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News from Region 10

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Reservist Program

Disaster Reservist positions available

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's workforce of passionate and dedicated individuals is directly responsible for allowing the agency to meet its mission of helping people before, during, and after disasters.

The Insurance & Mitigation Readiness Division (IMRD) Cadre Management Branch within FEMA Mitigation is responsible for recruiting and developing those individuals to perform in the field to the highest capability, giving them the tools they need to be successful. In turn, the community will benefit through the actions taken by these individuals to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from hazards and their effects.

The Hazard Mitigation workforce is a team of professionals that promote natural hazard risk reduction activities. This team promotes public education; encourages private sector partnership; and provides technical assistance to local and State governments regarding grants management, community planning, and floodplain management; highlights participation in the NFIP; and addresses the importance of purchasing and maintaining flood insurance.

As a result of the heightened level of disaster activity over the past few years and high demand for mitigation programs, there is a critical need for additional resources across all groups within Hazard Mitigation.

Specifically, FEMA is looking for candidates to fill vacant positions in the Reservist Program. Reservists are on-call part-time employees. They help individuals and communities to recover from the impacts of floods, tornadoes, severe storms, and hurricanes. Reservists also work with the state and local communities in identifying mitigation opportunities, to make a more resilient neighborhood, community, and enhance infrastructure. Depending on disaster activity, Reservists could potentially remain deployed to disaster operations for longer than 120 days or more. Some even remain deployed all year round. Reservists truly are the heart of the agency.

Ideal candidates should possess at least one of the following skills and specialized experience: flood, property and/or casualty insurance sales; relationship building; research, read and interpret flood maps; hold designation as Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM); experience with floodplain permits; building appraisals, cost estimation and general contracting; organizational and/or planning skills; or technical skills including GIS, MS Office Suite, etc. Dedication to the FEMA mission is required of all.

If you would like more information about the FEMA Reservist Program, please send e-mail inquiries to FEMA-HM-Cadre@fema.dhs.gov, or view the FAQs posted online at: <https://www.fema.gov/reservist-program-frequently-asked-questions>.

Base Level Engineering Analysis

Non-regulatory, supplemental information provided for planning & emergency management purposes

As part of their ongoing efforts to develop more accurate flood hazard data, FEMA has recently focused resources on updating riverine flood hazard data coinciding with effective approximate Zone A mapping and the availability of LiDAR terrain data through Base Level Engineering (BLE) analysis.

What is Base Level Engineering?

It is a cursory engineering analysis to provide hydrologic (how much water) and hydraulic (how will the water be conveyed) conditions near streams and water courses. BLE is a “measuring stick” which allows FEMA to assess its current flood maps for approximate floodplains.

Most effective Zone A mapping is not based on engineering models, but the BLE models are scalable and can be further refined if a community and/or FEMA pursues upgraded modeling. The engineering modeling may be used and leveraged by local communities for a variety of purposes, such as reviewing impacts of proposed development to the floodplain. The results can assist with local mitigation plans, supporting mitigation actions and

projects, community planning and development, and response and recovery.

BLE does not replace a community’s effective Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and cannot be used for reduced permitting and development standards. It can, however, provide additional information for planning purposes, and can be used in areas where no other flood hazard information is available. Additionally, it may be used as “best available data” to determine Base Flood Elevations in support of development and Letters of Map Amendment. In some cases, BLE analysis may be refined and incorporated onto a FIRM through a Letter of Map Revision, Physical Map Revision, or watershed study.

What kind of data are used for BLE?

A statistical analysis of stream gages, gage weighting, and/or regional regression equations may be used to determine the hydrology of the area (generally the 1%-annual chance flow rates). High resolution terrain data, typically LiDAR, is available in all areas where BLE information is developed. A HEC-RAS steady-state hydraulic model is created for each stream to estimate the flood conveyance properties.

What is not in the BLE analysis?

The BLE analysis does not usually include structures, such as bridges, culverts, or levees. Floodways, complex hydrology, lake/reservoir impacts, and split flows are also not captured in this level of analysis.

Contact the Region X Service Center at RSC10BLE@Starr-team.com for questions and comments on the BLE methodology, data and results, future opportunities, and its potential use as best available data.

Northwest Hazus User Group quarterly call

Training Needs Survey is open; Region training plan in development

The Northwest Hazus User Group (NWHUG) holds calls on a roughly quarterly basis, focusing on program updates, training opportunities, and information sharing from users about projects they have developed. The most recent call took place on January 23, and discussed results of a recent user survey focused on training needs in the Region. Survey responses to date indicate that a strong need exists for all available Hazus modules. Basic Hazus training, Comprehensive Data Management, and Earthquake and Tsunami trainings were the strongest Regional need priorities. If you would like to respond to the survey, it is open until February 15 and available online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JGPW7PC>.

FEMA Region X is in the initial stages of developing a Hazus training plan for users in the Region. While still in the initial planning stages, the Region hopes to develop a 2-3 year program providing courses tailored to Regional needs, data, hazard priorities, and other considerations. As the training plan develops, another survey will be sent for the NWHUG to further clarify user needs and resources.

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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.

NWHUG quarterly call (cont.)

To facilitate this training plan, Region X will need to partner with communities. FEMA will provide a trainer and hold the course for free but will need partners to provide a cost-free location for the class. Ideally, a facility would have capabilities to provide computers as well. FEMA can work with the partner to provide temporary ArcGIS licenses if necessary.

To participate in future calls, or to help deliver a training, contact Charlie Kline, Risk Analyst, at charles.kline@fema.dhs.gov. The group would appreciate anyone who wants to present their recent efforts!

Featured Trainings

NFIP 101 Workshops - Idaho

This spring, several one-day NFIP workshops will be available across various locations in Idaho. Courses will take place from 9am – 4pm.

March 14, 2019
Gooding County Planning & Zoning
Gooding, ID

March 26, 2019
Sandpoint City Hall
Sandpoint, ID

March 27, 2019
Post Falls City Hall
Post Falls, ID

Elevation Certificate Workshops

Two 2-hour Elevation Certificate workshops will be held in Idaho on March 26, 2019 at the following locations:

Kootenai County Admin Building
Coeur d’Alene, ID
1pm – 3pm

Sandpoint City Hall
Sandpoint, ID
2pm – 4pm

For more information regarding any of these Idaho workshops or to RSVP, please contact Maureen O’Shea, State NFIP Coordinator, at Maureen.oshea@idwr.idaho.gov or by phone at 208-287-4928.



Job Openings in the Region

Position	Link	Location	Closing Date
State of WA Dept. of Ecology: Flood Risk Reduction Coordinator/Senior Planner (EP4)	https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/washington/jobs/2299798/flood-risk-reduction-coordinator-senior-planner-environmental-planner-4	Lacey, WA	Continuous
State of WA Dept. of Ecology: Regional Floodplain Management Planner (EP3)	https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/washington/jobs/2324078/regional-floodplain-management-planner-environmental-planner-3	Lacey, WA	February 18, 2019

Online Training

(All times Pacific)

Tools for Determining BFE

February 14, 10 am
April 11, 10 am
Online – 1 CEC

CRS: The Role of the CRS Coordinator

February 19, 10 am
Online – 1 CEC

CRS: Repetitive Loss Properties

February 20, 10 am
Online – 1 CEC

NFIP Basics

February 21, 10 am
Online – 1 CEC

Floodplain Development Permit Review

March 7, 9 am
Online – 1 CEC

Inspecting Floodplain Development

March 7, 10:30 am
Online – 1.5 CEC

CRS: Preparing an Annual Recertification

March 19, 10 am
Online – 1 CEC

CRS: Credit for Floodplain Mapping (Activity 410)

March 20, 10 am
Online – 1 CEC

Elevation Certificates

March 28, 10 am
Online – 2 CECs

CRS: Preparing for a Verification Visit

April 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.