

SAVE THE DATE!!!

2012 AMFM Conference in Kalispell, MT

“Flooding: Mitigation, Preparedness, & Recovery”

IN THIS ISSUE

- AMFM 13th Annual Flood Conference
- Being Ready for a Disaster!
- From the Regionals
- Reward those Volunteers!
- MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The 13th Annual AMFM Conference will be held March 6-8. at the Hilton Garden Inn in Kalispell, MT.

With another “La Nina” winter approaching (See NOAA’s Winter Outlook below), it seemed that the perfect theme for the 2012 conference would be:

“Flooding: Mitigation, Preparedness, & Recovery.”

As outlined further inside this newsletter, NOW is the time to prepare for potential spring flooding!

Be on the look out for the “Call For Abstracts” coming out soon!!

A block of rooms is being reserved with a special group rate for participants. Also, Continuing Education Credits (CECs) will be available for conference attendees. More information will follow shortly!



NOAA Winter Outlook: http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2011/20111020_winteroutlook.html

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Being Ready for a Disaster Can Save Lives, Protect Property

FEMA News Release: 4031-060; November 10, 2011

It is an ancient bit of wisdom: Hope for the best, but plan for the worst.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the New York Office of Emergency Management are joining to remind the public that natural disasters are not avoidable – but you can be ready for them when they make their inevitable arrivals.

Be it a summer flood or a winter blizzard, a hurricane or an ice storm, an earthquake or a tornado, being prepared for the worst can save lives and protect property.

Readiness can be as simple as having an emergency preparedness kit at hand, stowed in a convenient place known to all family members. Here are some of the things, but by no means all, that should be part of that kit:

- A three-day supply of nonperishable food and bottled water for every family member – the more the better;
- A manual can-opener and a sturdy Swiss Army knife;
- A battery-powered radio with at least two sets of spare batteries;
- A first-aid kit and a stash of medications for each person taking them;
- Hygiene and personal-care items;
- Copies of important documents in a sealable plastic bag or other container;
- An emergency-contact list with phone numbers;
- Money – cash or a current credit card; and
- Pet food and other supplies, if applicable.

It is not unusual to lose power, perhaps for several days. Both land-line and cell phones could prove useless, along with any Internet connections. Plan for these contingencies.

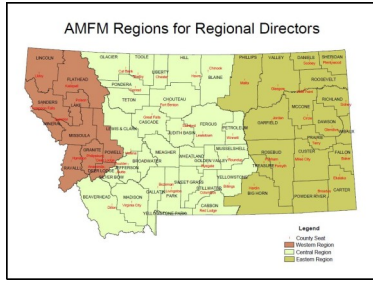
Have an emergency plan for the family. Arrange for a distant family member or friend to be a point of contact for immediate family members who might not be at home when the event takes place.

Keep the family vehicle's gas tank as full as possible, and store some extra fuel in a safe, fire-department-approved container.

Local, state and FEMA responders are always poised to handle the worst. Residents who are prepared as well are at a vast advantage when disaster strikes.

For more detailed information on this critical subject, log onto www.ready.gov.

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.



A Word from your Regional Directors

Déjà Vu all over again, La Nina is back!

By Larry Schock, CFM

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It is not often that we get a chance for a “do over”, however like it or not, we may be getting that chance when it comes to flooding! NOAA’s Climate Prediction Center issued a La Nina advisory last month, and that means that we very well may be seeing a winter and spring very similar to last year. This means we will have a good chance of seeing more flooding in the spring of 2012.

Rather than looking at this as a bad thing, we should be looking at it as another chance to do the things that we failed to do, or didn’t think of until it was too late, in order to get ready last year. While western Montana did not see the kind of flooding that eastern Montana did, it was only because of the wet cold spring that delayed run off and spread it out over a longer period. However, we may not be so lucky again in 2012.

Is there a bridge or a road in your area that almost washed out? Did you run out of sandbags? Was there a house that could have had better protection and possibly stayed dry? Is there something you didn’t get to because you simply ran out of time? Well, now is the time to start getting ready for next spring and planning for the flood.

Now is the time to review any emergency permits that you issued and remind the applicants that they need to affect some permanent long term repairs. If there was a problem area last spring now is the time to address it. If you ran out of sandbags, now is the time to order more. Start stock piling extra bags, either for filling in the spring, or for staging at locations where they will be needed. Get your equipment lined up and ready to go.

Take the time to look at your area with a critical eye! Learn lessons from last year’s run off and flooding! Start preparing now! While I am not saying the sky is falling, it certainly sounds like there will be a lot of snow falling!

~* FOR YOUR INFORMATION *~

Reward Those Volunteers!!



The Governor's Office of Community Service invite everyone to recognize individuals of all ages and backgrounds, who through their dedication and commitment to community service, have enhanced civic life in Montana. The ReadyMontana Award recognizes service specifically related to disaster services, emergency preparedness, and emergency response. Nominate those amazing volunteers who helped with flooding in Montana this past spring!!!

All award information and the nomination form can be found at:

http://serve.mt.gov/?page_id=2966.

All nominations for the 2011 Awards must be received by **December 21, 2011!!!**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



- * **AMFM 2012 CONFERENCE - KALISPELL - Hilton Garden Inn- MARCH 7th-10th**
- * **ASFPM 36TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE | MAY 20-25, 2012 | SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**
- * **EMI Training Courses:** Visit <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMICourses/EMICourse.asp> for more information and current class schedules



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To Protect People Today From What They Can't See Tomorrow