



NEWS RELEASE

January 22, 2015

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Kim Melchor

Lead Communications Specialist

719-385-5248

FEMA recognizes City of Colorado Springs for efforts to reduce region's flood risk

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo – The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) formally recognized the City of Colorado Springs today for its successful work over the past several years to reduce the flood risk in our community.

“Increasing public awareness of the region’s flood risk, mapping and mitigation work to reduce the impact of flooding are key to reducing the region’s flood risk. The ongoing efforts of the Colorado Springs Office of Emergency Management, Public Works Department, Communications Office and El Paso County Regional Building Department greatly contributed to the City of Colorado Springs improving its National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) from Class 7 to Class 6 and reducing floodplain insurance premiums by 5 percent within the city limits,” said Mathew Buddie, National Flood Insurance Program Specialist, FEMA Region VIII.

The City of Colorado Springs improved its score in the [National Flood Insurance Program \(NFIP\) Community Rating System \(CRS\)](#) in January 2014. The total reduction in flood insurance premiums through the City’s voluntary participation in the CRS program is 20 percent.

Points are awarded for engaging in activities such as public information, mapping and regulations, flood damage reduction, and flood preparation

The NFIP’s Community Rating System is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes communities that exceed the minimum NFIP requirements. Depending on a community’s rating on a scale of 1 to 10 (1 being the best), flood insurance premium rates are discounted to reflect the reduced flood risk. A community accrues points to improve its CRS Class rating and receives increasingly higher discounts. Points are awarded for engaging in activities such as public information, mapping and regulations, flood damage reduction, and flood preparation.

Of the 23,500 communities in the United States who participate in the FEMA NFIP, 1,386 participate in the voluntary CRS program. Colorado Springs is in the top 300 of those who participate in the United States.

###