

Inside this Issue

- 1 Resilience Success Story
- 2 Featured Trainings
- 2 NORFMA 2019 Conference
- 3 Online Training Calendar

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News from Region 10

Beatrice, Nebraska Chooses Resilience

Midwest community inspires & confirms initiatives for successful floodplain management

Like many cities in our region and across the country, the City of Beatrice in southeastern Nebraska was built along a major river. With a history of catastrophic flood inundation, they began purchasing and converting flood-prone properties into outdoor recreation areas and open spaces rather than rebuilding. With a total investment of \$4.9 million, Beatrice has purchased 120 properties and made tremendous strides towards preventing risk to lives and property.

The FEMA Podcast recently featured a discussion with some experts in mitigation and the City of Beatrice, Nebraska regarding recent flooding events. You can listen to it here: <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/audio/172151>.

After a 2015 flooding event, using Hazus, FEMA's loss estimation software, the City was able to

quantify avoided losses, in dollars saved, for each of those 120 properties. The result? An estimated \$12.9 million dollars in avoided losses – an \$8 million net savings, or a 263% return on investment from the 2015 flood event alone.

In that interview, Tobias Templemeyer, City Manager of Beatrice, also says that even with the success realized from mitigation done so far, the City realizes that more can be done, and that plans are underway for a 2019 update to their Hazard Mitigation Plan.

When community leaders invest in flood mitigation, the return on investment continues to increase every time it floods as damages are avoided. These efforts serve as a living example of the power of mitigation – ensuring that communities are more resilient and able to recover more quickly and fully from flood events.

For more information on Beatrice's story, you can also visit their [Mitigation Effectiveness Story Map](#), or [watch a video](#) of footage of the recent flooding shared by the City.



Aerial view of the City of Beatrice during recent flooding events. Through a series of acquisition projects and mitigation actions, this city has been able to protect their citizens and property from the effects of flooding. Image courtesy of: City of Beatrice, NE & YouTube.

Featured Trainings

L0273: Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP

April 29 – May 2, 2019
Central Point, OR

Spaces are still available for participation in this course, hosted by FEMA Region X and the Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM). The course will focus on the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and concepts of floodplain management, maps and studies, ordinances administration, and flood insurance.

The course is designed for those officials with less than three years of floodplain management experience. To apply, please use the following application form: [FEMA Form 119-25-1 Application](#).

National Flood Insurance Program Advanced Concepts Workshop

May 6 – 7, 2019
Albany, OR

Hosted by FEMA Region X, this workshop will include modules from the L0284 Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts III course with a specific focus on Substantial Improvement/ Substantial Damage (SI/SD), non-compliance issues, and floodway standards.

Recommended prerequisites include FEMA's L0273 course, "Managing Floodplain Development through the National Flood Insurance Program."

To apply to this workshop, after obtaining your supervisor's approval, contact Michelle Schmeling if you are interested in attending this course. Enrollment confirmations will be sent via e-mail.

The primary audiences for these courses are local floodplain management officials including building inspectors, code enforcement/zoning officers,

planners, city/county managers, attorneys, engineers, and public works officials.

For both courses, tuition is free for those accepted; there are no travel or salary stipends available, and all incurred costs are the responsibility of the attendee or sending organization.

Please direct any questions to the course coordinator at michelle.schmeling@fema.dhs.gov.

NORFMA News

2019 Annual Conference – Boise, ID "Fires, Floods, Mud & More: Integrated Processes"

Registration is now open for the Northwest Regional Floodplain Management Association (NORFMA) annual conference, which will be held in Boise, ID, from September 24-27, 2019. This year, the theme is "Fires, Floods, Mud & More: Integrated Processes".

The Call for Abstracts is open, and NORFMA is seeking submittals for workshops or presentations on floodplain projects, regulatory environment, and other emerging issues, including:

- NFIP Compliance – Higher Standards
- Case Studies / Flooding Issues – Urban or Rural Areas
- Integrated Watershed & Floodplain Management Approaches
- Zoning & Permitting in Floodplains
- Engineering & Mapping – Methods & Tools
- Hazard Mitigation & Resilience Planning
- Risk Communication
- Dams & Levees
- Stories from the Field

Other topics or ideas that illustrate the conference theme and related

principles are also welcome. **Submissions are due June 15, 2019.**

To support organizations with limited travel budget or capacity & to encourage student participation, a limited number of NORFMA [scholarships](#) are available which cover the cost of registration. Applications are due by June 15.

For more information, visit www.norfma.org.

CRS Users Group Quarterly Meeting

April 18, 1–3 pm
Tacoma Mall Plaza

The next CRS Users group meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2019. It will be held at the Pierce County Planning & Public Works offices in Tacoma, WA; a Skype connection is available for those who cannot attend these quarterly meetings in person.

RSVP to Dennis Dixon at ddixon@co.pierce.wa.us.



Ask the Help Desk

The Region 10 Service Center is here to help local community officials and stakeholders with technical, training, mitigation, and mapping questions.

Email RegionXHelpDesk@starr-team.com.

Online Training

(All times Pacific)

Tools for Determining Base Flood Elevation

April 11, 10 am
Online – 1 CEC

CRS: Preparing for a Verification Visit

April 16, 10 am
Online – 1 CEC

CRS: Flood Insurance Promotion (Activity 370)

April 17, 10 am
Online – 1 CEC

NFIP Basics

April 25, 10 am
Online – 1 CEC

Elevation Certificates

May 16, 10 am
Online – 2 CECs

Floodplain Development Permit Review

May 30, 9 am
Online – 1 CEC

Inspecting Floodplain Development

May 30, 10:30 am
Online – 1 CEC

Tools for Determining Base Flood Elevation

June 6, 10 am
Online – 1 CEC

CRS: Credit for Drainage System Maintenance (Activity 540)

June 18, 10 am
Online – 1 CEC

To register for online courses, visit STARR's training site: j.mp/starronlinetraining, or email RXTraining@starr-team.com.

Newsletter Ideas?

Want to spread the word about an upcoming event or recent success story? Let us know what you want to see in future issues! Articles can be up to 500 words and may include pictures.

Email RXNewsletter@starr-team.com.