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News from Region 10

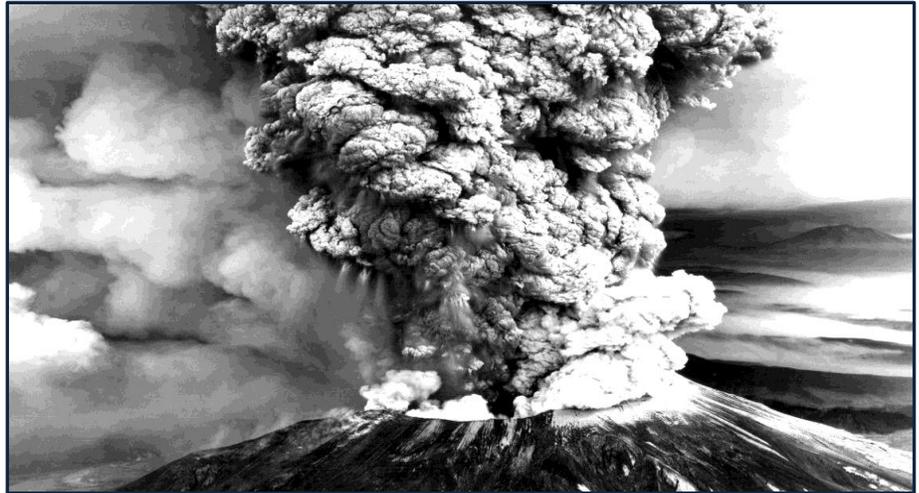


Figure 1: Plinian column from May 18, 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens. Aerial view from southwest. Mount Adams is in the background (right). Courtesy of USGS.

40th Anniversary of the Mount St. Helens Eruption

FEMA Region 10 Releases Commemorative Podcast

It was 40 years ago this May that Mount St. Helens in Washington State erupted. Ash and steam poured out and avalanches of snow and ice thundered down the mountain's sides for two months, and then on May 18, 1980, the volcano blew its top. Fifty-seven people were killed, many others injured, and many buildings were destroyed. The huge blast of rock, ash, and hot gases devastated an area of about 230 square miles.

Similar to our experiences during the current coronavirus pandemic, residents in many states were forced to stay indoors for several weeks after the eruption. Those who did venture outside wore masks to protect themselves from the ash.

FEMA Region 10 recently released a podcast episode, "40th Anniversary of the Mount St. Helens Eruption."

In this episode, hear from current and former FEMA staff who experienced the eruption and subsequent ash that blew east into Spokane and Montana where our speakers lived. Volcanologist and retired-FEMA Division Director Chris Jonientz-Trisler, Region 10 Tribal Liaison Jay LaPlante, and former FEMA Community Relations Specialist Elaine Ike share their unique experiences.

Download this episode of the FEMA podcast at www.FEMA.gov/podcast, or find it on [Apple iTunes](#) and [Google Play](#) to stream or download.

The FEMA podcast is an audio program series available to anyone interested in learning more about the Agency, innovation in the field of emergency management, and hearing stories about communities and individuals recovering after disasters. New episodes are updated weekly, and each 20-30 minute episode includes a transcript link.

For more information, contact Brett Holt: brett.holt@fema.dhs.gov.

Announcement: FEMA Issues New Elevation Certificate Form

NFIP and CRS Update

On February 21, 2020, FEMA issued a [new Elevation Certificate form](#). The form date is December 2019 with an expiration date of November 30, 2022. It is the same form as the previous form, with no new or altered fields. Only the form date and expiration date have changed. Per FEMA guidelines, a transition or “grace” period for new Elevation Certificate forms is no longer provided. Therefore, any Elevation Certificates signed and dated February 21, 2020 or later must be on the new form. FEMA may come out with new guidance on this, but as of right now, if an Elevation Certificate that is dated February 21, 2020 or later is reviewed for CRS purposes and it is not on the new form, it will be considered an error.

Also be advised that, with the introduction of this new form, a new field is now required to be filled out for CRS purposes. Field A4, Building Use, is now mandatory. Your Insurance Services Office (ISO) Specialist will be checking to make sure the blank is filled in and filled in accurately. For example, if the building is clearly non-residential, but A4 is marked “residential,” that will be considered an error. Because it is not always possible to determine the use of the building by looking at the Elevation Certificate or your Permit List, ISO will be fairly lenient when applying this error. However, leaving this field blank will clearly be an error.

For more information about these adjustments, please contact your [State NFIP Coordinator](#) or visit www.crsresources.org.

FEMA’s Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) Guide

Effective June 8, 2020

The primary purpose of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) *Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) Guide* is to define a national-level framework for how state, local, tribal, and territorial government officials and FEMA staff collect, validate, quantify, and document the cause, location, and details of damage following a disaster.

This standard framework will support emergency management officials at all levels of government by encouraging consistent, efficient, and accurate preliminary damage assessments (PDA) that align with Stafford Act Presidential disaster declaration request requirements. To achieve this, the PDA Guide outlines a common concept of operations, defines major roles and responsibilities, recommends methodologies, and establishes national-level damage assessment standards and procedures.

The PDA Guide will be effective starting June 8, 2020. Joint PDAs with FEMA that take place on or after June 8 must use the new PDA Guide which supersedes FEMA’s current *Damage Assessment Operations Manual* (2016).

FEMA will accept public comments on the PDA Guide for one year, until June 8, 2021. The purpose of this public comment period is to give state, local, tribal, and territorial emergency management officials an opportunity to provide FEMA feedback on the PDA Guide, the accompanying PDA Pocket Guide, and the tribal-specific PDA appendix.

If you have any comments, please complete & return the appropriate Guide Comment Form, located on [FEMA’s Preliminary Damage Assessment Guide webpage](#).

National Flood Conference (NFC): Virtual Conference

American Property-Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA)

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the APCIA has made the decision to move this year’s National Flood Conference to a virtual platform.

The virtual conference will be held **June 1 – June 3, 2020** and there is **no cost** for attendees to join any or all of the sessions. Typical conference attendance limitations do not apply, thus creating an opportunity for wide participation.

This series of webinars will provide the latest updates on key topics and include the opportunity to ask questions live of the presenters. Each session is independent, and attendees may register for and attend as many or as few as they want.

This event has been approved for 12 CEC credit hours toward Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) recertification through ASFPM.

For more information or to register, please visit the [APCIA National Flood Conference webpage](#).

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.

NORFMA NEWS

2020 Virtual Conference, September

This year, like many other events, the NORFMA 2020 Conference will be held online, due to ongoing guidance from state authorities against large group gatherings, travel restrictions that may continue into the fall, and out of respect for everyone’s health and safety.

The virtual conference will be held the week of September 21-25, 2020, with exact dates and times to be determined.

The NORFMA Board is actively researching options for making this online conference a success, and will open the call for abstracts and registration on the [website](#) in the coming weeks.

If you have questions, suggestions, or would like to help with the event, please email Michelle Gilbert, Board Chair, at norfma@norfma.org.



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.

<p>Online Training (All times Pacific)</p> <p>Introduction to CRS June 16, 10 am Online - 1 CEC</p> <p>CRS & Coastal Hazards June 17, 10 am Online - 1 CEC</p>	<p>NFIP Basics June 18, 10 am Online - 1 CEC</p> <p>Elevation Certificates June 25, 10 am Online - 2 CECs</p> <p>Tools for Determining BFE July 16, 10 am Online - 1 CEC</p>	<p>To register for online courses, visit STARR’s training site: j.mp/starronlinetraining, or email RXTraining@starr-team.com.</p>
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