

## Inside this Issue

- 1 Climate Adaptation and Hazard Mitigation Plans
- 2 NFIP Flood Insurance Workshop
- 2 Mitigation Planning Outreach Graphics
- 2 Featured Training
- 2 Job Announcements
- 3 Online Training Calendar

Strategic Alliance for Risk Reduction  
FEMA Region 10 Service Center  
20700 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue West, Suite 110  
Lynnwood, Washington 98036  
(425) 329-3699

# News from Region 10

## Missed Connections: Climate Adaptation and Hazard Mitigation Plans

Climate adaptation plans are the attractive and popular sibling to the outcast and introverted hazard mitigation plan. Remove the cause of anticipated climatic impacts and you are left with natural hazards. Flooding is the less-cool version of sea-level rise and droughts are the nerdier version of crop shortages and 'global warming'. While this may seem like a debate about semantics, further investigation reveals the connection between climate adaptation planning and natural hazard mitigation planning isn't being made. This failure to connect the dots is resulting in both duplications of effort and missed opportunities for collaboration.

Climate adaptation planning has become a buzzword for many cities. These cities develop climate adaptation plans in collaboration with their planning and public works departments, using internal funding streams to support sustainable development. The goals of these adaptation plans are to increase resilience and reduce the impacts of climate change while leveraging the city's capital improvement funds for infrastructure. Meanwhile, the same city's emergency manager is likely working with a state-funded contractor to develop or update the hazard mitigation plan, which has the goal of reducing the impacts associated with natural hazards. Funding for structural and infrastructure are typically proposed to be funded by 'federal grants'. These two plans have overlapping

goals, but due to the differences in their respective planning teams, one gets much more attention than the other. The siloed emergency manager has little visibility on the city's infrastructure and future development goals, while planning staff incorrectly view anything related to FEMA as emergency response related and thus they don't participate in the hazard mitigation planning process. They should though, the hazard mitigation plan is linked with federal funding streams and technical assistance upon its successful completion.

How do we remedy this conundrum? Moody's, one of the biggest credit rating agencies in the US, is inadvertently moving us in the right direction. In December, Moody's warned municipal governments to prepare for climate change or see your creditworthiness fall, resulting in higher interest rates. Bond analysts will soon begin evaluating local government's exposure to climate change impacts when determining their bond ratings. By assessing environmental, social, and government indicators, things like municipal investments in capital projects (which demonstrate future resilience) and risk-reduction goals (which demonstrate a focused investment strategy), bond analysts can gauge the likelihood of their bond repayment in the face of changing climatic systems.

By increasing local participation, engagement, and focus on the local hazard mitigation plan rather than

*Continued on next page*

**RiskMAP**  
Increasing Resilience Together

**Missed Connections (cont.)**

developing a climate adaptation plan, cities can avoid duplication of efforts. They also can maintain, or possibly even improve, their bond rating while leveraging available state and federal assistance to increase their eligibility for federal grants. Linking bond ratings to hazards may just be the silver bullet mitigation planners have been dreaming of. Elected officials and city staff will finally start using the mitigation plan as a useful planning process, rather than as a requirement for federal funding. If we're lucky, perhaps that bond analyst will also pay attention to the Hazus run depicting major earthquake damage, a major hurdle for that consistent tax base to overcome. See, that outcast and introverted hazard mitigation plan was cool all along!

To read Moody's announcement, please click [here](#).

## NFIP Flood Insurance Workshop

February 13, 2018  
Jerome, Idaho

A free NFIP Flood Insurance workshop will be held at 300 North Lincoln Avenue, Room 306, Jerome, ID 83338. This one-day course will cover NFIP flood insurance principles and disconnects between NFIP regulations and insurance.

To RSVP, contact Maureen O'Shea, Idaho State NFIP Coordinator, at [maureen.oshea@idwr.idaho.gov](mailto:maureen.oshea@idwr.idaho.gov).

### Ask the Help Desk

The FEMA Region 10 Service Center is here to help local community officials and stakeholders with technical, training, mitigation, and mapping questions. Send your questions to [RegionXHelpDesk@starr-team.com](mailto:RegionXHelpDesk@starr-team.com).

## Mitigation Planning Outreach Graphics

Mitigation is most effective when it is based on a comprehensive, long-term plan that is developed before a disaster occurs. The purpose of mitigation planning is to identify local policies and actions that can be implemented over the long term to reduce risk and future losses from hazards.

Region 10 recently developed new graphics for use in mitigation planning outreach and collaboration. [Click here](#) to download and begin using these graphics in your mitigation planning activities.

## Featured Training

**Tribal Mitigation Plan Review Guide**  
February 7, 12pm-1:30pm  
February 21, 1pm-2:30pm

FEMA is releasing the Tribal Mitigation Plan Review Guide which will update and supersede the existing tribal multi-hazard mitigation planning guidance issued in 2010. The updated policy document will guide how agency officials (mitigation planners) interpret regulatory requirements in their review and approval of tribal mitigation plans. The Guide will become effective on December 5, 2018.

Please join the FEMA Region 10 Mitigation Planning Team and Regional Tribal Affairs for a webinar presentation on the new guide including the basic requirements for standard and enhanced mitigation plans, and updated plan review tool.

Registration is available online at <http://j.mp/starronlinetraining>.

### Download the documents

[Tribal Mitigation Plan Review Guide](#)  
[Tribal Mitigation Plan Review Tool](#)  
[Fact Sheet](#)

## Newsletter Ideas?

Want to spread the word about an upcoming event or recent success story? Let us know what you to want to see in future issues!

Articles can be up to 500 words and may include pictures. Email [RXNewsletter@starr-team.com](mailto:RXNewsletter@starr-team.com).

## Job Announcements

### Risk Analyst (GIS)

Agency: FEMA  
Location: Bothell, WA  
Closing date: February 1, 2018

The FEMA Region 10 Risk Analysis Branch has two open positions for Risk Analysts to support the Risk MAP program. In this position, you will serve on a project team and support technical specialists with engineering and mapping studies necessary to determine the risk and probable extent of flood and the other natural hazards.

The detailed job announcement can be accessed [here](#) for the public, and [here](#) for current federal employees with status.

### Risk MAP Program Manager

Agency: Idaho Office of Emergency Management (IOEM)  
Location: Boise, ID  
Closing date: January 26, 2018

Assigned to the GIS Section of the IOEM Preparedness and Protection Branch, the primary purpose of this position is to manage the federal Risk Mapping, Analysis, and Planning (Risk MAP) Program with natural hazards planning within Idaho.

The detailed job announcement can be accessed [here](#), under announcement number 18-08-N.

*Continued on next page*

**RiskMAP**  
Increasing Resilience Together

**Job Openings (cont.)****Senior FEMA/Water Resources Engineer I**

Company: Atkins

Location: Lynnwood, WA

As a Senior FEMA/Water Resources Engineer, the applicant will support activities related to the FEMA NFIP for FEMA Region 10 throughout Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.

The detailed job announcement can be accessed [here](#).

**Senior FEMA/Water Resources Engineer II (EIT)**

Company: Atkins

Location: Lynnwood, WA

The applicant will support activities related to the FEMA NFIP for FEMA Region 10 throughout Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.

The detailed job announcement can be accessed [here](#).

**Newsletter Archives**

Ever wonder where to find a previous issue of the Region 10 Newsletter or want to know how to subscribe for automatic notification when a new issue is published?

Find all that and more on the STARR-Team Newsletter page at <http://j.mp/starrnews>.

**Online Training**

(All times Pacific)

**FEMA Region 10: Release of the Tribal Mitigation Plan Review Guide**

February 7, 12 pm

February 21, 1 pm

Online

**CRS: Preparing for a Verification Visit**

February 20, 10 am

Online - 1 CEC

**CRS: Drainage System Maintenance (Activity 540)**

February 21, 10 am

Online - 1 CEC

**NFIP Basics**

March 1, 10 am

Online - 1 CEC

**Floodplain Development Permit Review**

March 15, 9 am

Online - 1 CEC

**Inspecting Floodplain Development**

March 15, 10:30 am

Online - 1 CEC

**CRS: Developing Outreach Projects (Activity 330)**

March 20, 10 am

Online - 1 CEC

**CRS: Floodplain Management Planning (Activity 510)**

March 21, 10 am

Online - 1 CEC

To register for online courses, visit STARR's training site online at [j.mp/starronlinetraining](http://j.mp/starronlinetraining), or email [RXTraining@starr-team.com](mailto:RXTraining@starr-team.com).

**RiskMAP**

Increasing Resilience Together