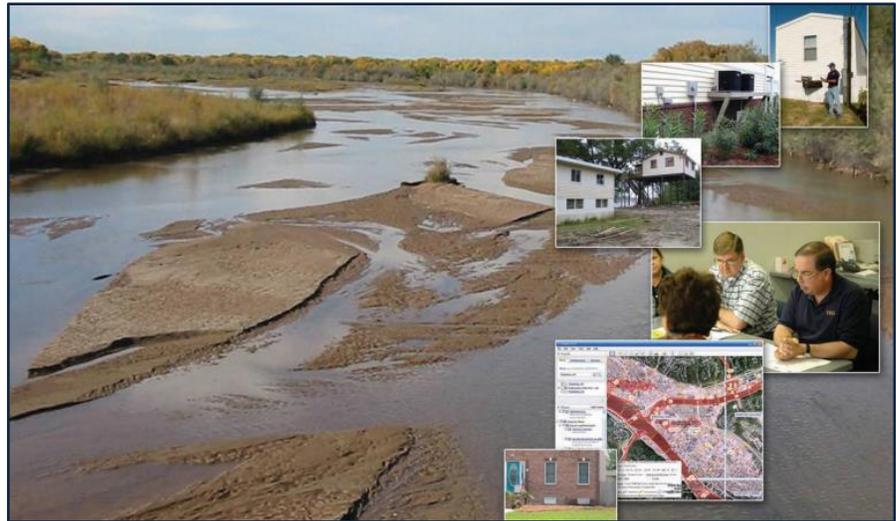


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News from Region 10



Technical Assistance Visits to Local Communities

Mitch Paine, CFM – FEMA Region 10

Communities that participate in the NFIP have two primary responsibilities: 1) to ensure that their floodplain regulations meet minimum standards and 2) to regulate development in the floodplain according to those regulations. Sounds simple enough, but we all know that it’s more complex than that. To help with the complexity and the challenges, staff from FEMA and States provide technical assistance in various forms to help and make sure communities are managing their floodplains well.

Two of the primary mechanisms that FEMA and State floodplain specialists use are Community Assistance Contacts (CACs) and Community Assistance Visits (CAVs). Both are opportunities for FEMA and state staff to walk through your floodplain management program in detail and are akin to in-depth technical assistance. Typically, these are done in person if possible,

though a phone or virtual visit will be scheduled if needed, particularly with the COVID-19 limited travel abilities.

During a CAC, you can expect the FEMA or state staff to review your floodplain management regulations to make sure they meet the federal and state minimum standards. They will also ask for a written standard operation procedure for your floodplain management permitting processes. Other topics might include variances, higher regulatory standards, floodplain mapping, flood insurance, and hazard mitigation projects. The goal is to try to help communities and floodplain managers, who often wear multiple “hats” of duties, find and implement the best process for both the community’s NFIP responsibilities and the local need. These visits usually take a couple hours and often have follow-up actions such as updating noncompliant floodplain regulations.

A CAV is more intensive and is essentially an audit of your

Continued on next page

CAC and CAV Visits (cont'd)

floodplain management program, but one where the community has the ability to correct issues with FEMA or state guidance. In addition to a review of the local floodplain management regulations and the topics of a CAC, FEMA or state staff will conduct a field tour of floodplains in the jurisdiction. They will identify a list of development activities for which the community will have to document compliance with floodplain regulations, including all applicable permits. If any violations are discovered, the community will have the opportunity to rectify them and FEMA and state staff will help identify solutions. CAVs typically take the better part of a day, depending on the community, and require extended follow-up.

Both of these tools offer the ability for communities to improve their floodplain management program and get assistance with challenges they may be facing. CACs and CAVs are a big priority for FEMA and offer a way for routine engagement between local governments and federal and state floodplain staff. These also are the best tools to make sure property owners are constructing their buildings to be safer from flood risks.

These visits are not the only way to get assistance with floodplain issues, however. You can contact FEMA and State staff for assistance anytime. And expect to see more

articles in future issues of the newsletter about specific floodplain management challenges.

Mitch Paine is a new floodplain management specialist with FEMA Region 10 and will be working with communities in Oregon. He came to FEMA from King County, WA where he was the CRS Coordinator and part of the floodplain management team. Before moving to the Pacific Northwest, he was the state floodplain manager for Nebraska.

For more information about Community Assistance Contacts & Visits, please visit www.fema.gov.

Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) Exam

Limited Availability - Idaho Offerings

There will be 2 CFM Exam offerings in Idaho in September. Due to COVID-19, there will be limited availability at each location. Those interested in taking the exam must [complete an application](#) in advance, in addition to paying the required fee to ASFPM. Dates are:

- Sept. 3 | Boise, ID
9am - 12pm
- Sept. 20 | Coeur d'Alene, ID
1pm - 4pm

For information about Idaho dates and locations, contact Maureen O'Shea, ID State NFIP Coordinator, Maureen.OShea@idwr.idaho.gov.

For general information about the CFM Exam & expected offerings, contact cfm@floods.org or call (608) 828-3000.

State and Local Mitigation Plan Guides Updates

FEMA is updating the state and local hazard mitigation plan review guides. These plan review guides are FEMA's official interpretation of the requirements for state and local hazard mitigation plans. FEMA created an online presentation available on YouTube to provide a high-level overview of hazard mitigation planning guidance and share information on submitting feedback to the existing policies.

The "State Mitigation Plan Review Guide" (March 2015) and "Local Mitigation Plan Review Guide" (October 2011) are available on the FEMA website. FEMA will accept ideas and feedback on either current document by sending an email by August 14, 2020 to fema-mitplan-guide-updates@fema.dhs.gov.

NORFMA 2020 Registration is Open

The Northwest Regional Floodplain Management Association (NORFMA) will be holding its annual conference virtually this year, September 22-24, 2020. This year's theme: "The Path Forward: Reducing Floods, Increasing Resilience."

Registration is open, and a discounted rate is available for active students: email norfma@norfma.org for the student-rate code. Also, a limited number of scholarships will be available this year. Deadline for applications is August 25th.

For more information and to register, please visit: <https://norfma.org/2020Conference>.

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.

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)

Floodplain Development Permit Review

August 6, 9 am
Online – 1 CEC

Inspecting Floodplain Development

August 6, 10:30 am
Online – 1 CEC

CRS: The Role of the Community Coordinator

August 18, 10 am
Online – 1 CECs

CRS: Activity 450 Watershed Management

August 19, 10 am
Online – 1 CEC

NFIP Basics

August 20, 10 am
Online – 1 CEC

Tools for Determining BFE

August 27, 10 am
Online – 1 CEC

CRS: Preparing an Annual Recertification

September 15, 10 am
Online – 1 CEC

CRS: Changes to Activity 310 – Elevation Certificates

September 16, 10 am
Online – 1 CEC

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

