

## COUNTY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT STAFF REPORT

**TO:** The Members of the County Commission

**DATE:** June 15, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Departmental notes for the June 21, 2016 Brookings County Commission Meeting.

**PREPARED BY:** Robert W. Hill, County Development Director

June 9, 2016: American Red Cross did the following for our County Citizens:

58 alarms installed

0 batteries replaced

20 escape plans were made

66 total community members served, of which

20 were aged 17 or younger

8 were aged 65 or older

4 community members identified as veterans

3 community members identified as having access or functional needs

33 pre-existing smoke alarms were in the homes we canvassed, and only 20 of them were working alarms

June 13, 2016: Picked new truck up in Beresford. I ordered new signage for the vehicle.

June 14, 2016: Budget hearing were conducted.

June 15, 2016: Attended a FEMA Floodplain Update meeting. Deputy Director also attended. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for October, the Commission will be invited to that one.

June 24 to 26, 2016: ARRL (Radio Club) will be hosting annual Radio Days and utilizing the Brookings County Command Center. It will also be deployed for the Brookings Arts in the Park event in July.

County Development Director upcoming absences:

July 9 to July 12, 2016 Annual Leave

July 12 to 13, 2016 Pipeline Awareness Working Group Meeting

July 22 to 26, 2016 NACo Annual Convention

# South Dakota Community Risk MAP Kickoff Facts and FAQs

## Overview

As a community, you spend a tremendous amount of time, energy, and resources to keep your families, schools, and businesses safe. FEMA and the South Dakota Office of Emergency Management (SDOEM) are working with local officials to help communities identify risks and be safer through the Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (or Risk MAP) process. The kickoff meetings currently underway in southeast South Dakota are to establish relationships and collaborate with communities. This is not the only time that FEMA and state representatives will visit your community. We want to be strong community partners throughout the process.

We look to local authorities, residents, and businesses to help guide the Risk MAP process. We want to provide transparency, communication and responsiveness throughout the process. We will return this year and over the next few years, to discuss our findings and work with you to determine the best courses of action for your community.

## Our Goals

- To provide better flood risk data to help communities and citizens make informed risk-based decisions and build safer, more resilient communities.
- To assess community needs for flood and hazard mitigation planning in close coordination with local officials and the South Dakota Office of Emergency Management.
- To work with communities to gain a local perspective and understand community priorities.
- To empower communities to understand their risk, identify mitigation options and take action.

## Why is this occurring now?

Accurate information and data is essential to making informed decisions about flood risk. Many of the current FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) flood maps have not been updated or verified for several years. FEMA, in collaboration with SDOEM is updating flood maps utilizing digital typography technology (called LiDAR).

The maps are being updated for two reasons: First, increased collaboration at the state and local levels and better flood-mapping technology produces more accurate data; Second, flood risk changes over time due to land development, erosion, increasing storm intensity, wildfires,

and other causes. This means the new maps will provide your communities higher quality information to identify flood risk and keep homes, businesses and schools safer.

## Will this new LiDAR data lead to new flood maps for the community?

It is too early to know what areas will see flood map changes. The process aims to identify areas of flood risk while understanding your community's priorities. This Risk MAP process will involve close coordination with local officials, and the State, within the identified counties throughout southeast South Dakota. We encourage local participation in the process and intend to keep you informed of progress as we move forward together.

## How will this effect homeowners insurance?

Most homeowners insurance policies do not cover flood damages. Also, more than 20 percent of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) claims are for properties outside a high-risk flood area. That is why FEMA and the South Dakota Office of Emergency Management recommend flood insurance for all properties.

It is too early in the process to know the extent of change that will occur. Part of the Risk MAP process includes identifying Special Flood Hazard Areas where there is a high risk of flooding. Lenders require flood insurance coverage for federally-backed loans on property in a Special Flood Hazard Area.

## How can I find out more information and get involved?

Throughout the late summer and fall of 2016, FEMA, in coordination with the South Dakota Office of Emergency Management and local officials, will hold a series of discovery meetings with local stakeholders to obtain more information about known high risk areas, ongoing hazard mitigation, risk reduction projects and community needs. Please contact Brooke Conner at [brooke.conner@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:brooke.conner@fema.dhs.gov) with questions.

Additionally, FEMA and the State Office of Emergency Management will provide information and resources to help communities achieve their local safety and resiliency goals. To learn more about flood risk and insurance, please visit [www.FloodSmart.gov](http://www.FloodSmart.gov).



**FEMA**