



FEMA

The City of Fort Walton Beach

successfully participates in the

National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System

The community has undertaken a series of meaningful activities to protect its citizens from losses caused by flooding and has significantly exceeded the requirements for NFIP participation and effective floodplain management.



May 1, 2012

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. L. Miller".

David L. Miller
Associate Administrator for Federal Insurance and Mitigation
Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration
Federal Emergency Management Agency



Community Rating System

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) was implemented in 1990 as a voluntary program for recognizing and encouraging community floodplain management activities exceeding the minimum NFIP standards. Any community in full compliance with the minimum NFIP floodplain management requirements may apply to join the CRS.

1,211 Communities Participate in the CRS

Nearly 3.8 million policyholders in 1,211 communities participate in the CRS by implementing local mitigation, floodplain management, and outreach activities that exceed the minimum NFIP requirements.

Under the CRS, flood insurance premium rates are discounted to reward community actions that meet the three goals of the CRS, which are: (1) reduce flood damage to insurable property; (2) strengthen and support the insurance aspects of the NFIP; and (3) encourage a comprehensive approach to floodplain management.

Although CRS communities represent only 5 percent of the over 21,000 communities participating in the NFIP, more than 67 percent of all flood insurance policies are written in CRS communities.

CRS Classes

The CRS uses a class rating system that is similar to fire insurance rating to determine flood insurance premium reductions for residents. CRS classes* are rated from 10 to 1. A community that does not apply for the CRS or that does not maintain the minimum number of credit points would be considered a Class 10 community. Today, most communities enter the program at a Class 9 rating, which entitles residents in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs)

to a 5 percent discount on their flood insurance premiums. As a community engages in additional mitigation activities, its residents become eligible for increased NFIP policy premium discounts. Each CRS Class improvement produces a 5 percent greater discount on flood insurance premiums for properties in the SFHA, with a Class 1 community receiving the maximum 45 percent premium reduction.

Best of the Best

Four communities occupy the highest levels of the CRS. Each has developed a floodplain management program tailored to its own particular hazards, character, and goals. Under these programs, each community carries out numerous and varied activities, many of which are credited by the CRS. The average discount in policyholder premiums varies according to a community's CRS class and the average amount of insurance coverage in place. Some highlights:

Roseville, California was the first to reach the highest CRS rating (Class 1). Damaging floods in 1995 spurred Roseville to strengthen and broaden its floodplain management program. Today the City earns points for almost all CRS creditable activities. The average premium discount for policies in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) is \$792.

Comprehensive planning for floodplain management has been a key contributor to **Tulsa, Oklahoma's** progress in reducing flood damage from the dozens of creeks within its jurisdiction. The City (Class 2) has cleared more than 900 buildings from its floodplains. The average premium discount for policies in the SFHA is \$514.

King County, Washington (Class 2) has preserved more than 100,000 acres of floodplain open space and receives additional CRS credit for maintaining it in a natural state. The average premium discount for policies in the SFHA is \$586.

Pierce County, Washington (Class 2) maintains over 80 miles of river levees. County officials annually mail informational brochures to all floodplain residents. The average premium discount for policies in the SFHA is \$550.

* CRS class changes occur on May 1 and October 1 of each year. The data contained in this fact sheet were current through May 1, 2012.

CRS Credit

A community accrues points to improve its CRS Class rating and receive increasingly higher discounts. Points are awarded for engaging in any of 18 creditable activities, organized under four categories:

- Public information
- Mapping and regulations
- Flood damage reduction
- Flood preparation

Formulas and adjustment factors are used to calculate credit points for each activity.

The communities listed below are among those that have qualified for the greatest premium discounts:

Class 1: Roseville, California

Class 2: Tulsa, Oklahoma
King County, Washington
Pierce County, Washington

Class 4: Fort Collins, Colorado
Skagit County, Washington
Snohomish County, Washington
Charleston County, South Carolina
Sacramento County, California
Maricopa County, Arizona
Louisville-Jefferson County, Kentucky

Benefits of the CRS

Lower cost flood insurance rates are only one of the rewards a community receives from participating in the CRS. Other benefits include:

- Citizens and property owners in CRS communities have increased opportunities to learn about risk, evaluate their individual vulnerabilities, and take action to protect themselves, as well as their homes and businesses.
- CRS floodplain management activities provide enhanced public safety, reduced damage to property and public infrastructure, and avoidance of economic disruption and loss.
- Communities can evaluate the effectiveness of their flood programs against a nationally recognized benchmark.

- Technical assistance in designing and implementing some activities is available to community officials at no charge.
- CRS communities have incentives to maintain and improve their flood programs over time.

How to Apply

To apply for CRS participation, a community must initially inform the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Regional Office of its interest in applying to the CRS and will eventually submit a CRS application, along with documentation that shows it is implementing the activities for which credit is requested. The application is submitted to the Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO)/CRS Specialist. ISO works on behalf of FEMA and insurance companies to review CRS applications, verify communities' credit points, and perform program improvement tasks.

A community's activities and performance are reviewed during a verification visit. FEMA establishes the credit to be granted and notifies the community, the State, insurance companies, and other appropriate parties.

Each year, the community must verify that it is continuing to perform the activities that are being credited by the CRS. In addition, a community can continue to improve its class rating by undertaking new mitigation and floodplain management activities that earn even more points.

CRS Training

CRS specialists are available to assist community officials in applying to the program and in designing, implementing, and documenting the activities that earn even greater premium discounts. In addition, a week-long CRS course for local officials is offered for free at FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) located on the National Emergency Training Center campus in Emmitsburg, Maryland, and can be field deployed in interested states.

For More Information

A list of resources is available at the CRS website: <http://www.fema.gov/nfip/crs.shtm>. For more information about the CRS or to obtain the CRS application, contact the Insurance Services Office by phone at (317) 848-2898 or by e-mail at nfipcrs@iso.com.

COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM

I. GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Community Rating System (CRS) is a voluntary program for National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) participating communities. The goals of the CRS are to reduce flood damages to insurable property, strengthen and support the insurance aspects of the NFIP, and encourage a comprehensive approach to floodplain management.

The CRS has been developed to provide incentives in the form of premium discounts for communities to go beyond the minimum floodplain management requirements to develop extra measures to provide protection from flooding.

II. ELIGIBILITY

For a community to be eligible, it must be in full compliance with the NFIP and be in the Regular phase of the program. Table 1 shows the categories that are eligible for CRS premium discounts.

The following categories are not eligible for CRS premium discounts:

- Emergency Program communities
- Preferred Risk Policies
- Mortgage Portfolio Protection Program policies
- Post-FIRM buildings located in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) where the elevation difference used for rating is at least 1 foot or more below the Base Flood Elevation (BFE), with the following exceptions:
 - Post-FIRM V-Zone buildings with unfinished breakaway wall enclosures and machinery or equipment at or above the BFE; *and*
 - Subgrade crawlspaces with certification from a community official. The subgrade crawlspace exception must be certified by a community official letter containing the following statement:

“I certify that the building located at _____ [address] has a crawlspace that was built in compliance with the NFIP requirements for crawlspace construction as outlined in FEMA Technical Bulletin 11-01, Crawlspace Construction for Buildings Located in Special Flood Hazard Areas.”

III. CLASSIFICATIONS AND DISCOUNTS

All communities start out with a Class 10 rating (which provides no discount). There are 10 CRS classes: Class 1 requires the most credit points and gives the greatest premium discount; Class 10 identifies a community that does not apply for the CRS, or does not obtain a minimum number of credit points and receives no discount. There are 18 activities recognized as measures for eliminating exposure to floods. Credit points are assigned to each activity. The activities are organized under 4 main categories: Public Information, Mapping and Regulation, Flood Damage Reduction, and Flood Preparedness. Once a community applies to the appropriate Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) region for the CRS program and its implementation is verified, FEMA sets the CRS classification based upon the credit points. This classification determines the premium discount for policyholders. Premium discounts ranging from 5% to a maximum of 45% will be applied to eligible policies written in a community as recognition of the floodplain management activities instituted. Table 2 shows premium discounts for CRS Classes 1–10 within different flood zones. Table 3 lists all CRS eligible communities and their discounts.

IV. CRS ACTIVITIES THAT CAN DIRECTLY BENEFIT INSURANCE AGENTS/PRODUCERS

Certain activities credited under the CRS provide direct benefit to agents/producers writing flood insurance.

All CRS communities must maintain completed FEMA elevation and floodproofing certificates for all new and substantially improved construction in the SFHA after the date of application for CRS classification. These certificates must be available upon request. Therefore, in writing a policy, an agent/producer should be able to get these certificates from any CRS community. In addition, some CRS communities receive credit for having completed certificates for Post-FIRM buildings constructed prior to the CRS application date. If they do receive this credit, then these certificates should also be available to agents/producers writing flood insurance. The community may charge a fee for copying certificates.

Many CRS communities receive credit for providing inquirers with information from the community's Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). This includes a property's flood risk zone and the BFE. The service must be publicized once a year. If a community is receiving this credit, then agents/producers should be able to use the service. A fee may be charged for the service.

TABLE 1. CRS PREMIUM DISCOUNT ELIGIBILITY (REGULAR PROGRAM COMMUNITIES ONLY)¹

FLOOD ZONE	ELIGIBLE FOR CRS PREMIUM DISCOUNT	NOT ELIGIBLE FOR CRS PREMIUM DISCOUNT
All Flood Zones	Pre-FIRM Buildings	N/A
B, C, X, D, A99, AR, and AR Dual Zones (AR/A, AR/AE, AR/A1-A30, AR/AH, and AR/AO)	Post-FIRM Buildings	N/A
A Zones (AE, A1-A30, Unnumbered A, AO, AH)	Post-FIRM Non-Elevated Buildings where the elevation difference used for rating is at or above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE); <i>OR</i> With subgrade crawlspace certification from a community official	Post-FIRM Non-Elevated Buildings where the elevation difference used for rating is 1 foot or more below the BFE; <i>OR</i> With no subgrade crawlspace certification from a community official
	Post-FIRM Elevated Buildings ² where the elevation difference used for rating is at or above the BFE	Post-FIRM Elevated Buildings ² where the elevation difference used for rating is 1 foot or more below the BFE
'75-'81 and Post-'81 V Zones (VE, V1-V30, Unnumbered V)	Post-FIRM Non-Elevated Buildings where the elevation difference used for rating is at or above the BFE	Post-FIRM Non-Elevated Buildings where the elevation difference used for rating is 1 foot or more below the BFE
	Post-FIRM Elevated Buildings where the elevation difference used for rating is at or above the BFE	Post-FIRM Elevated Buildings where the elevation difference used for rating is 1 foot or more below the BFE
	Post-FIRM Elevated Buildings ² <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With unfinished enclosure where the elevation difference used for rating is at or above the BFE, with no machinery or equipment below the BFE; <i>OR</i> • With unfinished enclosure used only for parking, access, or storage with breakaway walls regardless of size, with no machinery or equipment below the BFE 	Post-FIRM Elevated Buildings ² <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With no enclosure where the elevation difference used for rating is 1 foot or more below the BFE; <i>OR</i> • With enclosure with non-breakaway walls where the elevation difference used for rating is 1 foot or more below the BFE; <i>OR</i> • With machinery or equipment below the BFE; <i>OR</i> • With finished enclosure below the BFE

1 Emergency Program policies, Preferred Risk Policies (PRPs), Mortgage Portfolio Protection Program (MPPP) policies, and Group Flood Insurance Policies are not eligible for the CRS premium discount.

2 For a Post-FIRM Elevated Building with an elevator below the BFE, contact the insurer for CRS discount eligibility.

TABLE 2. CRS PREMIUM DISCOUNTS

CLASS	DISCOUNT	CLASS	DISCOUNT
1	45%	6	20%
2	40%	7	15%
3	35%	8	10%
4	30%	9	5%
5	25%	10	—
<p>SFHA (Zones A, AE, A1-A30, V, V1-V30, AO, and AH): Discount varies depending on class. SFHA (Zones A99, AR, AR/A, AR/AE, AR/A1-A30, AR/AH, and AR/AO): 10% discount for Classes 1-6; 5% discount for Classes 7-9.* Non-SFHA (Zones B, C, X, D): 10% discount for Classes 1-6; 5% discount for Classes 7-9.</p>			

* In determining CRS Premium Discounts, all AR and A99 Zones are treated as non-SFHAs.

TABLE 3. COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM ELIGIBLE COMMUNITIES (continued)

COMMUNITY NUMBER	COMMUNITY NAME	CRS ENTRY DATE	CURRENT EFFECTIVE DATE	CURRENT CLASS	% DISCOUNT FOR SFHA ¹	% DISCOUNT FOR NON-SFHA	STATUS ²
Florida (continued)							
120195	Boca Raton, City of	10/1/92	05/1/08	8	10	5	C
120680	Bonita Springs, City of	05/1/06	10/1/11	6	20	10	C
120196	Boynton Beach, City of	10/1/91	10/1/10	7	15	5	C
120155	Bradenton, City of	10/1/91	05/1/11	6	20	10	C
125091	Bradenton Beach, City of	10/1/91	05/1/08	6	20	10	C
125092	Brevard County	10/1/91	10/1/06	7	15	5	C
125093	Broward County	10/1/92	05/1/12	7	15	5	C
120005	Callaway, City of	10/1/93	05/1/08	8	10	5	C
125094	Cape Canaveral, City of	10/1/93	05/1/08	8	10	5	C
125095	Cape Coral, City of	10/1/91	05/1/10	5	25	10	C
120090	Carrabelle, City of	10/1/93	10/1/93	9	5	5	C
120061	Charlotte County	10/1/92	05/1/04	5	25	10	C
120063	Citrus County	10/1/01	10/1/11	6	20	10	C
120064	Clay County	10/1/96	10/1/05	7	15	5	C
125096	Clearwater, City of	10/1/91	10/1/00	7	15	5	C
120198	Cloud Lake, Town of	10/1/94	10/1/10	7	15	5	C
120020	Cocoa, City of	10/1/94	10/1/04	10	0	0	R
125097	Cocoa Beach, City of	10/1/94	10/1/04	10	0	0	R
120031	Coconut Creek, City of	10/1/92	10/1/01	7	15	5	C
120067	Collier County	10/1/92	05/1/10	6	20	10	C
120070	Columbia County	10/1/96	10/1/05	8	10	5	C
120032	Cooper City, City of	10/1/92	05/1/09	7	15	5	C
120639	Coral Gables, City of	10/1/93	10/1/98	8	10	5	C
120033	Coral Springs, City of	10/1/92	10/1/94	8	10	5	C
120218	Cutler Bay, Town of	05/1/11	05/1/11	6	20	10	C
120034	Dania Beach, City of	10/1/93	10/1/93	9	5	5	C
120035	Davie, Town of	10/1/94	10/1/05	7	15	5	C
125099	Daytona Beach, City of	10/1/94	10/1/08	6	20	10	C
125100	Daytona Beach Shores, City of	10/1/92	10/1/12	6	20	10	C
125101	Deerfield Beach, City of	10/1/92	05/1/11	7	15	5	C
125102	Delray Beach, City of	10/1/94	10/1/94	9	5	5	C
125158	Destin, City of	10/1/94	05/1/10	6	20	10	C
120041	Doral, City of	05/1/09	05/1/09	8	10	5	C
125103	Dunedin, City of	10/1/92	10/1/11	6	20	10	C
120308	Edgewater, City of	10/1/92	10/1/12	7	15	5	C
120080	Escambia County	10/1/91	05/1/11	6	20	10	C
120146	Fanning Springs, Town of	10/1/93	10/1/08	8	10	5	C
120120	Fellsmere, City of	10/1/99	10/1/04	9	5	5	C
120172	Fernandina Beach, City of	10/1/92	10/1/02	7	15	5	C
120087	Flagler Beach, City of	10/1/95	05/1/12	6	20	10	C
125105	Fort Lauderdale, City of	10/1/92	05/1/08	7	15	5	C
125106	Fort Myers, City of	10/1/93	10/1/12	7	15	5	C
120673	Fort Myers Beach, Town of	10/1/99	10/1/99	7	15	5	C
120286	Fort Pierce, City of	10/1/92	05/1/12	6	20	10	C
120174	Fort Walton Beach, City of	10/1/92	05/1/12	6	20	10	C
120088	Franklin County	10/1/93	10/1/12	7	15	5	C
125107	Gainesville, City of	10/1/92	10/1/06	7	15	5	C
120200	Glen Ridge, Town of	10/1/94	10/1/06	10	0	0	R
120642	Golden Beach, Town of	10/1/93	10/1/02	10	0	0	R
120275	Gulf Breeze, City of	10/1/93	05/1/08	8	10	5	C
120098	Gulf County	10/1/93	05/1/07	8	10	5	C
125109	Gulf Stream, Town of	10/1/99	05/1/09	7	15	5	C

1 For the purpose of determining CRS discounts, all AR and A99 Zones are treated as non-SFHAs.

2 Status: C = Current, R = Rescinded