

IN LOUISIANA

IASM members busy trying to stop *that sinking feeling*

by Jack Edwards

It's a home owners worst nightmare. First, it's a crack in the sheet rock. Then a door will not close. The final straw is separation of brick in the foundation. It's a homeowners worst fear and it has become a chronic problem in southeast Louisiana's sinking, loamy soil in recent years.

While soil subsidence is nothing new to the greater New Orleans area, homes that are sinking is, and shoring companies are seeing a marked increase due to "quirky weather" and "inadequate shoring" during the building boom in the

1960s and 70s, according to an article in *The Times -Picayune* (9-22-04). As a result, several shoring contractors say they have seen their business double since 1995.

A few homeowners are getting assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in an attempt to reduce the cost of repeated claims being file under the national Flood Insurance Program. In fact, FEMA awarded more than \$2.4 million to the effort in 2000, but officials admit that it is still a "tiny drop in a very big bucket of flood-insurance

claims," as reported in *The Time Picayune* (Dec. 6, 2000). Of the 10,000 top multiple flood-loss cases nationwide, 3,500 are in ...

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