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News from Region 10



“Shift Happens”: Earthquake Resilience

Empowering Communities through Public Engagement & Intergovernmental Collaboration

FEMA Region 10 and the City of Seattle recently co-hosted an interactive station for museum visitors to learn about home retrofitting and non-structural mitigation, and pointed out a real-life completed retrofit of Seattle’s Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI) building. The MOHAI retrofit was a FEMA grant-funded project. Attendees actively approached and asked questions about their buildings, workplaces, and resources available to help them make their homes and families safer.

Outside, visitors were greeted by the Pacific Northwest Seismic Network’s “Make-a-Quake” where they could generate and record their own seismic waves and learn about the risk posed by the liquefiable soil the museum was constructed upon.

Inside, the City of Seattle had a station highlighting completed seismic retrofit projects to demonstrate their commitment to

reducing earthquake damages. They also had a copy of their hazard mitigation plan, highlighting future seismic projects awaiting funding. Additionally, the City presented a video in MOHAI’s theater educating viewers on unreinforced masonry building (URM) identification and vulnerabilities.

The one-day pop-up exhibit ended in a powerful and engaging talk by a Chehalis tribal emergency manager and tribal member, speaking to indigenous stories of earthquakes, tsunami, and other natural disasters, and how resilience to these is an embedded part of their culture.



Figure 1: Amanda Siok | Earthquake Program Manager & Building Sciences Lead – FEMA Region 10.

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Earthquake Resilience (cont'd)

Visitors of the museum left feeling grateful to their government for taking earthquake risk seriously and knowing that they have an individual responsibility for their own earthquake resilience.

Public engagement can, and should be, fun, informative, and collaborative. This event was an entirely collaborative effort, funded only by agency staff-time and passion for the cause.

For more information on this collaborative mitigation effort, contact Amanda Siok, FEMA Region 10 Earthquake Program Manager: amanda.siok@fema.dhs.gov.

Featured Training

L273: Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP

October 21 - 24, 2019
Lewiston, ID

Spaces are still available for this course, designed for local officials responsible for administering their local floodplain management ordinance. Hosted by FEMA Region 10 and the Idaho Department of Water Resources, 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.

Tuition is free for those accepted; there are no travel or salary stipends available. To apply, please use the following application form: [FEMA Form 119-25-1 Application](#).

Please direct any questions to the course coordinator at michelle.schmeling@fema.dhs.gov.

Feature: Benefit-Cost Analysis Toolkit

BCA Tool Version 6.0 now available

In order to validate cost effectiveness of proposed hazard mitigation projects, FEMA requires a Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) prior to funding grant-based projects. BCA is the method by which the future benefits of a hazard mitigation project are determined and compared to its costs. The end result is a Benefit-Cost Ratio (BCR), which is calculated by a project's total benefits divided by its total costs. Projects are considered to be "cost effective" when the BCR is 1.0 or greater, indicating the benefits of a prospective hazard mitigation project are sufficient to justify the costs.

Applicants and sub applicants must use FEMA-approved methodologies and tools to demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of their projects. FEMA has developed the BCA Toolkit to facilitate the process of preparing a BCA. The newest version of the Tool is available at <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/179903>.

The BCA Toolkit consists of modules for a range of major natural hazards and project types including flooding, tornado safe rooms, hurricane winds, hurricane safe rooms, earthquakes, wildfires, droughts, and landslides.

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.



For additional information, please contact the BCA Helpline: bchelpine@fema.dhs.gov.

Now Hiring: Floodplain Specialists (GS-11)

FEMA's Office of Environmental Planning & Historic Preservation

When disaster strikes, America looks to FEMA. Join our team and use your talent to support Americans in their times of greatest need. We foster innovation, reward performance and creativity, and provide challenges on a routine basis with a well-skilled, knowledgeable, high performance workforce.

This position is being announced under FEMA's Cadre of On-call Response / Recovery Employee (CORE) Program. Multiple openings are available. This is a temporary appointment in the Excepted Service, not to exceed two years, with the option to extend based on workload and funding availability. Veterans Preference does not apply to the CORE selection process.

The job announcement has been [posted online](#). For more information, please direct questions to: ehpcadre@fema.dhs.gov.

Oregon Finalizes New State Model Ordinance

The State of Oregon’s Model Flood Hazard Ordinance was finalized and approved by FEMA Region 10 on August 9, 2019. The new model flood ordinance is available on the [State of Oregon’s website](#).

This new model ordinance reflects the minimum NFIP and State standards required to be included in local community ordinances (verbatim). If your community has higher standards, be sure to include

them and tailor the model accordingly. Additionally, the model ordinance has two appendices containing recommended additional definitions and higher standards; hyperlinks identify where these can be inserted, and connect to the relevant language in the appendices.

For more information or questions relating to the new model please contact: Celinda Adair, CFM, Oregon State NFIP Coordinator, at celinda.adair@state.or.us or via phone: 503-934-0069.

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.



Online Training

(All times Pacific)

Tools for Determining BFE

September 5, 10 am
Online – 1 CEC

PDM: Planning Grant Application Development

September 11, 10 am
Online

Floodplain Development Permit Review

September 12, 9 am
Online – 1 CEC

Inspecting Floodplain Development

September 12, 10:30 am
Online – 1.5 CECs

PDM: Project Grant Application Development

September 16, 10 am
Online

CRS: Credit for Drainage System Maintenance (Activity 540)

September 17, 10 am
Online – 1 CEC

CRS: Preparing an Annual Recertification

September 18, 10 am
Online – 1 CEC

PDM: Advanced Assistance Application Development

October 2, 10 am
Online

PDM: Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) Basics for Projects

October 3, 10 am
Online

PDM: eGrants Introduction

October 7, 10 am
Online

Elevation Certificates

October 10, 10 am
Online – 2 CECs

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