



Community Rating System

March 2014

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.

1,296 Communities Participate in the CRS

Nearly 3.8 million policyholders in 1,296 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 22,000 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 9 to 1. Today, most communities enter the program at a CRS Class 9 or Class 8 rating, which entitles residents in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) to a 5 percent discount on their flood insurance premiums for a Class 9 or a 10 percent discount for Class 8. 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.

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 \$832.

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 \$583.

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 \$650.

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 \$666.

* CRS Class changes occur on May 1 and October 1 of each year. The data contained in this fact sheet were current through May 2014.