MU Alum Alysse Stehli speaks about Floodplain Management for Fall 2015 Virtual Seminar Series

Friday, October 23, 2015 – 1PM EDT

Alysse Stehli
Emergency Management Specialist and Community Resilience Planner

As a planner with Tetra Tech, Inc., Alysse Stehli supports a variety of projects for public sector clients at the state, county, and municipal levels. She has utilized her strong research abilities, writing skills, and attention to detail to develop and review a variety of emergency management, community resilience, and community development plans, with a strong focus in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Since becoming a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) in August 2014, Alysse has become involved in the integration of floodplain management and emergency management. She is currently part of an innovative initiative with Dauphin County to help assess municipal eligibility for the Community Rating System, which offers flood insurance discounts to property owners in jurisdictions with strong flood mitigation and control programs. Alysse has also worked on two floodplain management plans, as well as several county multi-hazard mitigation plans.

Alysse is from the Lancaster, PA, area, and she completed her Master’s of Science in Emergency Management at Millersville University in May 2014. Additionally, she achieved summa cum laude honors for her undergraduate degrees, also through Millersville University. Her undergraduate focus includes a Bachelor of Science degree in Spanish education, a Bachelor of Arts degree in international studies, and a minor in linguistics. Alysse served as both the Vice President (AY 2013-2014) and Secretary (AY 2012-2013) for the Millersville chapter of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM).

Seminar Topic & Abstract:
Floodplain Management, Flood Insurance Reform, and the Community Rating System

Floods and flood-related events are a major concern in the United States. At a local level, Pennsylvania is considered the one of the most flood-prone states in the country, (cont’d)
making flood mitigation a top priority for many communities. Flood hazards include more than just riverine flooding, flash floods, and coastal floods; related hazards also cover ice jams, dam failures, and in coastal communities, coastal erosion and sea level rise. Because flood damage is often extensive and expensive to property owners, Congress created the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to provide insurance protection to property owners in return for local government commitment to floodplain management and flood disaster mitigation efforts.

Unfortunately, due to the cost of flood damage, particularly from events like Superstorm Sandy, Tropical Storm Lee, and Hurricane Katrina, the NFIP is over $25 billion in debt to the U.S. Treasury. Beginning in 2012, several reform acts have been passed in an effort to make the NFIP a more sustainable program. Understanding these changes and the implications for property owners is of importance to both local emergency managers and community officials. Additionally, since flood insurance reform will continue to lead to increasing flood insurance rates, local emergency managers should be aware of what resources are available to decrease negative impacts on local residents. One such resource is the Community Rating System (CRS), which offers discounted rates in municipalities that engage in additional flood control, mitigation, and preparedness measures.

This webinar will provide a basic background on the NFIP and its importance to emergency managers, as well as summarizing some of the flood insurance reform changes and the benefits of the CRS program.

Click here for details on how to attend the free seminar.