

FEMA Task Force Gives Approval to BDA for CRS Points



FEMA

The Federal Emergency Management Agency Community Rating System (CRS) Task Force met in Boston, Massachusetts the last week of April. As a follow up to their previous meeting in Houston, the Task Force approved awarding points toward the National Flood Insurance Program's CRS to jurisdictions that receive accreditation from the IAS Building Department Accreditation (BDA) Program. The Task Force has agreed, in principle, to grant IAS-accredited building departments 25 points towards a jurisdiction's CRS, under certain conditions. The change will take effect in the next edition of the CRS Coordinator's Manual which is scheduled for January 2011.

There are details still to be worked out regarding additional language for the IAS Building Department Accreditation Criteria AC251 as well as further discussion as to other activities that IAS may be able to assist FEMA. FEMA will

offer training pertinent to the CRS as it relates to the BDA Program as part of the IAS Lead Evaluator course. FEMA is also looking to have field representatives participate in some of our upcoming on-site visits. This is a very important step forward for IAS in providing added value to participating building departments. IAS welcomes this opportunity to be a valued partner with FEMA.