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# News from Region X

## Region X Communities Recognized for Risk MAP Best Practices

FEMA has released eight new Risk MAP Best Practices, three of which highlight successes in FEMA Region X. Tamra Biasco, Region X's Risk Analysis Branch Chief says, "I am pleased that the work our Region X Risk MAP team does to help meet community-identified needs has been shared with a large audience. If your community is interested in Risk MAP services, please contact your State Risk MAP coordinator so your needs can be coordinated with others in the State and Region."

### Region X Risk MAP Success!

**Fairbanks, Alaska**—A Benchmark for Cooperation

**Blaine County, Idaho**— A Reservoir of Effective Communication

**Clackamas County, Oregon**— Can Risk MAP Turn on a Dime?

For all the stories and to see the full list of Risk MAP Best Practices, go to [www.fema.gov/risk-map-success-stories](http://www.fema.gov/risk-map-success-stories). Your State Risk MAP coordinators can help with ideas and support, too:

**Alaska:** Sally Cox –  
[sally.cox@alaska.gov](mailto:sally.cox@alaska.gov)

**Idaho:** Ryan McDaniel –  
[rmcdaniel@bhs.idaho.gov](mailto:rmcdaniel@bhs.idaho.gov)

**Oregon:** Steve Lucker –  
[stephen.lucker@state.or.us](mailto:stephen.lucker@state.or.us)

**Washington:** Jerry Franklin –  
[jfra461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:jfra461@ecy.wa.gov)

## FloodSmart

Tools and Resources to Help Communicate Flood Risk



Floods are the most common severe weather emergency in the US. In the past 5 years, all 50 states have experienced floods or flash floods. There have been more than 250 flood declarations over the past 5 years. Educating your community about flood risk is essential to ensuring that residents are prepared for the next event. Armed with this information, your community can take the necessary steps to lessen the financial consequences of flooding.

With support from FloodSmart, the marketing and education campaign for the NFIP, communities can better communicate to residents the risk of flooding and importance of flood insurance. Shareable tools and resources are easily accessed online from the FloodSmart Community Resources page. Each tool provides dramatic, illustrative examples of flood risks and highlights the value and ease of purchasing flood insurance through thousands of insurance agents around the country.

Several tools can be downloaded, shared, or posted on community websites.

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**FloodSmart** (cont.)

**Flood Risk Scenarios:** Illustrates common causes of flooding through animated scenarios. After the tool is downloaded to a community's website, visitors can click on a scenario to see examples of how and why it can flood.

**Cost of Flooding:** Shows that only a few inches of water can cause major damage to a home and its contents. It is an excellent way to illustrate the financial consequences of a flood and start the conversation for purchasing flood insurance.

**Widgets:** Throughout the year, interactive widgets can be downloaded and used to illustrate the risks of flooding. Widgets have been created for a variety of seasons and topics, including winter flooding and flood after wildfire.

**Levee Simulator:** Helps explain in simple terms how levees work and shows the risk of living or working behind a levee. Using illustrated scenarios, users can see different ways that a levee can be breached, overtopped, or compromised through seepage and offers tips on how property owners can mitigate against damage.

**Testimonials:** Online videos from people who have experienced flooding, providing compelling, firsthand accounts of the consequences. Testimonials describe floods that occurred in different parts of the Nation, including coastal storms and levee breaches. They include home and business owners who did and did not have flood insurance. Add links to the videos relevant to your area on your community website.

Visit [www.FloodSmart.gov](http://www.FloodSmart.gov) today!

For help downloading these resources to your website—contact [info@femafloodsmart.com](mailto:info@femafloodsmart.com).

**NORFMA News**

The NORFMA Idaho Floodplain Managers Workshop was held on September 19<sup>th</sup> and was well attended. The one-day workshop focused on flood insurance requirements and NFIP regulations for floodplain development. Morning presentations covered insurance regulations including impacts from recent legislative changes under BW12 and the HFIAA; water delivery functions of the Boise River reservoir system and how flood control operations are integrated; and flood protection systems that operate in Boise to divert local canyon flood waters away from critical infrastructure and other buildings in the downtown.



On the afternoon field trip to the City of Boise Cottonwood Canyon flood retention system, Rob Bousfield pointed out the operations of the system and Bob Carter with the Boise Project Board of Control narrated the visit to the historic New York Canal. The tour illustrated the importance of water delivery to Treasure Valley and the necessary coordination between various agencies during flooding conditions and in daily reservoir operations.

One goal of this year's workshop was to bring together colleagues from various agencies and fields of floodplain-related work. The attendees were floodplain administrators, insurance agents, and representatives from various water agencies including the Army Corp of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, Idaho Department of

Water Resources and Boise Project Board of Control. A major takeaway from the day was that development needs have to be balanced with the needs of numerous interests and agencies and that proper growth practices help ensure that people and structures are safe.

**NORFMA Elections**

NORFMA will be holding elections for two Board positions this fall: Vice Chair and Secretary. Two State Representative positions are also open in Idaho and Washington. Positions are open to public or private individuals, but to be a State Representative you must work in that state.

NORFMA provides a forum for interacting and learning from others' experience in floodplain management. Board Members and Representatives participate in monthly conference calls to discuss conferences, workshops, policy issues, and to set goals for NORFMA. It's a good group of folks, with no one person having to shoulder too much responsibility.

NORFMA hosted the ASFPM national conference in June, so there will not be an annual conference this year, where elections are typically held. Instead, elections will be held in November/December via the updated website at [www.norfma.org](http://www.norfma.org). For more information on any of the individual positions, contact the current board member or representative: *Vice Chair*, Paula Cooper, (360) 676-6876; *Secretary*, Paul Pittman, (360) 671-9172; *Idaho Representative*, David Miles, (208) 898-5500, ext. 1383; *Washington Representative*, Ted Olson, (509) 329-3413

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## Upcoming Events & Training

(All times Pacific)

### Determining Base Flood Elevation

October 15, 10am  
Online\* – 1 CEC

### Elevation Certificates

October 16, 10am  
Online\* – 2 CECs

### CRS Webinar Series:

#### Introduction to CRS

October 21, 10am  
December 16, 10am  
Online\* – 1 CEC

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

October 22, 10am  
Online\* – 1 CEC

### NFIP Basics

October 30, 10am  
Online\* – 1 CEC

### 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  
Online\* – 1 CEC

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

November 19, 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

\*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).

## Hazus Modernization

The Hazus Modernization effort is in progress. Building on input from the user community, FEMA devised a roadmap for Hazus Modernization that will make Hazus an even more valuable and accessible tool for an ever growing body of users.

Modernization is broken up into four principal tasks:

- **Compatibility** with ArcGIS 10.2 and Windows 8
- **Implementation** of functional enhancements to improve loss estimation in the flood module
- **Refreshed** source code to allow for greater ease in further development and enhancement
- **Proof of concept trials** to help guide potential future enhancements

*Learn more about the Modernization effort in the [Modernization flyer](#) and at [www.hazusconference.com](http://www.hazusconference.com).*

## Region X Training Opportunities

### Washington Hazus 2-Day Course

October 28-29, 2014  
Camp Murray; Tacoma, WA

This course is designed to provide an overview of Hazus tools such as CDMS and the earthquake and flood modules. This course will provide each user the necessary requirement to update Hazus with local data and complete flood and earthquake analysis using Shake Map's and flood depth grids.

Attendees should have basic GIS experience. If you have not taken any Hazus training, it is

recommended to take the Hazus-MH Overview and Installation Course (for ArcGIS 9.3.1/Hazus-MH MR5) available free online through ESRI.

All attendees are required to bring a laptop loaded with ArcGIS 10.0 and Hazus 2.1. You must have the Spatial Analyst extension to complete the flood portion of this course. Note that ArcGIS 10.1 will not work with the current version of Hazus. Approximately 9 computers will be provided to students with software availability issues.

Please contact Kelly Stone, [Kelly.Stone@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Kelly.Stone@fema.dhs.gov), (425) 487-4636, for course registration and questions. Only 25 seats are available for this course, so please register early. You will receive an email if you are accepted. Deadline to apply: October 10, 2014

## Suggested Reading

### Flood Resilience Checklist

Is your community prepared for a possible flood? The United States Environmental Protection Agency has created a flood resilience checklist that can help you begin to answer that question. The checklist includes overall strategies to improve flood resilience as well as specific strategies to conserve land and discourage development in river corridors; to protect people, businesses, and facilities in vulnerable settlements; to direct development to safer area; and to implement and coordinate stormwater management practices through the whole watershed.

*Download the checklist as a PDF at [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov).*

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### Ask the Help Desk

If you have questions, let us help! Email the RSCX Help Desk at [RegionXHelpDesk@starr-team.com](mailto:RegionXHelpDesk@starr-team.com).

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**Suggested Reading** *(cont.)***Financial Planning for Natural Disasters**

The National Association of Development Organizations and the Rural Policy Research Institute have released a workbook designed to help local governments and regions understand their financial vulnerabilities to natural disasters, evaluate their financial capacity to cover the costs of those disasters, identify strategies to close the gap between financial vulnerabilities and capacity, and identify and address the spillover effects of neighboring local governments' financial vulnerabilities to disasters.

Download the workbook at [www.nado.org](http://www.nado.org).

**HUD Disaster Resilience Competition**

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Rockefeller Foundation have launched a \$1 Billion National Disaster Resilience Competition. The National Disaster Resilience Competition makes \$1 billion available to communities that have been struck by natural disasters in recent years. The competition promotes risk assessment and planning and will fund the implementation of innovative

resilience projects to better prepare communities for future storms and other extreme events. Funding for the competition is from the Community Development Block Grant disaster recovery (CDBG-DR) appropriation provided by the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 (PL 113-2).

There are 67 eligible applicants for the \$1 billion National Disaster Resilience Competition. All states with counties that experienced a Presidentially Declared Major Disaster in 2011, 2012 or 2013 are eligible to submit applications that address unmet needs as well as vulnerabilities to future extreme events, stresses, threats, hazards, or other shocks in areas that were most impacted and distressed as a result of the effects of the Qualified Disaster. This includes 48 of 50 states plus Puerto Rico and Washington, DC. In addition, 17 local governments that have received funding under PL 113-2 are also eligible. Visit [hud.gov](http://hud.gov) to see if you are eligible.

The National Disaster Resilience Competition is a year-long competition structured in two phases: (1) the framing phase and (2) the implementation phase. The competition is structured to guide applicants in the framing phase through broad consideration of their

**Newsletter Ideas?**

Let us know what you want to see in future issues! Send your ideas to [RXNewsletter@starr-team.com](mailto:RXNewsletter@starr-team.com).

disaster recovery needs, vulnerabilities, stakeholder interests, resilience and other community development investment alternatives. Then they can refine those needs and design potential solutions in the implementation phase.

- Phase 1 applications will be due in March 2015. Successful applicants in Phase 1 will be invited to participate in Phase 2 to design solutions for recovery and resilience.
- Phase 2 applications must also include an analysis for any proposed projects with an account of the social and ecological benefits and costs as a consideration. The best proposals from Phase 2 will receive funds for implementation and will demonstrate how communities across the country can build a more resilient future. HUD expects to make final award announcements in late 2015.

*For more information, download the factsheet at [portal.hud.gov](http://portal.hud.gov).*

