

National Flood Insurance Program's

# Community Rating System

A workshop for Capitol Region municipalities on reducing the cost of flood insurance and improving floodplain management.

Thursday, September 15, 2016 | 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

West Hartford Town Hall, Room 400  
50 South Main Street, West Hartford, CT 06107

## AGENDA

1. **Welcome and Introductions** - Lynne Pike DiSanto, AICP, Principal Planner and Policy Analyst, CRCOG
2. **Program Basics** - Christopher Markesich, CFM, Senior Natural Hazards Program Specialist, CRS Coordinator, FEMA Region 1
3. **The State's Role and Potential Savings for Capitol Region Communities** - Diane Ifkovic, State NFIP Coordinator, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
4. **The Local Perspective** - Todd Dumais, West Hartford Town Planner
5. **Question and Answers**



# Community Rating System (CRS) Workshop

September 15, 2016  
West Hartford Town Hall

## SPEAKER BIOS

**Christopher Markesich, CFM**  
**Sr. Natural Hazards Program Specialist / CRS Coordinator, FEMA Region I**  
[christopher.markesich@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:christopher.markesich@fema.dhs.gov)

Mr. Markesich has over 16 years of experience working within the National Flood Insurance Program. He currently serves as the Senior Natural Hazards Program Specialist in the Floodplain Management and Insurance Branch with FEMA Region I in Boston. He is also the Regional point of contact for the Community Ratings System (CRS) and is a technical expert on compliance issues. Prior to joining FEMA in Boston, Chris worked for the Floodplain Management Program within the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation serving as the Flood Mapping Coordinator. He also worked at FEMA Region II's Mitigation Division in New York for several years working in compliance and mapping for New York communities. Prior to that Chris was with Dewberry and Davis in Fairfax VA for 6 years as a Section Leader. His primary focus was supervising the day to day operations of FEMA's Map Assistance Call Center (FMAC) that responded to questions from homeowners, surveyors, engineers and community officials on regulations, insurance and mapping. He also served as FEMA's "Ask the Expert" and responded to several thousand email inquiries to their website on flood insurance and mapping.

Mr. Markesich graduated from the University of Connecticut and received Bachelor of Arts degrees in Geography and History, with a focus area on Cartography and Climatology.

**Diane Ifkovic**  
**Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection**  
[Diane.Ifkovic@ct.gov](mailto:Diane.Ifkovic@ct.gov)

Diane Ifkovic has been employed at the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection since October 1999 within the flood management program of the Inland Water Resources Division. As the State National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Coordinator, Ms. Ifkovic serves as the liaison between the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and municipalities to reduce flood losses and mitigate natural hazards. She conducts community outreach meetings to promote wise floodplain management and ensure compliance with the minimum federal NFIP standards. Other duties include performing local ordinance and regulation reviews for compliance with minimum federal requirements, conducting training workshops for municipal officials, publishing an electronic newsletter, assisting municipalities and regional planning agencies in preparing hazard mitigation plans, assisting community officials and residents, and following a disaster declaration. Ms. Ifkovic participates on the state drought committee and long-term recovery task force. She is a member of the board of directors for the Connecticut Association of Flood Managers (CAFM). She is also an adjunct professor at the University of New Haven teaching an online floodplain management class for their masters in emergency management program. From 1997 to 1999, Ms. Ifkovic worked as a program assistant at the University of Connecticut Center for Environmental Health. From 1995 to 1995, Ms. Ifkovic was employed as an Environmental Analyst for Fuss & O'Neill Consulting Engineers in Manchester,

Connecticut. From 1991 to 1995, Ms. Ifkovic was employed as a Food Scientist at the Cadbury Beverages Technical Center in Trumbull, Connecticut.

Ms. Ifkovic graduated from the University of New Haven with a Master of Science degree in Environmental Science. She also graduated from Clark University with Bachelor of Arts degrees in both Biology and History.

**Todd Dumais**  
**Town of West Hartford**  
[Todd.Dumais@WestHartfordCT.gov](mailto:Todd.Dumais@WestHartfordCT.gov)

Todd Dumais is the Town Planner for the Town of West Hartford. His work focuses on short and long range land use planning and the review of both large and small scale, commercial, multifamily residential, institutional, and single family residential development projects for consistency with the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development, Zoning Ordinances and Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Regulations. Prior to joining the Town of West Hartford, Mr. Dumais was the Principal Planner for the City of Stamford, Connecticut.

Mr. Dumais received his Master's in City and Regional Planning from the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University and his B.A. summa cum laude in Geography from the University of Connecticut. Mr. Dumais also served for twelve (12) years as an Emergency Management Technician in the Connecticut Air National Guard and is a veteran of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.