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News from Region 10

Oregon Online Resilience Training

Being resilient to natural hazards has a lot of benefits. It can lead to a better quality of life, an increased ability to recover from disasters or natural hazard events, and it can make the economy more robust and attractive to residents and businesses. The Oregon Resilience Project Team aims to provide you with locally relevant information about how to make your community more resilient to natural hazards in a series of presentations in one consolidated location. The goal of this training series is to connect you with the extensive resources, tools, and technical assistance available in the State of Oregon. Having access to this information can help to increase local capacity and access to State level technical support.

How can this training series help me increase resilience in my community?

The training series is the first of its kind – it introduces a comprehensive set of available tools and resources while explaining when you would use them, when they are available, and who your point of contact is for each subject. It's available for viewing at your convenience. Contact information for each presenter is included and they are available to address specific training needs, deliver technical assistance, and provide information about how to make your plans more robust. Please reach out to them! Using the state's expertise to boost your community's capacity is a fantastic way to benefit from this resource. We'd love for this to be the start of



FOLLOW THIS LINK TO AN ONLINE TOOLKIT FOR BUILDING RESILIENCE TO NATURAL HAZARDS IN ONE CONSOLIDATED LOCATION! <http://bit.ly/2D1XFGt>

an ongoing conversation between you and the Oregon Resilience Project Team.

Who are the presenters?

The presentations are provided by experts in multiple fields to provide strategies for increasing resilience in one digestible format. The presentations include state-level experts' faces and voices to make online training a bit more personal.

- Meg Reed from the Department of Land and Conservation and Development presenting on how land use planning can reduce risk to natural hazards;
- Angie Lane from the Oregon Office of Emergency Management discussing available funding mechanisms, assistance, and training for hazard mitigation; and
- Jed Roberts from the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries providing information on how geologic hazard mapping can inform community planning.

For more information, contact Oregon's Risk MAP Coordinator, David.Lentzner@state.or.us.

Map Service Center Enhancements and Related Tools Updates

Many important changes have been made to FEMA's [Map Service Center \(MSC\)](#) and related services, improving the delivery of flood maps. Last month, the MSC Address Search tool and the National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL) Viewer were enhanced. The updates streamlined access to the NFHL and reduced the steps necessary to get information.

The changes will direct most users to the NFHL as the primary source for viewing and printing flood hazards information.

Map Service Center Enhancements

Customers are now able to view an interactive NFHL map immediately following a search. On the main MSC results page, customers now have the option to view and print a map for their location as a dynamic NFHL-based "FIRMette" (full-scale section of a FIRM formatted to fit on standard printer paper sizes). The NFHL FIRMette shows the current effective information, including recent Letters of Map Revision (LOMR), in a single view.

National Flood Hazard Layer Viewer

The [National Flood Hazard Layer \(NFHL\) Viewer](#) provides users with a powerful interactive flood map tool for the whole country. The dynamic NFHL shows the current effective information including LOMRs since the most recent flood map revision. The updated NFHL viewer enables community officials and members of the public to create on-demand printable maps of NFHL data using a FEMA-approved base map and a FEMA-defined map template. Users can create printable NFHL FIRMettes or full-size FIRM panels from the NFHL.



Dynamic view of the NFHL showing FIRM panel data, flood hazard zones, floodways, and the location of Letters of Map Change.

Preliminary Map Comparison Tool

The Preliminary Map Comparison Tool allows users to see "Preliminary" and "Effective" maps overlaid on one another. Regulations require FEMA to publish [Preliminary data](#) for public review when updating flood maps for communities. The Preliminary review process allows community officials and property owners to see how upcoming changes will affect them, and review the data for accuracy. Insurance agents might use the comparison tool to anticipate how their clients may be affected. Real estate agents and mortgage brokers can determine what changes are likely to occur and how they may affect properties for sale. With this tool, users can view the new flood hazard information overlaid with the existing information and save or print a report detailing the changes between these two data sets side-by-side for a single point of reference.

Flood Risk Studies Engineering Library (FRiSEL)

The [FRiSEL](#) now provides public downloads for engineering models and other supporting data. Previously, the FRiSEL was searchable by the public, but its content could not be downloaded. This capability provides immediate

access to the detailed engineering models and other supporting data for FEMA flood studies for engineers and other technical experts working on flood risk issues. Only relatively recent digital data is available. The Engineering Library staff is still available to assist stakeholders find the information they need if users are not able to download it from the FRiSEL. There are fees charged for research support from the Engineering Library staff.

Map Specialists at the [FEMA Map Information eXchange \(FMIX\)](#) are available to answer questions about FEMA's flood hazard maps, available subscription services, online tools, and general site navigation at 877-FEMA MAP or FEMAMAPSpecialists@riskmapcds.com.

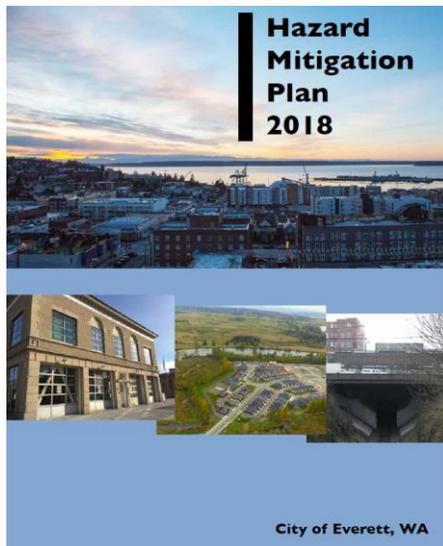
Ask the Help Desk

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.

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Own it! Make Your Mitigation Plan Work for You

Ever wonder why FEMA doesn't provide templates for hazard mitigation plans? The answer: FEMA wants the plan to be reflective of each community's own planning process. The plan can look however you want it to look and can (and should!) be tied into existing community planning processes. While FEMA does have requirements for what should be included in the PROCESS, the plan document itself is not prescriptive.



The City of Everett, Washington's Plan was recently approved, pending adoption, and while the city is the seventh largest in Washington, the base plan was under 50 pages and included an extensive public engagement process and robust steering committee. Below are some of the creative approaches used in the City of Everett's Hazard Mitigation Plan and Planning Process:

- A brief Executive Summary at the beginning of the Plan which includes the most pressing vulnerabilities and the priority action items;

- A diverse 57-member steering committee that included representatives from county and local economic groups, transit and transportation groups, leading businesses, health care industries, school districts, waterfront and port industries, neighborhoods, and community planning;
- A focus on community values and the assets that support them (a reversal of the more common approach which identifies critical facilities in hazard areas);
- Twelve different HMP focused public meetings held at eleven different locations and 154 responses to a public survey;
- Hazard Inventory and Risk Assessment developed as a supplemental document to the base plan, allowing the base plan to be read as an action-oriented document;
- Actions broken into five different strategy areas, Infrastructure, Buildings, Training & Exercises, Planning, and Waterfront & Port; and
- Appendices are utilized to house documentation supporting FEMA requirements.

The above examples demonstrate the freedom communities have when it comes to developing their hazard mitigation planning process and the plan document. These plans aren't meant to check a box for FEMA, they are meant to inform local growth and decision making, ensuring a successful and vibrant community for future generations.

As you develop or update your hazard mitigation plan, consider how the process can be manipulated to work for your community. If you are contracting your plan, ensure your scope provides detailed tasks for public engagement and stakeholder

coordination, as well as alignment with existing community events, processes, and plans.

Remember, it's about the process, not the plan.

For comments or questions, contact Amanda.Siok@fema.dhs.gov, Region 10 Mitigation Planner.

L273 Training Comes to Region 10

The EMI L273 course, Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP, will be offered in all four Region 10 states in 2018! This is essential basic training for anyone working in floodplain management at the local level. See below for dates, locations, course coordinators, and state NFIP coordinators.

Alaska

April 30-May 3 – Anchorage

Karen.Wood-McGuinness@fema.dhs.gov
Jimmy.Smith@alaska.gov

Washington

May 14-17 – Spokane

Charles.Kline@fema.dhs.gov
Lynn Schmidt (lyns461@ecy.wa.gov)

Oregon

July 30-August 2 – Portland

Roxanne.Pilkenton@fema.dhs.gov
Christine.Shirley@state.or.us

Idaho

August 13-16 – Idaho Falls

Charles.Kline@fema.dhs.gov
Maureen.OShea@idwr.idaho.gov

Application Form

[FEMA Form 119-25-1 Application](#)

State and local community attendees must submit the application through their state training officer. Federal and tribal attendees, submit the application (first approved by your supervisor) directly to the course coordinator.

For more information, please contact the course coordinators.

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Green Infrastructure Webcast Series

Building Resilient Communities with Green Infrastructure and Hazard Mitigation Planning

March 1 – 10 am
Online ([Registration](#))

The benefits of incorporating green infrastructure into hazard mitigation planning to improve community resiliency have long been recognized. In this webcast, presenters will focus on two pilot projects co-sponsored by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and FEMA, in which two communities enhanced their resiliency by integrating green infrastructure elements of their stormwater and watershed plans into their hazard mitigation plans to achieve co-benefits such as improving water quality and preserving resources.

Laura Bachle from EPA headquarters will provide an overview of the EPA and FEMA pilot projects that explore the links between green infrastructure and hazard mitigation planning.

Trish Garrigan from EPA Region 1 will discuss how Massachusetts explored integrating green infrastructure with a focus on drought resilience into the Massachusetts State Hazard Mitigation and Adaptation Plan.

Josh Bruce from the University of Oregon's Community Service Center will discuss how Ashland, Oregon, used green infrastructure best management practices to mitigate risk from natural hazards and to provide water quality, habitat, and community benefits.

For more information or to register, visit <https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure/green-infrastructure-webcast-series>.

Bridging the Gap Workshop Series

Opportunities to Address Hazards Mitigation through the Growth Management Act

March 2 – 11:30 am–2 pm
Gould Court, 3950 University Way NE
Seattle, WA

The University of Washington Institute for Hazards Mitigation Planning and Research (IHMP) will be holding the first in a series of workshops bringing planners, scientists, emergency managers, students, and faculty together to improve communication and exchange ideas. These discussions will lead to increased understanding along with student theses, dissertations, and research.

Panelists include John Schelling, MPA, and Mark McCaskill, AICP, from the Washington Department of Commerce; Himanshu Grover, PhD, and Bob Freitag, CFM, of the IHMP; and Joe Tovar, FAICP, from The William D Ruckelshaus Center. Moderator: Maximilian Dixon, MUP, MIPM Earthquake Program Manager.

A light lunch will be available. For more information or to register, visit <http://mitigate.be.uw.edu/bridging-the-gap-workshop/>.

Floodplain Administrator 201 Workshop

March 13
Mountain Home, ID

A free Floodplain Administrator 201 workshop will be held on March 13 at War Memorial Hall (American Legion), 515 E 2nd S, in Mountain Home, Idaho. This one-day course will cover permitting, manufactured homes & the NFIP, Letters of Map Change, and elevation certificates.

To RSVP, contact Maureen O'Shea, Idaho State NFIP Coordinator, at maureen.oshea@idwr.idaho.gov.

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.

Mitigation Planning Workshops

G318: Mitigation Planning Workshop

March 21-22 – Caldwell, ID ([Registration](#))
June 6-7 – Spokane, WA
September 26-27 – Anchorage, AK
October 23-24 – Lynnwood, WA
Fall [TBD] – Oregon

The FEMA Region 10 Mitigation Planning Team and respective state partners are providing multiple offerings of the “G318: Mitigation Planning Workshop” course in 2018. We encourage you and your planning partners to attend the workshop if you are part of a jurisdiction that is or will be updating your natural hazards mitigation plan.

All workshops are taught by FEMA and state staff involved in the development and implementation of mitigation plans.

General course and registration information is posted on the [Region 10 Natural Hazards Community Planning](#) page as it becomes available.

Contact Brett.Holt@fema.dhs.gov for more information.

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NORFMA News

CRS Users Group
May 17 - 1-3 pm
Tacoma Mall Plaza

The next CRS Users group meeting (and all others for 2018) have been pushed back one month. Meetings are held from 1-3 pm and remote access is available.

Please RSVP to Dennis Dixon, (253) 798-3696, ddixon@co.pierce.wa.us.



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/starrxnews>.

Online Training

(All times Pacific)

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

Elevation Certificates

March 29, 10 am (2 hours + 30 mins)
Online - 2 CEC

CRS: Preparing an Annual Recertification

April 17, 10 am
Online - 1 CEC

CRS: Preparing an Impact Adjustment Map

April 18, 10 am
Online - 1 CEC

Tools for Determining BFE

April 26, 10 am
Online - 1 CEC

Introduction to the Community Rating System

May 15, 10 am
Online - 1 CEC

CRS and Coastal Hazards

May 16, 10 am
Online - 1 CEC

How to Review a "No-Rise" Certification

June 7, 10 am
Online - 1 CEC

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



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