



November/December, 2014  
Volume 4, Issue 11

## Inside this Issue

- 1 Mitigation Resources
- 2 Upcoming Events
- 2 EPA Technical Assistance Opportunity
- 3 Training Opportunities

Strategic Alliance for Risk Reduction  
FEMA Region X Service Center  
20700 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue West, Suite 110  
Lynnwood, Washington 98036  
(425) 329-3699

# News from Region X

## Mitigation Resources

This is a busy time of the year for emergency managers, floodplain administrators, planners, and community officials. We'd like to share with you a summary of available resources to keep you up-to-date with your colleagues in the world of hazard mitigation planning:

### Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) News & Views

ASFPM distributes a newsletter 6 times a year. Each issue offers insight on floodplain management, resources, and training. Though you need to be a member to receive the emails in your inbox, you can always access past issues [here](#).

### FEMA Community Planning and Capacity Building (CPCB)

The Community Planning and Capacity Building Recovery Support Function supports and builds the community planning resources and recovery capacities of Tribal, State and local governments needed to effectively plan for, manage, and implement disaster recovery activities in large, unique, or catastrophic incidents. The quarterly newsletter is distributed by FEMA CPCB Program. It is a forum for communication where CPCB partners can learn of recent and ongoing programs and activities. Contact Kehla West at [Kehla.west@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Kehla.west@fema.dhs.gov) to be added to the distribution list.

### Journal of the National Institute of Building Sciences

The National Institute of Building Sciences publishes the free journal two times a year. Each issue looks at building design and performance as it relates to mitigation and

resilience. Go [here](#) to subscribe to the journal. Past issues can be accessed [here](#).

### National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Fire Break

Fire Break is the monthly newsletter of NFPA's Wildland Fire Operations Division. Fire Break is published monthly and distributed to leading wildland fire experts, Firewise® community representatives, community planners, civic leaders, homeowners and residents, insurance professionals, landscape architects and others who live and work in the wildland-urban interface. In each issue, you'll find the latest news and information on mitigating your wildfire risk to take back to your communities, organization or fire house. Go [here to subscribe](#). Past issues can be accessed [here](#).

### Natural Hazards Center

The Natural Hazards Center offers opportunities to receive disaster, resilience, mitigation information from around the world. Go [here to subscribe](#) to the Natural Hazards Observer and/or the "DR – Disaster Research News You Can Use".

### Risk MAP National News Flash

This is a monthly electronic newsletter that the national FEMA Risk MAP Program delivers. It provides insights on how other Regions are delivering Risk MAP. Contact Allison Skeer at [skeer.allison@bah.com](mailto:skeer.allison@bah.com) to subscribe.

*Continued on next page*

**RiskMAP**  
Increasing Resilience Together

## Upcoming Events & Training

(All times Pacific)

### Warning from the Past: The largest known recorded flooding to impact the west coast of the United States

November 4, 10am  
Online\* – 1 CEC

### Floodplain Development Permit Review

November 12, 10am  
Online\* – 1 CEC

### Inspecting Floodplain Development

November 13, 10am  
Online\* – 2 CECs

### CRS Webinar Series: Preparing for a Verification Visit

November 18, 10am  
January 20, 10am  
Online\* – 1 CEC

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

November 19, 10am  
January 21, 10am  
Online\* – 1 CEC

### Comparing Hydraulic Models and Actual Flooding

December 4, 10am  
Online\* – 1 CEC

### Elevation Certificates for A Zones

December 11, 10am  
Online\* – 2 CECs

### CRS Webinar Series: Introduction to CRS

December 16, 10am  
February 17, 10am  
Online\* – 1 CEC

### Elevation Certificates

December 18, 10am  
Online\* – 2 CECs

### CRS Webinar Series: Developing Outreach Projects (Activity 330)

February 18, 10am  
Online\* – 1 CEC

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

## Mitigation Resources (cont.)

### Washington EMD Mitigation Matters

Mitigation Matters is a newsletter from the Mitigation Section of the Washington State Emergency Management Division. The aim is to provide you information on natural hazards facing Washington and mitigation planning, funding, training, and best practices. Go [here to subscribe](#) to the monthly newsletter. Past issues can be accessed [here](#).

### Western Region Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy Newsletter

The Western Regional Strategy Committee (WRSC) delivers articles and stories each month that demonstrate the collaborative efforts of agencies, organizations and communities supporting and promoting the three goals of the Cohesive Strategy: Restoring Resilient Landscapes, Creating Fire Adapted Communities and Responding to Wildfire. The newsletter is our primary communication tool with our partners and the public. Go [here to subscribe](#). View past issues [here](#) on their blog.

*You can also subscribe to the STARR Region X Newsletter! Email us at [RXNewsletter@starr-team.com](mailto:RXNewsletter@starr-team.com).*

## EPA Technical Assistance Opportunity

EPA invites communities to apply for technical assistance to implement smart growth development approaches. EPA is offering this technical assistance through the [Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities program](#) to help communities across the country--including underserved communities, coastal communities, small cities and rural areas--adopt sustainable growth strategies. The program aims to

increase resilience to natural disasters and strengthen the economy while protecting human health and the environment. Building Blocks provides quick, targeted technical assistance to communities using tools with demonstrated results and widespread application.

Communities may apply for assistance on one or more of the following topics:

- Bike-share planning
- Equitable development
- Infill development for distressed cities
- Sustainable strategies for small cities and rural areas
- Flood resilience for riverine and coastal communities

If selected, a community will work with an EPA-supported team of experts during a one-to-two-day workshop, where participants will learn about relevant strategies, policies, and practices.

EPA will select up to 25 communities through a competitive process. Selections will be made in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Transportation through the [Partnership for Sustainable Communities](#). This interagency collaboration coordinates federal investments in infrastructure, facilities, and services to get better results for communities and use taxpayer money more efficiently. **Applications will be accepted until November 20, 2014.**

### Help Desk

If you have a question for the Region X Service Center, please email us at [RegionXHelpDesk@starr-team.com](mailto:RegionXHelpDesk@starr-team.com).

# RiskMAP

Increasing Resilience Together

## Training Opportunities

### Update to FEMA P-154 - Rapid Visual Screening of Buildings for Potential Seismic Hazards

**November 21 - 12:00 pm**  
Online

This webinar will summarize the updates in the third edition of FEMA P-154, Rapid Visual Screening of Buildings for Potential Seismic Hazard, which was developed to identify, inventory, and screen buildings that are potentially seismically hazardous.

This webinar is intended for individuals who have some experience or training with the previous editions and want a concise summary of what is new. Those without exposure to past editions will find the webinar to be of value as well. FEMA P-154 screening can be done by structural engineers, architects, other design professionals, building officials, construction contractors, firefighters, architectural and engineering students, or other individuals with a background in building design and construction.

The webinar is funded by the National Earthquake Technical Assistance Program (NETAP). Registration is free and required. To register online, [click here](#).

### HEC-RAS Short Course

**December 2 – Hillsboro, Oregon**  
**December 3 – Boise, Idaho**

Participants will learn how to use the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers HEC-RAS software; receive a comprehensive review of hydraulic principles for rivers, waterway bridges and culvers; understand and apply the principles in HEC-RAS steady flow hydraulic models for analyzing confluences and bridge/culvert structures; gain critical hands-on experience through in-class workshops toward optimizing the next floodplain or drainage project; and obtain valuable insights in model development and floodway optimization for FEMA flood insurance studies.

Registration due by November 26. For more information, visit <http://norfma.org>.

### Comparing Hydraulic Models and Actual Flooding

*When the Differences Matter and Methods to Quantify, Communicate, and Make Decisions*

**December 4, 10:00 am**  
Online

FEMA's Risk MAP program is designed to deliver quality data that increases public awareness and leads to action that reduces risk to life and property. The National Flood Insurance Program has

provided Flood Insurance Rate Maps to help implement the regulations and offer flood insurance. While these maps are intended to accurately represent the known flood risk, more than 25 percent of flood claims are made by property owners located outside the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). Some of these claims come from floods larger than a 1% flood event and from unmapped risks such as large water main breaks, but there are significant numbers that come from floods that simply occur differently than the flood modeling predicts. To be able to increase public awareness of the risk and get communities to take action on that risk, it is necessary to break down this risk into something that is straight forward to communicate. This one-hour presentation will explore potential causes for the observed differences and show several examples from recent flood events. In many cases, knowledge of potential limitation in hydraulic modeling can assist communities in making intelligent decisions to reduce the flood risk.

Visit <http://j.mp/starronlinetraining> for registration information.



**Happy Holidays! See you in 2015!**

**RiskMAP**  
Increasing Resilience Together