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News from Region 10

MITIGATION MARCH



FEMA Region 10 Mitigation March

Campaigning for risk reduction

Mitigation March is an annual campaign to help communities and individuals understand their risk from natural hazards and encourage them to take long-term actions to mitigate those risks. Mitigation is most effective before a disaster occurs. Communities implementing mitigation projects and programs today are making a future investment in safety and sustainability.

The 2020 campaign will highlight the work of FEMA Region 10 floodplain management specialists, grants managers, community planners, environmental specialists, engineers and others who assist communities in their long-term risk reduction efforts. In addition to helping people understand risks to life and property, they provide tools to help them take action – individually and collectively – to reduce risk, build capabilities and prepare for disasters.

Join us on the FEMA Region 10 [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) channels to view #IAMFEMA employee testimony videos and learn how proactive mitigation actions and policies help reduce risk and create safer, more disaster resilient communities.

Each week of Mitigation March has a different focus. Primary outreach will be through weekly videos, infographics and advisories shared with all partners through email and on the Region 10 social media channels, highlighting:

- **Week 1: March 1-7**
Floodplain Management & Insurance
- **Week 2: March 8-14**
Hazard Mitigation Assistance
- **Week 3: March 15-21**
Environmental and Historic Preservation
- **Week 4: March 22-28**
Risk Analysis
- **Week 5: March 29-31**
Leadership

Effective mitigation requires that we all understand local risks, address the hard choices, and invest in long-term community well-being. Without mitigation actions, we jeopardize our safety, financial security and self-reliance.

To learn more about Mitigation March efforts, look for “@FEMARegion10” on social media, contact Erin Ward, Region 10 External Affairs, at 425-487-4567 or Erin.Ward@fema.dhs.gov, or visit: <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/186160>.

New Mitigation Division Director in Region 10



FEMA Region 10 is excited to announce that Kristen Meyers has been selected as the next Mitigation Division Director. She begins her newest leadership role starting March 1, 2020.

Kristen has served in all three branches of the Mitigation Division since joining FEMA in 2006. She has been the Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Branch Chief since 2016, helping the HMA Team provide tribes, states, and local communities with financial resources to reduce the impacts of disaster events. Prior to joining the HMA Branch, Kristen was the Mitigation Planning Manager in the Risk Analysis Branch where her primary responsibility was to support state, local, and tribal hazard mitigation planning through training, plan reviews, and technical assistance. She was also instrumental in building linkages between

floodplain mapping and mitigation planning when the Region launched the Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk MAP) program. Kristen originally joined the Mitigation Division as part of the NFIP’s Map Modernization effort.

Throughout her career, Kristen has worked with communities across the Pacific Northwest and Alaska to help them understand their vulnerabilities and reduce their risks to natural hazards. She brings her passion for mitigation and extensive program knowledge to her new role.

Prior to joining FEMA, Kristen worked for the Pacific Northwest Economic Region in the homeland security program area, where she supported exercise and conference development. She received a Master of Urban Planning degree from the University of Washington where she focused her research on post-disaster recovery and mitigation planning, and she has a Bachelor of Science degree in Geosciences from the Pennsylvania State University. Kristen is originally from Minnesota and outside of work you can find her watching soccer, training with kettlebells, or planning her next trip.

Please join us in congratulating Kristen in her new role!

For more information about the Mitigation Division, please visit: <https://www.fema.gov/region-x-mitigation-division>

ASFPM Foundation Releases Report on Urban Flooding

A must-read practitioners’ perspective on this emerging threat

Across the United States, urban flooding is becoming more frequent and severe, with increasingly serious impacts to stormwater infrastructure, vulnerable neighborhoods, local and regional economies, and public health. Chronic to extreme, disruptive to catastrophic – urban flooding is rapidly becoming this nation’s number one factor contributing to increased future flood risk. Resilience in the face of this progressively serious problem demands attention and action now.

Urban flooding is not new, but it is different than how we experienced it a decade ago. Intensified by sea level rise and changing precipitation patterns, urban flooding is more frequent and intense, with underlying infrastructure designed to handle much smaller flooding events. The water has nowhere to go. As a result, major sectors of our economy are adversely impacted and people living and working in these more densely populated flood-prone areas are at increasing risk.

To catalyze attention and action, the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) Foundation has published “Urban Flooding: Moving Towards Resilience. A Summary Report based on the 6th Assembly of the Gilbert F. White National Flood Policy Forum.”

The report draws from the wide-ranging discussions that took place during the Foundation-sponsored Forum last year and attended by more than 100 experts from local, state, and federal agencies,

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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.

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.

Urban Flooding Report (cont'd)

professional associations and environmental groups, and private sector organizations. It includes examples of efforts taking place now to prepare for future conditions that could be very different from today.

The report offers practical suggestions for obtaining better data and information, involving vulnerable populations in planning decisions, and exploring funding and financing opportunities to identify and advance solutions. Its summary policy and program recommendations focus on integrated approaches and immediate next steps, including organizing an urban flooding summit in 2021 to further address the issues and jump-start needed changes.

The report can be found on the ASFPM Foundation’s website: <https://www.asfpmfoundation.org/ac/e-images/UrbanFloodingReport.pdf>

Please read it and take a few minutes to think about the role that you and your organization could play in discussions and idea-sharing to collaboratively solve this complex problem. Urban flooding has long

been seen as a local issue. But it also needs to become a national and global priority. The ASFPM Foundation is committed to help make it so. We welcome your help as we begin this important journey for a stronger, more resilient future.

Featured Training

**L278: Community Rating System
May 4-7, 2020
Eugene, OR**

Hosted by FEMA Region 10 and the City of Eugene Public Works Engineering Division, this course covers the Community Rating System (CRS), a nationwide initiative of the NFIP. It describes activities eligible for credit under the current CRS Coordinator’s Manual, how a community applies, and how a community modifies an application to improve its classification. There is no fee to register for this class, but attendance is limited to 30, so please register asap.

Course Prerequisites: Participants must have an understanding of the NFIP and floodplain management principles. Participants must be a Certified Floodplain Manager, or have completed L273, Managing

Floodplain Development Through the NFIP, or be a full-time floodplain manager with more than 2 years of experience.

Register online by visiting <https://rec.eugene-or.gov/OR/city-of-eugene-or/catalog>. Contact Ray Joseph for more information: RJoseph@eugene-or.gov.

**L273: Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP
August 17-20, 2020
Twin Falls County, ID**

Save the Date -- Hosted by FEMA Region 10 and the Idaho Department of Water Resources, this course is designed for local officials responsible for administering their local floodplain management ordinance. The course will focus on the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and concepts of floodplain management, maps and studies, ordinances administration, and the relationship between floodplain management and flood insurance. A CFM Exam will follow on Friday, August 21st.

Please direct any questions to Maureen O’Shea, Idaho State NFIP Coordinator, at 208-287-4928 or Maureen.OShea@idwr.idaho.gov



Online Training

(All times Pacific)

Tools for Determining BFE

March 12, 10 am
April 16, 10 am
Online - 1 CEC

NFIP Basics

March 26, 10 am
Online - 1 CEC

Elevation Certificates

April 23, 10 am
Online - 2 CECs

Floodplain Development Permit Review

May 21, 9 am
Online - 1 CEC

Inspecting Floodplain Development

May 21, 10:30 am
Online - 1.5 CEC

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