



**FEMA Region 6
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The Voice is a publication of FEMA Region 6
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**Now Available: Two New
Earthquake Publications**

**By: Edward M. Laatsch, P.E., Chief, Building
Science Branch**

The FEMA Building Science Branch is pleased to announce the availability of two new earthquake publications: the **Drop, Cover and Hold On** Poster and the **Home Hazard Hunt** Poster.

Due to the success of the 2014 Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drill, FEMA employees, as well as over 20 million U.S. residents, now know what to do during an earthquake—Drop, Cover, and Hold On! To further this message, FEMA’s Building Science Branch has revamped the Drop, Cover, and Hold On poster with a focus on teachers and students.

The new Drop, Cover, and Hold On poster depicts a teacher and students in a classroom responding appropriately to the first sign of an earthquake. Through images and text, the poster informs

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Substantial Damage and the Community

With this spring’s flooding and the upcoming hurricane season, this is the perfect time to review the subject of substantial damage. Knowing what to do during the recovery phase is important because a) hurricanes commonly inflict substantial damage, particularly in the coastal areas; b) tropical storms include the threat of inland flooding; and c) substantial damage to a structure can occur at any time.

The local floodplain management ordinance and National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) regulations are intended to prevent unwise development or redevelopment of structures and other development in the Special Flood Hazard Area. Specific provisions apply whether flooding occurs as a result of a hurricane or if a major disaster is declared. Below is a quick summary of these provisions:

Development Permits must be obtained for **ALL** proposed construction or other development, *including post-disaster repairs*, within the SFHA.

All new construction, **substantial improvement, or restoration of substantially damaged residential structures** shall have the lowest floor elevated to or above the identified Base Flood Elevation (BFE).

All new construction and/or **substantial improvement of non-residential structures** in Zone AE shall either have the lowest floor (including basement) elevated to or above the identified BFE, or be designed so that the area below the BFE is watertight with walls that are capable of withstanding hydrostatic and hydrodynamic pressures.

Encroachments – fill, new construction, **substantial improvements, substantial restoration**, and other development are prohibited within an adopted regulatory floodway if the encroachment would result increase flood levels during the 1-percent-annual-chance flood.

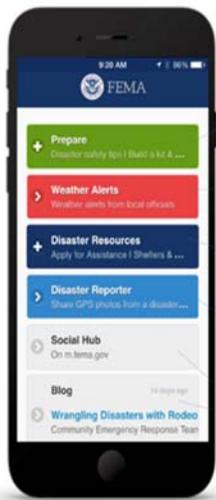
These requirements, found in the local floodplain management ordinance, are designed to mitigate future losses of life and property during times of flooding. Failure to enforce these measures may jeopardize a community’s continued participation in the NFIP and will affect future Federal assistance.

If you have questions, please contact your local floodplain administrator (FPA) who may be located at City/Town Hall, the county courthouse, or parish office building.

Tell Us Your Story!

Spread the word on local mitigation projects that have made a difference in your community! Region 6 Mitigation looks forward to sharing your Best Practice stories in upcoming issues of *The Voice*. You can email your story to us at R6-Mitigation-Outreach@fema.dhs.gov

There's an App for That!



- ✓ Get tips to survive natural disasters, customize your emergency checklist, and save meeting locations
- ⚡ Receive alerts from the National Weather Service
- ⊕ Locate open shelters and Disaster Recovery Centers and apply for assistance
- 📷 Upload and share your disaster photos
- 💬 Stay connected on social media and the FEMA blog

The official FEMA App is available for Apple, Android, and Blackberry mobile devices. App features include:

- National Weather Service Alerts: Receive severe weather alerts for up to five locations across the U.S. and see information about how to stay safe.
- [Disaster Reporter](#): Upload and share photos of damage and recovery efforts.
- Custom emergency safety information: Save a custom list of the items in your family's emergency kit, as well as the places you will meet in an emergency.
- Maps of disaster resources: Locate and receive driving directions to local shelters and disaster recovery centers.
- Safety tips: Learn how to stay safe before, during, and after over 20 types of hazards, including floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, and earthquakes.
- Apply for assistance: Easily access DisasterAssistance.gov to apply for Federal disaster assistance.
- Information in Spanish: The app defaults to Spanish language content for smartphones that have Spanish set as their default language.

Look for it in your device "Store," or download the app via text messaging:

- If you have an Apple device: Text **APPLE** to **43362** (4FEMA)
- If you have an Android device: Text **ANDROID** to **43362** (4FEMA)
- If you have a Blackberry device: Text **BLACKBERRY** to **43362** (4FEMA)



The **Tornado App by the American Red Cross** is designed to help you prepare for a tornado. The app references your current location to send you real-time tornado alerts for your area. You can also test your tornado knowledge and level of preparedness, as well as see how many tornadoes have hit your area over the past 60 years. Local shelters are also identified on the app map. The app is also available in Spanish. Check it out at <http://3cu.be/tsa>



The **Flood App by the American Red Cross** is another great app to add to your phone to prepare your family and home for a flood. By referencing your location, the app send you real-time flood alerts for your area. This app is also available in Spanish. Check it out at <http://3cu.be/fsa> or download it directly from iTunes and Google Play.

Substantial Damage Resources

FEMA P-784 CD, Substantial Damage Estimator (SDE) (2014) - <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/18692?id=4166>

FEMA P-758, Substantial Improvement/Substantial Damage Desk Reference (2010) - <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/18562>

SDE Sample Notice of Determination - Substantial Damage - http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/20130726-1735-25045-2771/sde_sample_notice_of_determination_substantial_damage.pdf

Earthquake Resources

Earthquake Home Hazard Hunt Poster - <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/3261>

Earthquake Safety Guide for Homeowners - <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/1017>

What to Do Before, During, and After an Earthquake - <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/23054>

Building Codes Toolkit - <https://www.fema.gov/building-codes-toolkit>

Twitter and the Tweetdeck

By Cindy Wirz, Community Education and Outreach

Social media is a powerful tool, this we know. What I didn't know was how to monitor multiple feeds simultaneously in real time until I was introduced to Tweetdeck.

Go to <https://tweetdeck.twitter.com/> and sign in with your Twitter account. You can then monitor multiple columns based on a subject/hash tag. This means you can also message across multiple columns.

For example, I sent the below Tweet during last week's event on repairing and finding material on FEMA.gov to help with the rebuilding effort. It touched every Twitter account holder following #okwx (Oklahoma Weather), #flooding, #Texas, #Oklahoma, and #txwx (Texas Weather).



At any given time, this can reach a significant number of individuals who can then in turn retweet your message. A retweet is a reposted tweet or forwarded message on Twitter. So now your message becomes visible to a whole new set of followers.

One such message I posted was retweeted by the Texas Floodplain Management Association (TFMA). Which means everyone who follows TFMA saw my message.

Twitter and Tweetdeck are force multipliers for your mitigation messages. Check it out and learn just how much you can "say" in 140 characters or less.

Some Basic Twitter Etiquette From PRDaily:

Always add value. Everything you tweet should add value to your followers' day.

Avoid negativity.

Don't just tweet headlines and links. A good rule to follow is to go beyond the headline.

#Dont #Overuse #Hashtags #In #Your #Tweets

"Virtual Brown Bag" Training for Local Officials and GIS Staff

FEMA Region 6 has developed a suite of products to assist community officials and their local Geographic Information Systems (GIS) staff as they pair local data with the flood risk datasets delivered during a flood risk study in their watershed. The flood risk datasets are developed for communities during the Risk Identification and Assessment Phase of a study. These data are delivered to the community through the Flood Risk Database (FRD) and may be available online at FEMA's Map Service Center. The suite of products created to assist communities include "Recipe Cards" on pairing these data with fact sheets about the datasets and recorded tutorials. These products are available for local community official use at <http://www.riskmap6.com/Resources.aspx>, under *Information for Local Officials*.



For communities that prefer a live tutorial on using these data to develop flood risk assessments and communication tools, a series of online training webinars, or "Virtual Brown Bag" sessions, will be made available monthly. Each Virtual Brown Bag session will focus on combining a specific flood risk dataset with local data to assess and communicate local risk.

Local community GIS and technical staff are encouraged to participate in the "Virtual Brown Bag" sessions by registering online for the specific dates that cover the datasets they are interested in learning to use. Some of the datasets covered include: Depth Grids, Changes Since Last FIRM, Percent Annual Chance and Percent 30 Year Chance Grids, Water Surface Elevation Grids, and the Average Annualized Loss (AAL). Sign up at <https://r6virtualbrownbag.eventbrite.com>.

The skills and competencies of effective leadership can be learned and developed through discipline and continual practice.