



MEMORANDUM

TO: Agency Officials
FROM: Floyd Farmer, PE, ABA State Engineer
DATE: March 17, 2014
SUBJECT: Flood Season Preparations

With a wetter than normal season in the northern part of the United States this winter, heavier than normal accumulations of snow were recorded in much of the north central US. With the approach of spring, the snows will begin to melt and may result in excessively heavy water runoff. Since much of the central US water basins drain into rivers that traverse or skirt the edge of Arkansas, we can expect flooding along these rivers and the tributaries that feed these rivers. In addition, if the current weather patterns remain as is during the upcoming spring, we can expect additional localized flooding to occur.

It is now time to prepare for the possibility of flooding. Arkansas Building Authority (ABA) recommends that you review your flood hazard exposure and insurance coverage with the Arkansas Insurance Department Risk Management Division (501-371-2690) to ensure you understand the limits of your coverage and the deductibles applicable to your policy. You should also review your current flood evacuation plan (or develop one) to ensure that your vital records and equipment can be moved higher ground or otherwise protected prior to a flood event and to ensure that your staff knows what to do in the event of imminent flooding. You should also inspect drainage ditches and structures on your property and ensure that these facilities are clear of debris such as trash, fallen tree limbs, tall grasses, or other obstructions that may clog drains or otherwise restrict the timely drainage of storm waters. Proper maintenance of these facilities can help minimize localized flooding and allow floodwaters to recede much sooner.

If your Agency is subject to ABA oversight, please review the requirements for “Reporting a Flood Event” in Section 2-714 of the ABA Minimum Standards and Criteria (ABA MSC). The ABA MSC can be found on this website at the following link: <http://aba.arkansas.gov/aboutUs/Documents/Final%202012%20Revision.pdf> The information provided in these reports helps ABA provide better assistance in the recovery phase after an event and provide better standards and guidelines to Agencies through the Minimum Standards and Criteria.

If you have questions regarding this topic or the applicability of the ABA MSC, please call me at (501)-682-5563 or email me at ffarmer@aba.state.ar.us

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