

grassland fires, which threatens destruction to life/and or improved property as would constitute a major disaster under Fire Suppression Assistance (FSA). In order for FEMA to provide the necessary assistance to States for the fire suppression program activities, the following forms are used to collect information: FEMA Form 90-58, Request for Fire Suppression Assistance, used by the state to provide information to support the need for Federal assistance.

FEMA Form 90-91, Damage Survey Report, prepared by the Principal

Advisor, State Forester, and a FEMA representative upon termination of eligible fire suppression assistance. Standard Form 424, Federal Assistance (referred to in FEMA as their Fire Project Application) submitted by a State immediately after FEMA's Regional Director terminates fire suppression assistance. Standard Form 270, Request for Advance or Reimbursement used by the State as an option to receive funds. In addition, under Section 420 of the Stafford Act there must be a FEMA-State Agreement. Also, a State Administrative Plan must

be developed by the State for the Administration of a Fire Suppression Assistance Grant. The plan must designate the State agency that will be responsible for the administration of the program and ensure compliance with the law and regulation applicable to (FSA) grants and ensure the administrative plan is incorporated into the State Emergency Plan.

Affected Public: State, local or tribal government.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 110 hours.

Information collection	Respondents per year	Hour burden per response	Burden hours per year
FEMA-Statement Agreement	27	5 minutes	2.25
Standard Form 90-58	27	1 hour	27
Standard Form 424	27	1 hour	27
FEMA Form 90-91	27	30 minutes ..	13.5
Standard Form 270 or Letter of Credit	27	30 minutes ..	13.5
State Administrative Plan	27	1 hour	27
Estimated Total	27	4.0833 hours	110.25

Estimated Cost. \$1,654-cost is estimated at \$15.00 per respondent × 27 respondents × 4.0833 hour burden per response.

COMMENTS: Written comments are solicited to: (a) Evaluate whether the proposed data collection is necessary for the proper performance of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses. Comments should be received within 60 days of the date of this notice.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons should submit written comments to Muriel B. Anderson, FEMA Information Collections Officer, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street, SW, Room 316, Washington, DC 20472. Telephone number (202) 646-2625. FAX number (202) 646-3524. Email address muriel.anderson@fema.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Contact Sherry Savoy at (202) 646-2667 for additional information. Contact Ms. Anderson at (202) 646-2625 for copies

of the proposed collection of information.

Dated: March 26, 1999.

Reginald Trujillo,

Director, Program Services Division, Operations Support Directorate.

[FR Doc. 99-8465 Filed 4-5-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6718-01-P

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Federal Emergency Management Agency, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed revised information collections. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), this notice seeks comments concerning the Elevation Certificate and the Floodproofing Certificate. The certificates are required by the NFIP to certify the elevations of buildings, so that the policy can be properly rated. It also provides documentation to verify the community's enforcement of building ordinances, which is important to the NFIP mitigation and floodplain management activities.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION. The NFIP is authorized by Public Law 90-448 (1968) and expanded by Public Law 93-234 (1973). The National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 requires that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provide flood insurance at full actuarial rates reflecting the complete flood risk to structures built or substantially improved on or after the effective date, for the initial Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for the community, or after December 31, 1974, whichever is later, so that the risks associated with buildings in flood-prone areas are borne by those located in such areas and not by the taxpayers at large. In accordance with Public Law 93-234, the purchase of flood insurance is mandatory when Federal or federally related financial assistance is being provided for acquisition or construction of buildings located, or to be located, within FEMA-identified special flood hazard areas of communities that are participating in the NFIP.

The NFIP regulations require the elevation or floodproofing of newly constructed structures in designated special flood hazard areas. As part of the agreement for making flood insurance available in a community, the NFIP requires the community to adopt a floodplain management ordinance containing certain minimum requirements intended to reduce future flood losses. One such requirement is that the community obtain the elevation of the lowest floor (including basement) of all new and substantially improved

structures, and maintain a record of all such information. The data may be generated and retained as part of the community's permit issuance and building inspection processes. The Elevation Certificate is one convenient way for a community to comply with this requirement. The Floodproofing Certificate may similarly be used to establish the required record in those instances when floodproofing for non-residential structures is a permitted practice.

In the past several years, FEMA has collected feedback from users of the Elevation Certificate form requesting minor changes and clarifications. These changes include better description of structure being certified; expanding "Section B—Flood Insurance Rate Map Information" to include critical map information; improving Instructions Section and simplifying the existing Building Diagrams; and clarifying the certification section to reduce the liability risk on the surveyors and professional engineers.

Collection of Information

Title: Post Construction Elevation Certificate/Floodproofing Certificate.

Type of Information Collection: Revision of a currently approved collection.

OMB Number: 3067-0077.

Form Numbers: FEMA Form 81-31, Elevation Certificate; FEMA Form 81-65, Floodproofing Certificate for Non-Residential Structures.

Abstract: The Elevation Certificate and Floodproofing Certificate are adjuncts to the application for flood insurance. The certificates are required for proper rating of post-Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) structures, which are buildings constructed after publication of the FIRM, for flood insurance in Special Flood Hazard Areas. In addition, the Elevation Certificate is needed for pre-FIRM structures being rated under post-FIRM flood insurance rules. The certificates provide community officials and others, with standardized documents that are readily needed.

The certificates are supplied to insurance agents, community officials, surveyors, engineers, architects, and NFIP policyholders/applicants. The community officials or other professionals provide the elevation data required to document conformance with floodplain management regulations and for the applicants so that actuarial insurance rates can be charged. The elevation data is transmitted to the NFIP by the insurance applicant or agent with the appropriate NFIP policy forms.

The data is also used to assist FEMA in measuring the effectiveness of the NFIP regulations in eliminating or decreasing damage caused by flooding and the appropriateness of the NFIP premium charges for insuring property against the flood hazard.

Affected Public: Individuals and households, Businesses or other for-profit, Not-for-profit institutions, Farms, and State, local or tribal governments.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 166,362.

FEMA forms	Number of respondents (A)	Hours per response (B)	Annual burden hours (AxB)
81-31	73,000	2.25	164,250
81-65	650	3.25	2,112
Total	73,650	166,362

Estimated Cost: The average cost is estimated to be a fee of \$125-\$200 charged to the applicant by the private sector professional completing the Elevation or Floodproofing Certificates. Total annual costs could range from \$9,206,250 to \$14,730,000 (i.e., 73,650 respondents x \$125 per respondent = \$9,206,250 to 73,650 respondents x \$200 per respondent = \$14,730,000.) Although the average is estimated to range from \$125 to \$200 per certificate, the actual cost for a given certificate may vary by region and location. In many cases, the Certificates will be available at no cost as a normal product of the community's construction and local permitting processes.

The cost to the Federal government for developing/revising the Elevation Certificate and Floodproofing Certificate is estimated to total \$50,000. There is no independent dollar cost to the Federal government to develop, process, analyze and maintain this information since it is submitted by the applicant for flood insurance, along with the applicant's application.

COMMENTS: Written comments are solicited to (a) evaluate whether the proposed data collection is necessary for

the proper performance of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology; e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses. Comments should be received within 60 days of the date of this notice.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons should submit written comments to Muriel B. Anderson, FEMA Information Collections Officer, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street, SW, Room 316, Washington, DC 20472. Telephone number (202) 646-2625. FAX number (202) 646-3524 or email muriel.anderson@fema.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Contact Jhun de la Cruz, Insurance

Examiner, Federal Insurance Administration, (202) 646-2650 for additional information. Contact Ms. Anderson at (202) 646-2625 or email muriel.anderson@fema.gov for copies of the proposed collection of information.

Dated: March 26, 1999.

Reginald Trujillo,

Director, Program Services Division, Operations Support Directorate.

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BILLING CODE 6718-01-P

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Federal Emergency Management Agency is submitting a request for review and approval of an expired information collection. The request is submitted under the emergency processing procedures in Office of Management and Budget OMB)