

Inside this Issue

- 1** Finding Solutions in the Aftermath of Spring Flooding
- 2** Understanding & Managing Flood Risk: A Guide for Elected Officials
- 2** Resiliency in Region 10: COVID-19
- 2** Featured Training
- 3** NFIP Technical Bulletin Updates
- 3** Online Training Calendar

Strategic Alliance for Risk Reduction
FEMA Region 10 Service Center
20700 44th Avenue West, Suite 130
Lynnwood, Washington 98036
(425) 329-3699

News from Region 10



Beverly Road near the Walla Walla River, WA. Early estimates show damages to public infrastructure and crop loss will top \$30 million.

Finding Solutions in the Aftermath of Spring Flooding

Helping communities reduce risks and recover | Walla Walla, WA 2020

Early in February of this year, Region 10 communities along the Walla Walla River in Oregon and Washington experienced spring flooding of unexpected proportions.

This scale of flooding, referred to as the 1% annual chance flood, caused both public and private losses as a result of heavy rainfall and high-altitude snowmelt. Tributaries such as Mill Creek (WA) were recorded having unprecedented flows, causing channel migration and levee overburdening.

In the wake of flooding events of this caliber, residents face a multitude of challenges on their way to community recovery. Inundation of utilities, underground storage tanks, and facilities which store hazardous materials pose health and environmental risks for both

individuals and local business owners.

The State of Washington Department of Ecology is working to provide impacted residents with resources and access to relief efforts, as seen in their recent Ecology Blog release.

In addition to providing details about relief efforts regarding the recent flooding, the blog includes information about ongoing disaster prevention for the Walla Walla River Basin. These plans include cultivating a more flood-resilient landscape by working to implement flood hazard identification and mitigation techniques.

As members of these Region 10 communities work toward rebuilding, it is important to remember that preparedness and prevention are the best defense strategies for local hazard risk reduction.

To learn more about The Washington Department of Ecology's role in recent flood risk reduction, please visit: [The Ecology Blog](#)

Understanding & Managing Flood Risk: A Guide for Elected Officials

Released by The Association of State Floodplain Mangers (ASFPM)

Floods are the leading cause of natural disaster losses in the United States. Understanding the vulnerability of people and the built environment is an important first step to minimize impacts from the next flood. ASFPM has recently published a free three-part comprehensive guide for elected officials. And, while it may seem challenging, flood management boils down to protecting people and property. This flood risk guide walks elected officials through the key information they need to know to meet that responsibility. The ASFPM Foundation partnered with ASFPM in the development of this guide.

The Guide for Elected Officials is broken down into three volumes:

Volume I: The Essentials – Learn the essentials that elected officials need to know about flood risk in their community.

Volume II: Moving Beyond the Essentials – Takes a deeper dive into property protection, flood insurance, managing and strengthening local flood management programs, and more.

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.

Volume III: Success Stories – Explore case studies and interviews from a variety of nationwide communities that successfully tackled flood mitigation.

Wise flood management provides the means to address communities’ flood problems before, during, and after an event. In addition, it creates sustainable development practices for future generations.

For more information about the new publication “A Guide for Elected Officials,” please visit the [ASFPM website](#).

Resiliency in Region 10: COVID-19

Online platform for local resiliency in Mountlake Terrace, WA



-- Fred Rogers

As members of every Region attempt to grapple with the unexpected impact of an international pandemic, it can be difficult to see any silver lining amid the catastrophe. Although this is a time of frustration and uncertainty for everyone, it is also a shining example of human resilience and compassion within our communities.

Stories of support for one another are beginning to surface, shedding light on the charismatic capacity which is deep rooted within our social structures. These displays of aid and assistance confirm our ability to come together to strengthen our resiliency to this risk.

Community member Brett Holt (FEMA Region 10, External Affairs) of Mountlake Terrace, WA, has created an online platform to

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.

increase the accessibility of educational resources in this stressful time of confusion.

[Resilient MLT](#) provides an online community for storytelling and support in a time of collective disconnect resulting from growing social distancing efforts. In addition to cultivating human connection through technology, this site delivers recommended leisure reading, health advisory updates, and techniques for adjusting to at-home schooling and childcare.

For more information, please visit the [Resilient MLT website](#).

Featured Training

L273: Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP

**August 17-20, 2020
Twin Falls County, ID**

Hosted by FEMA Region 10 and the Idaho Department of Water Resources, this course is designed for local officials responsible for administering their local floodplain management ordinance. The course will focus on the NFIP and concepts of floodplain management, maps and studies, ordinances administration, and the relationship between floodplain management and flood insurance. A CFM Exam will follow on Friday, August 21st.

Contact: [Maureen O’Shea](mailto:Maureen.OShea@idwr.idaho.gov), Idaho NFIP Coordinator, at 208-287-4928 or Maureen.OShea@idwr.idaho.gov

NFIP Technical Bulletin Updates

TB (1): Requirements for Flood Openings in Foundation Walls and Walls of Enclosures

TB (5): Free-of-Obstructions Requirements

FEMA is updating the NFIP Technical Bulletins to improve their usability, credibility, and content while presenting them in a streamlined format. Technical

Bulletins 1 & 5 were last updated more than 10 years ago. These updated editions incorporate the latest relevant codes and standards and state-of-the-art guidance and best practices. They were developed with significant stakeholder input to help local officials meet or exceed relevant NFIP requirements.

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Technical Bulletins provide guidance for complying with the NFIP’s building performance

requirements and are designed to help state and local officials interpret the NFIP Regulations. They are also a useful resource and reference for homeowners, insurance agents, building professionals and designers.

For more information on FEMA’s NFIP Technical Bulletins, visit: <https://www.fema.gov/nfip-technical-bulletins>.



Online Training

(All times Pacific)

NFIP Basics

April 9, 10 am
Online – 1 CEC

Tools for Determining BFE

April 16, 10 am
Online – 1 CEC

Elevation Certificates

April 23, 10 am
Online – 2 CECs

Floodplain Development Permit Review

May 21, 9 am
Online – 1 CEC

Inspecting Floodplain Development

May 21, 10:30 am
Online – 1.5 CEC

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