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# News from Region 10



## WA Post-Wildfire Flood Committee – Resource Webpage Release

By Travis Ball, USACE Seattle District and WA Silver Jackets Coordinator

Just a few weeks ago, many of us were in Boise listening, talking, and thinking about post-wildfire flood risk at the Northwest Regional Floodplain Management Association's (NORFMA) Annual Conference. This year's theme, "Fires, Floods, Mud, and More: Integrated Processes" was an opportunity to shine light on a type of flood risk that is somewhat contrary to the classic wet winter or high snowpack flood cycles we see west and east of the Cascades, respectively.

Several presenters at the conference discussed how short duration, high-intensity thunderstorms over recently burned areas can cause flooding with very little warning time and high concentrations of sediment and debris in drainages that rarely have flowing water. It was the threat of these types of flood events after the 2014-2015 wildfires in central

Washington that led to the formation of the Washington Post-Wildfire Flood Committee (PWFC).

The PWFC was formed under the umbrella of the Washington Silver Jackets Team, a multiagency group of flood risk managers facilitated by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) working to identify and address flood risk issues around the state.

The PWFC is not centrally funded, nor does it alone carry any decision-making authority, but its members work together to coordinate collection and sharing of technical data, progress and best practices of flood risk projects after fires, and outreach and distribution of flood-after-fire materials.

USACE funded the Silver Jackets and PWFC in 2018 to expand the outreach piece of their mission, including the development of a resources web page. The "beta" version of that website is now available to the public at [www.afterthefirewa.org](http://www.afterthefirewa.org).

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*After the Fire webpage - cont'd*

The original intent of the website was to offer flood risk resources to the residents, communities, and agencies impacted by fires. But through several workshops and conversations with those close to the recovery efforts from the Okanogan and Carlton fires, we realized the web page needed to offer more than just flood risk information in order to be utilized and valued by the public.

In addition to flood risk information, the site offers tips and resources for impacted homeowners, tools for community organization, an extensive online resource library, and much more.

The PWFC through the After-the-Fire website is attempting to improve the access to and utilization of critical planning and recovery information before the fire starts. Now we need your feedback. The site is in the earliest of stages. Both the content and design will continue to grow and improve over the next several months.

For those with previous experience in post-fire response and recovery, think back to what online resources you and your stakeholders or neighbors needed most. When you take a tour of the site, can you find that critical information? What is missing or confusing?

We heard it in various forms at NORMFA again and again: Don't just plan for the wildfire, plan for the recovery, too. Please take some time to help improve planning for post-fire recovery in Washington communities.

*For comments, PWFC information, or just a discussion about post-fire flood risk, contact Travis Ball, USACE: 206-764-3277 or [travis.d.ball@usace.army.mil](mailto:travis.d.ball@usace.army.mil).*

## FEMA Region 10 Story Projects Have a Home



The growing library of produced audio interviews collected as part of the Region 10 post-resilience storytelling projects is now publicly available on the [Pierce](#) and [Thurston](#) County websites. Additionally, as part of a fall awareness campaign, Pierce County's PIO is advertising one interview per week on their Facebook page, demonstrating local ownership of using these materials.

Additional opportunities to get the word out included support for the Thurston County floodplain administrator, Tim Rupert, and emergency manager, Andrew Kinney, at the County's Preparedness Expo on September 28, where approximately 100-170 attendees participated in this 4-hour event. Attendees could stop by and listen to shortened audio clips pulled from the longer narratives. This project is helping to foster local leadership support for allowing local resources to be spent on pursuing mitigation grants and projects. The team also presented on this project at the Northwest Regional Floodplain Management Association (NORFMA) conference in Boise, ID, the week before the Expo, along with the Pierce County project partner.

Thanks to a previous NORFMA presentation about the Pierce County story project, the Thurston County project was initiated. And thanks to a NORFMA presentation about the

Thurston County project, an FY04 project was initiated with the Multnomah County Drainage District in Portland, OR. The Region 10 team will be recording two new stories in Pierce County in October and November to capture narratives about coastal and groundwater flooding to build content that supports the County's flood management plan.

*For more information about the Storytelling projects in the Region, please contact Sarah Shannon, [sarah.shannon@mbakerintl.com](mailto:sarah.shannon@mbakerintl.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](mailto:RegionXHelpDesk@starr-team.com).

### Featured Workshop: Elevation Certificates

**December 4, 2019**  
**Eugene, Oregon**

Presented by FEMA Region 10 and the City of Eugene, this workshop is intended for local floodplain administrators and surveyors to help with proper completion of an essential tool for floodplain management. This course will cover the purpose and uses of an Elevation Certificate.

Participants will receive a section by section explanation of the Elevation Certificate, complete with real-world Building Diagram examples and a discussion of common errors and omissions.

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*EC Workshop - cont'd*

In addition, this workshop will cover how to determine the Base Flood Elevation (BFE), how Elevation Certificates are used as a part of the Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) process and how to use FEMA’s Map Service Center.

For time and location details and to register, please view the [FEMA Training Workshop flyer](#).

For more information, please contact Raymond S. Joseph, Jr., City of Eugene, [RJoseph@eugene-or.gov](mailto:RJoseph@eugene-or.gov).

**Announcing: L0273 Course Updates**

**Roxanne Pilkenton, FEMA Region 10**

Since the early 2000’s, anyone who has taken FEMA’s classic course “Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP”, often referred to by its training code L0273, will recall the clip art, sometimes grainy photos,

and other quirky features of this important 4-day class covering concepts of floodplain management. With a new updated set of course materials, the new era of L0273 has arrived. We’ve said goodbye to Mr. and Mrs. Jones, outdated photographs, the history of the NFIP and references to VCRs in the new course.

We’ve said hello to updated images, a pre and post-course exam, and a final capstone exercise that helps cement what was learned during the course. There will be a bigger emphasis on electronic manuals to help reduce waste and new criteria which states that every student must pass the post-course exam with a 75% or better. The course remains four days and when field deployed will still be followed by a chance to take the CFM exam, but it is important to note that the L0273 is not intended as a preparatory course for the CFM exam.

FEMA is looking forward to bringing courses to Idaho, Oregon and Washington in 2020. Future class offerings will be advertised through this newsletter and through your NFIP State Coordinator.

For more information, contact Roxanne Pilkenton, [roxanne.reale-pilkenton@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:roxanne.reale-pilkenton@fema.dhs.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](mailto:RXNewsletter@starr-team.com).

**Online Training**

(All times Pacific)

**STARR: Elevation Certificates**

November 7, 10 am  
Online – 2 CECs

**STARR: Tools for Determining Base Flood Elevation**

November 14, 10 am  
Online – 1 CEC

**CRS: Introduction to CRS**

November 19, 10 am  
Online – 1 CEC

**CRS: CRS & Coastal Hazards**

November 20, 10 am  
Online – 1 CEC

**STARR: Floodplain Development Permit Review**

November 21, 9 am  
Online – 1 CEC

**STARR: Inspecting Floodplain Development**

November 21, 10:30 am  
Online – 1 CEC

**CRS: Natural Floodplain Functions**

December 17, 10 am  
Online – 1 CEC

**CRS: Preparing an Annual Recertification**

December 18, 10 am  
Online – 1 CEC

**STARR: Elevation Certificates**

December 19, 10 am  
Online – 2 CECs

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).