.

As a reminder, please continue to check our website regularly for schedule updates and other activities occurring in your community. We look forward to seeing you at the Draft Map Review Meetings!

## FEMA Provides Upgraded LiDAR Guidance

To implement FEMA's Risk MAP vision and provide the high quality topographic data necessary to meet Risk MAP's goals, FEMA has provided upgraded guidance concerning the accuracy and processing of high quality topographic data including Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) data.

FEMA is aligning Appendix A of the Guidelines and Specifications for Flood Hazard Mapping Partners (Guidelines) to the [USGS LiDAR Guidelines and Base Specification v13](#) to modernize the FEMA specifications to current industry practice, leverage the expertise of the USGS Geography discipline, maintain Federal standards across agencies, and support the use of elevation products acquired as part of Risk MAP by other agencies for other purposes thus maximizing the Government's investment.

Existing elevation data, not acquired by FEMA, but planned for use in a new flood hazard analysis for National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) regulatory products must comply with the accuracy, density, and the final product metadata requirements detailed in Procedural Memorandum 61.

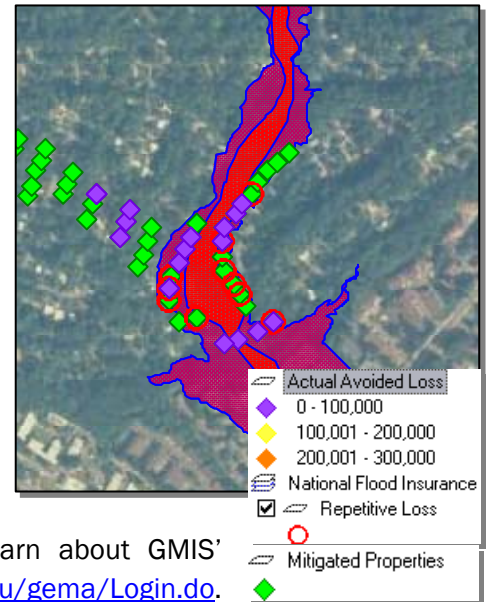
For more information or a copy of the guidelines, please go to [www.GeorgiaDFIRM.com/Lidar.html](http://www.GeorgiaDFIRM.com/Lidar.html).

## GEMA Georgia Mitigation Information System (GMIS)

GMIS is an on-line mapping tool developed by the Information Technology Outreach Services (ITOS), a Division of the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia and the Hazard Mitigation Division of GEMA. GMIS supports the documentation and implementation of mitigation activities through the State of Georgia through the mapping and reporting of Critical Facilities, Mitigated Properties, and National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) properties. Currently, critical facilities information is available for querying, information gathering, and reporting.

To meet Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA2K) planning requirements from FEMA, local governments collect detailed structure and building information throughout their county or city. GMIS then produces reports by the hazard zones the buildings fall within.

For more information about GEMA, visit <http://www.gema.ga.gov>. To learn about GMIS' technical requirements and to log on, go to: <https://www.itos.uga.edu/gema/Login.do>.



## New NFIP Bulletins Provide Update to Program

On April 1, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) issued two important bulletins regarding changes in the flood insurance program. The first discusses the changes that will occur in the flood insurance program as of October 1, 2011. The second discusses a change in how the community's substantial damage percentage can be used to trigger an ICC claim if its ordinance has it set at a number less than 50%.

The following are some highlights:

- **Changes to the flood insurance program effective October 1, 2011 (#W-11020):**
  - Premiums go up on average just 4%:
    - Biggest increase is pre-FIRM V zones at 7%
    - Standard X, A99, AR, and post/pre-FIRM AE/A# go up 5% (A's go up 6%)
    - PRPs are left alone
  - Some new elevation rating requirements for AH, AO and unnumbered A zones
  - New documentation requirements for applications for buildings in map panels where there are also CBRS and OPAs (to help avoid finding out at claim time that the property is in a CBRS area and is not eligible for flood insurance!!).
- **New NFIP Policy Issuance (01-2011) regarding ICCs and using the community's substantial damage value (#W-11021):**
  - Effective April 1, 2011, ICC claims can now be adjusted using a threshold contained in the State's or community's Floodplain Management Ordinance that has been adopted and is uniformly enforced prior to the loss by the State or community that may be lower than 50% of the market value of the building or structure at the time of loss.

These two bulletins can be found at [www.GeorgiaDFIRM.com](http://www.GeorgiaDFIRM.com).

Also, note that the NFIP has released a new *Flood Insurance Manual* that incorporates changes made over the past few years and presents it in a new designed format. If you subscribe to the hard copy, you will need to re-subscribe to continue to receive it in hard copy (which will then be good until 2013). The electronic version is posted at <http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/manual201105.shtm>.