

# The Index

Georgia Department of Natural  
Resources Floodplain Management  
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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).*

## L273 - Floodplain Management Training Course Announcement

Georgia DNR will be presenting a Floodplain Management Training Course (L273) at the Catoosa County Colonnade, 264 Catoosa Circle, Ringgold, GA 30736 November 14-18, 2011.

The deadline to join the class is November 9, 2011.

For questions, contact Veronica Briers at 404-675-1757.



## Upper Chattahoochee River Basin Map Update

### Preliminary revised FIRMs and FIS Report due in September

GA DNR-EPD will be releasing updated, preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) Reports for public review and comment this September. The Preliminary Products will be sent to the respective community's Chief Elected Official. The maps will show the extent to which areas throughout each community are currently at risk for flooding.

Residents and business owners can use the maps to obtain updated, reliable information about their flood risk on a property-by-property basis. The maps also provide flood zone and elevation data to help community planners, engineers, builders and others decide where and how new structures, developments, and remodeling projects should be built.

Shortly after release of the Preliminary Products, GA DNR-EPD will be contacting each community's Floodplain Administrator to schedule the Preliminary DFIRM Coordination Meeting (PDCC) with Community Officials and the Public Open House. These meetings are planned to be held during the month of October. The Public Open House provides residents the opportunity to view the new maps, understand how their properties may be affected, review options that they have, and learn more about financial and material steps that they may need to take to protect their investment. GA DNR-EPD will need each community's support in advertising the release of these products and the Public Open House Meeting to the residents and business owners of their community. More information regarding advertising and outreach will be included with each community's Preliminary Products package (see newsletter section about Community Outreach Guidebook on page 2).

The preliminary flood maps can also be viewed online at [www.GeorgiaDFIRM.com](http://www.GeorgiaDFIRM.com). Property owners can also locate their individual property using the address lookup tool found on the website.

Please keep in mind that the preliminary DFIRM's & FIS Report have not yet been officially adopted. There will be a Public Comment Period following the release of the Preliminary Products where property owners can submit appeals and protests if they can show that the maps are in error. Once all comments are received and addressed, the maps are expected to become effective in the Fall of 2012. At that time, the new flood insurance requirements will take effect.



**Georgia Association of Floodplain Management Metro Atlanta Region Education and Technical Training Conference** will be held this October. The conference details are being finalized and will be posted soon on [www.gafloods.org](http://www.gafloods.org). If you have questions, contact Garrett Skinner at [gafm.conferences@gafloods.org](mailto:gafm.conferences@gafloods.org)

## Fiscal Year 2012 Hazard Mitigation Assistance Application Period Is Open

FEMA began accepting applications for funding consideration under the FY12 HMA Grant Programs on June 1, 2011. Application period is open until December 2, 2011 at 3:00pm EST. All applications must be submitted via eGrants by the time and date posted. For more information, go to: <http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/hma/index.shtm>.

## GA DNR's Contact Management Database

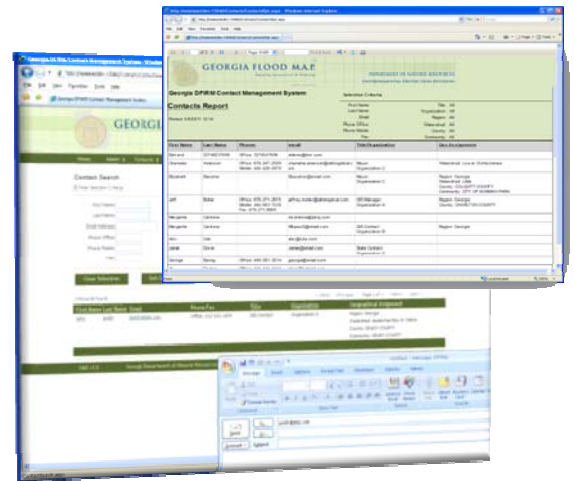
The Georgia Department of Natural Resources recognizes that coordinated outreach is vital to the success of floodplain management. To foster effective communication across the state, the Georgia Flood MAP program has created [cms.georgiadfirm.com](http://cms.georgiadfirm.com) to collect, manage, and organize floodplain management stakeholders.

Searchable by name, title, organization and geography, this powerful tool provides fast access to a growing roster of Georgia's Flood MAP staff, Floodplain Administrators, community officials, and others.

Contacts are categorized by title, organization, and geographic assignment to easily create contact lists for Floodplain Administrators, County Engineers, or community C.E.O.s within a selected county, community, or watershed.

The system will be open to all community officials and flood study stakeholders including FEMA Regional/National staff, and Regional Service Center representatives. The system aims to be the singular roster and access point for all parties interested or invested in Georgia's flood impacts.

All data housed in this application is assigned a geographic identifier that allows information to be queried and explored through a web-based map viewer. By tying the data elements to geography, users can gain a better understanding of the context a particular project or project element, discover new relationships or impacts caused by geographic proximity, and provide summary data for multiple levels of geography (i.e., region, watershed, state, county, community, or project area).



## GA DNR's Outreach Planning Guidebook for Local Governments Update

In July 2009, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources introduced the Flood Map Outreach Planning Guidebook for Local Governments. The purpose of this guidebook is to provide a way to help local communities more effectively reach out to local residents, business owners, and the media and even internally to other local officials when flood maps were being updated. The guidebook takes the reader through the different mapping phases and suggests a variety of outreach tactics during each phase. Supporting outreach material that is in templated form is also provided so that each community can customize the language to make it specifically relevant to their situation. In addition, general fact sheets are provided as well as links to other useful resources.

The guidebook will be undergoing an update to reflect the transition from FEMA's Map Mod effort to its current Risk MAP (Mapping, Assessment, Planning) effort. Meanwhile, this current version of the guidebook is available online as are the fact sheets and templated material. You can find all of this under the "Documents" tab at [www.georgiadfirm.com](http://www.georgiadfirm.com).

### Peak Hurricane Season is Soon Upon Us

Georgia is no stranger to hurricanes and Tropical Storm Emily's recent near miss was a good reminder of that threat. One only needs to look back to another Tropical Storm named Alberto in 1994 to show it doesn't have to be a hurricane to cause damage. Alberto stalled in western Georgia in early July 1994 and caused over \$750 million in damage. Looking at the historical hurricane tracks on NOAA's website, about 65 tropical storms and hurricanes have passed by or through our State's borders since 1970.

While this September is the second anniversary of the Greater Atlanta floods, the peak of hurricane season is also in September. So, it is important that community officials review their emergency preparedness plans now and remind their citizens to do the same. Use these two events to help remind everyone that flooding can and does happen...and not once every hundred years.

There are several good sites as resources you can add to your site to encourage your citizens to be prepared; here are a few:

- <http://www.ready.ga.gov/Stay-Informed/Hurricanes>
- <https://www.gema.ga.gov/> (under Preparedness, click on Hurricanes for the actual link)
- <http://www.floodsmart.gov/hurricanes>