



Video 21

The Community Rating System

Presentation Summary

- I. The Community Rating System (CRS) is:
 - A. A voluntary, incentive-based program.
 - B. Communities are rewarded for adopting more than the minimum regulatory requirements under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).
 - C. Policyholders can get reductions to flood insurance premiums if they live in a community that participates in the NFIP and CRS.
- II. In order for a community to participate, it must:
 - A. Be in the regular phase of the NFIP for at least one year;
 - B. Be in good standing with the program.
- III. Communities earn points for activities that:
 - A. Reduce flood damage to insurable properties;
 - B. Strengthen the insurance aspects of the NFIP;
 - C. Promote comprehensive floodplain management.
- IV. Communities earn points for 19 activities organized under four categories:
 - A. Public information
 1. Advise people about flood hazards
 2. Encourage the purchase of flood insurance
 3. Provide information about ways to reduce flood damage
 - B. Mapping and regulations
 1. Mapping Special Flood Hazard Areas not identified on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM)
 2. Preserving open space
 3. Protecting natural floodplain functions
 4. Enforcing higher regulatory standards
 5. Managing stormwater
 - C. Flood damage reduction
 1. Development of a comprehensive floodplain management strategy
 2. Acquiring, relocating, or retrofitting floodprone structures
 3. Maintaining and improving drainage systems

Notes

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Presentation Summary (cont.)

Notes

- D. Flood warning and response
 - 1. Maintenance of levees and dams
 - 2. Programs that prepare for levee or dam failure

V. The total points earned by a community will place it in one of ten categories.

- A. Communities in Class 1 receive the greatest premium reductions.
- B. Communities in Class 10 receive no reductions.
- C. For insured properties located in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), flood insurance premiums are reduced 5 percent for each drop in a community's CRS classification number.

VI. CRS activities can result in:

- A. Increased awareness by citizens and property owners of individual risk;
- B. Increased awareness of opportunities to protect life and property;
- C. Enhanced public safety;
- D. Reduced damage to public property and infrastructure;
- E. Reduced economic disruption and loss.

VII. For a community to participate in the CRS program:

- A. The community informs the FEMA regional office of its interest.
- B. The community submits an application and supporting documentation.
- C. A verification visit will be conducted to review community's activities and performance.
- D. After verification, the credit will be granted.

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Key Terms Used in This Presentation

Community Rating System (CRS)

A program that provides a flood insurance premium rate reduction based on a community's floodplain management activities. The Community Rating System (CRS) recognizes and encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP standards. Depending upon the level of participation, flood insurance premium rates for policyholders can be reduced up to 45%.

Insurance Services Office (ISO)

An insurance organization that administers the Community Rating System for FEMA.

Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is the state regulatory authority in Iowa that oversees floodplain development at the state level.

Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)

The land area covered by the flood waters of a base flood. The special flood hazard area is the area where the NFIP's floodplain regulations must be enforced.

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Questions

1. **Communities are required to participate in the CRS program.**
 - a. True
 - b. False
2. **Communities can earn CRS credit for all of the following activities except:**
 - a. Protecting natural floodplain functions
 - b. Encouraging the purchase of flood insurance
 - c. Requiring floodplain development permits for all development in the floodplain
 - d. Acquiring and relocating floodprone structures
3. **If a community wishes to apply for the CRS program, it must:**
 - a. Be in good standing with the NFIP
 - b. Be in the regular phase of the NFIP for at least one year
 - c. Require at least three feet of freeboard on new structures located in the Special Flood Hazard Area.
 - d. A, B, and C.
 - e. A and B only.

Answer key: 1:b, 2:c, 3:e

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Supporting Materials From This Presentation

CRS classes, credit points, and premium discounts.			
CRS Class	Credit Points	Premium Discount (%)	
		In SFHA	Outside SFHA
1	4,500+	45%	10%
2	4,000–4,499	40%	10%
3	3,500–3,999	35%	10%
4	3,000–3,499	30%	10%
5	2,500–2,999	25%	10%
6	2,000–2,499	20%	10%
7	1,500–1,999	15%	5%
8	1,000–1,499	10%	5%
9	500–999	5%	5%
10	0–499	0	0

Source: NFIP CRS Coordinator's Manual (2013) available for download at <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/8768?id=2434>

In the CRS program, communities earn points for activities that are determined to reduce flood damages to insurable property, strengthen the insurance aspect of the NFIP and promote comprehensive floodplain management. The total points earned by a community will place it into one of 10 CRS classes. Communities in Class 1 receive the greatest premium reductions.

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Supporting Materials From This Presentation

Table 110-2. Credit Points Awarded for CRS Activities.

Activity	Maximum Possible Points ¹	Maximum Points Earned ²	Average Points Earned ³	Percentage of Communities Credited ⁴
300 Public Information Activities				
310 Elevation Certificates	116	116	46	100%
320 Map Information Service	90	70	63	93%
330 Outreach Projects	350	175	63	90%
340 Hazard Disclosure	80	57	14	68%
350 Flood Protection Information	125	98	33	92%
360 Flood Protection Assistance	110	65	49	41%
370 Flood Insurance Promotion ⁵	110	0	0	0%
400 Mapping and Regulations				
410 Floodplain Mapping	802	585	65	50%
420 Open Space Preservation	2,020	1,548	474	68%
430 Higher Regulatory Standards	2,042	784	214	98%
440 Flood Data Maintenance	222	171	54	87%
450 Stormwater Management	755	540	119	83%
500 Flood Damage Reduction Activities				
510 Floodplain Mgmt. Planning	622	273	123	43%
520 Acquisition and Relocation	1,900	1,701	136	23%
530 Flood Protection	1,600	632	52	11%
540 Drainage System Maintenance	570	449	214	78%
600 Warning and Response				
610 Flood Warning and Response	395	353	144	37%
620 Levees ⁶	235	0	0	0%
630 Dams ⁶	160	0	0	0%

1 The maximum possible points are based on the 2013 Coordinator's Manual.

2 The maximum points earned are converted to the 2013 Coordinator's Manual from the highest credits attained by a community as of October 1, 2011. Growth adjustments and new credits for 2013 are not included.

3 The average points earned are converted to the 2013 Coordinator's Manual, based on communities' credits as of October 1, 2011. Growth adjustments and new credits for 2013 are not included.

4 The percentage of communities credited nationally is as of October 1, 2011.

5 Activity 370 (Flood Insurance Promotion) is a new activity in 2013. No community has earned these points.

6 Activities 620 and 630 were so extensively revised that the old credits cannot be converted to the 2013 Coordinator's Manual.

Source: NFIP CRS Coordinator's Manual (2013) available for download at
<http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/8768?id=2434>