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# News from Region 10

## Introducing FEMA Integration Team Staff

### Community Planners in OR, ID offices

As the scale and severity of disasters continue to grow, FEMA, along with State, local and Tribal partners, must increase our capabilities to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters.

In July 2017, the FEMA Integration Teams (FIT) project was created to enhance the Agency’s customer service and the efficiency of its program delivery by embedding FEMA staff with its State, local, and Tribal partners. Staff will be co-located with the customers they serve, to build even closer relationships and strengthen readiness across the Nation.

The rollout of the FIT program is being conducted in a phased approach. In Region 10, both Idaho and Oregon are participating, and to with the Risk Analysis Branch, two new Community Planners are now working side by side with State partners at their offices:

**Kyle McCormick** is located within the Idaho Office of Emergency Management at Gowen Field in Boise, Idaho. Prior to this position, Kyle worked with Canyon County Development Services in Idaho as a Community Planner.

**Jake Grabowsky** is located within the Oregon Office of Emergency Management in Salem, Oregon. Jake is an AICP certified planner, and has previously worked for the state of Georgia doing state and local planning.

The primary purpose of these Community Planner positions is working with State, local and tribal partners on building capacity to plan for and become resilient to natural hazards, including floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, fires, tornadoes, and other emergency related events.

They will be supporting the Natural Hazard Planning initiatives and Mitigation Planning programs in their respective states, providing technical advice and guidance in the development of sound mitigation strategies and solving regional planning issues, and delivering training to support mitigation planning guidance.

Additional FIT staff are located at each office, including Preparedness Specialists, Communications Specialists, and Operational Planners. During Phase I, FEMA staff will be embedded in offices in 10 states. Phase II will expand to include up to 34 partners across all 10 FEMA Regions. Phase III will reach full operating capability, with FEMA Integration Teams embedded in State and Tribal partner offices throughout the Nation.

*For more information about the FIT program, please contact [FEMA-Integration-Team@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-Integration-Team@fema.dhs.gov).*

## 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](mailto:RegionXHelpDesk@starr-team.com).

## Outreach Feature: “Experts in the Field”

### Video of regional experts aims to build community trust & awareness

Flood hazard mapping is a crucial part of the National Flood Insurance Program. FEMA works with local communities to develop Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) that are intended to inform flood insurance premiums, help communities plan for flooding, and establish local land use regulations.

Understanding the flood risk depicted on the FIRMs can help community members take action to keep their homes and workplaces safe from harm. However, the process of updating these maps isn't always easy to explain, and community members may not readily understand or engage with what they see on the map. They may think “If I can't understand this information, or where it came from – how can I trust it?”

To help foster that trust, FEMA Region X worked with *Resilience Action Partners* to create a [video](#) specific to Pacific Northwest communities, to show how flood maps are developed with local awareness and on the ground expertise.

The Experts in the Field video helps provide clarity around the mapping process to empower communities to understand their risk and become more resilient. It breaks down the scientific process of what it takes to generate flood maps in Pacific Northwest communities and shows how weather patterns, geography and different landscapes affect flood maps and the various tools and techniques used to generate them.

*The video will primarily be used at Community Open Houses in the Pacific Northwest, and it is available to be viewed online at <https://youtu.be/CZMG6c1ZG w>.*

## May is Building Safety Month

### International Code Council offers support through annual campaign

Building Safety Month is an international educational campaign that takes place in May to raise awareness about building safety. This campaign reinforces the need for the adoption of modern, regularly-updated building codes, and helps individuals, families, and businesses understand what it takes to create safe and sustainable structures.

The International Code Council, its 64,000 members, and a diverse

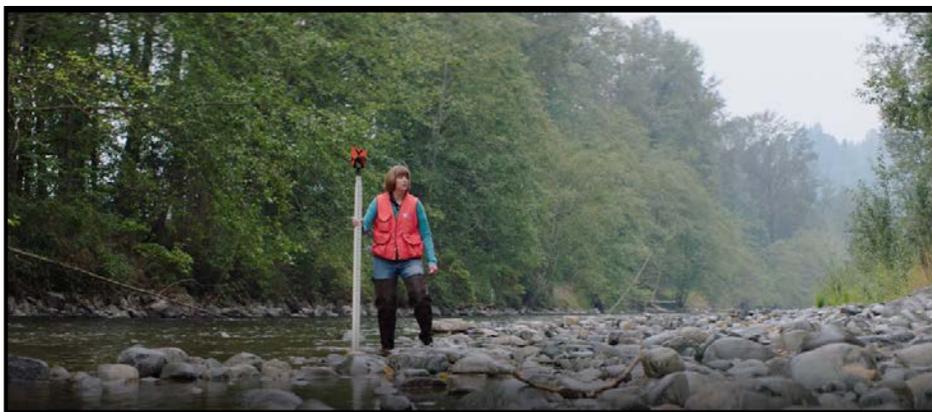
partnership of professionals from the building construction, design and safety communities come together with corporations, government agencies, professional associations and nonprofits to promote building safety through proclamations, informational events, legislative briefings and more.

During the month of May, each week will represent a topic to encourage conversation and education on how we can strengthen our communities through proper mitigation and building safety:

- **Week 1:** Preparing for Disasters: Build Strong, Build Smart
- **Week 2:** Ensuring a safer future through training & education
- **Week 3:** Securing clean, abundant water for all communities
- **Week 4:** Construction Professionals & Homeowners: Partners in Safety
- **Week 5:** Innovations in Building Safety

All communities need building codes to protect their citizens from disasters like fires, weather-related events and structural collapse.

*To learn more about how to prepare for all types of disasters and improve the safety and resilience of the places in which you spend time, please visit [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov).*



*Patty Dillon, principal hydrologist, surveys the Snoqualmie River in Washington State to identify changes in slope to get the overall shape of the river, which informs the creation of flood maps.*

## 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](mailto:RXNewsletter@starr-team.com).

## Featured Trainings

### Workshop: “During and After the Disaster”

Idaho Silver Jackets are presenting a series of half-day workshops to be held across Idaho next month, focusing on preparing for and recovering from a disaster.

The workshops are free to attend, and will include speakers from National

Weather Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, Idaho Department of Water Resources, and Idaho Office of Emergency Management.



#### Workshop Dates:

- June 10 in Rexburg, ID; 1-5 PM
- June 11 in Pocatello, ID; 8 – 12 PM
- June 12 in Payette, ID; 9 – 1PM
- June 13 in Lewiston, ID; 8 – 12PM

To *RSVP*, please email [Kristiana.M.McGee@usace.army.mil](mailto:Kristiana.M.McGee@usace.army.mil).

### Online Training

(All times Pacific)

#### Elevation Certificates

May 16, 10 am  
August 1, 10 am  
Online – 2 CECs

#### Floodplain Development Permit Review

May 30, 9 am  
July 25, 9 am  
Online – 1 CEC

#### Inspecting Floodplain Development

May 30, 10:30 am  
July 25, 10:30 am  
Online – 1 CEC

#### Tools for Determining BFE

June 6, 10 am  
Online – 1 CEC

#### CRS: Credit for Drainage System Maintenance (Activity 540)

June 18, 10 am  
Online – 1 CEC

#### CRS: Preparing for a Verification Visit

June 19, 10 am  
Online – 1 CEC

#### NFIP Basics

June 20, 10 am  
Online – 1 CEC

#### CRS: Developing a Repetitive Loss Area Analysis

July 16, 10 am  
Online – 1 CEC

#### CRS: Flood Warning & Response (Activity 610)

July 17, 10 am  
Online – 1 CEC

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