



Pikes Peak Regional Building Department
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www.pprbd.org

PPRBD's Continued Efforts to Support Affordable Housing

City of Colorado Springs property owners have recently seen another increase in discounts to flood insurance premiums for properties located within the FEMA designated Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). This is the second premium discount in as many years, and properties located within the SFHA will now see an overall discount of 25% off baseline flood insurance premiums.

The National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Community Rating System, or CRS, is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes communities that exceed the minimum NFIP requirements. The CRS program was developed to provide incentives in the form of insurance premium discounts for communities that exceed the minimum floodplain management requirements and develop extra measures to provide protection from flooding. The CRS program rates a community from 1 to 10, with 1 being the highest rating possible. In 2017, combined efforts of the Floodplain division of the Pikes Peak Regional Building Department (PPRBD) and the City of Colorado Springs to reduce flood risk and increase risk awareness resulted in a CRS classification rating adjustment from a 6 to a 5. According to FEMA, 1,500 communities participate in the CRS, of which, less than 140 have achieved a rating of 5 or better, putting the City of Colorado Springs in the top 10% nationally. The CRS program premium discounts, which amount to anywhere from a few hundred to several thousand dollars a year, are just one of the steps PPRBD, along with others, is taking to help make housing in our community more affordable.

Other projects commissioned by PPRBD Floodplain division, both past and present, include several voluntary flood map revisions which have corrected the risk rating on thousands of properties throughout all seven jurisdictions PPRBD serves, significantly impacting the affordability and salability of those properties. This has been achieved through a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR), which is FEMA's modification to an effective Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). PPRBD's work is aimed at identifying the true flood risk of a property, which in many cases eases the financial burden on property owners, creates more affordable housing, and makes construction more achievable.

The PPRBD Floodplain division's map revision efforts over the past six years have positively affected the jurisdictions PPRBD serves and offered financial relief to some communities within the City of Colorado Springs. Communities which have benefited from this work are:

- Manitou Springs – over 100 parcels removed from the floodplain as of 2013; and
- City of Colorado Springs – over 350 parcels removed from the floodplain as of 2014.

There are multiple SFHA reviews being performed in our region that could equate to similar future benefits. PPRBD continues to advocate for the communities that we serve.

Should you need further information regarding flood risk or mapping, visit our web site <https://www.pprbd.org/Home/About/#floodplain> or contact the Floodplain Administrator directly:

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