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News from Region X

Presidential Disaster Declaration for Alaska

Federal disaster aid has been made available to the State of Alaska to supplement state, tribal and local recovery efforts in the area affected by a severe storm, straight-line winds, flooding, and landslides during the period of September 15-30, 2012.

The President's action makes federal funding available to state and eligible tribal and local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by the severe storm, straight-line winds, flooding, and landslides in the areas of Alaska Gateway Rural Educational Attendance Area (REAA), Chugach REAA, Denali Borough, Kenai Peninsula Borough, and the Matanuska Susitna Borough.

Federal funding is also available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures statewide.

Kenneth K. Suiso has been named as the Federal Coordinating Officer for federal recovery operations in the affected area. Suiso said additional designations may be made at a later date if requested by the state and warranted by the results of further damage assessments.

Online LOMC Now Available

FEMA is now offering a new way to submit a request to change a property's flood zone designation. The new Online Letter of Map Change (LOMC) application allows anyone to electronically submit required documents and property information when they are requesting FEMA remove their property from a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). Professional surveyors, engineers, property owners, or their designated representatives, can use this online tool to conveniently submit required documents, property information, and payment information all in one place

Visit www.fema.gov/online-lomc to learn more about the new Online LOMC application and to see the new live site. Applicants can use this new website to electronically request a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) instead of applying for a LOMA using the MT-1 or MT-EZ paper forms. LOMA-eligible requests must be concerning properties on naturally high ground, which have not been elevated by fill.

In the near future, the Online LOMC application will be able to process all types of LOMC requests.

Ask the Help Desk

Have a question about floodplain management regulations, a mapping project or mitigation planning? Let us help! We can be reached via email at RegionXHelpDesk@starr-team.com.

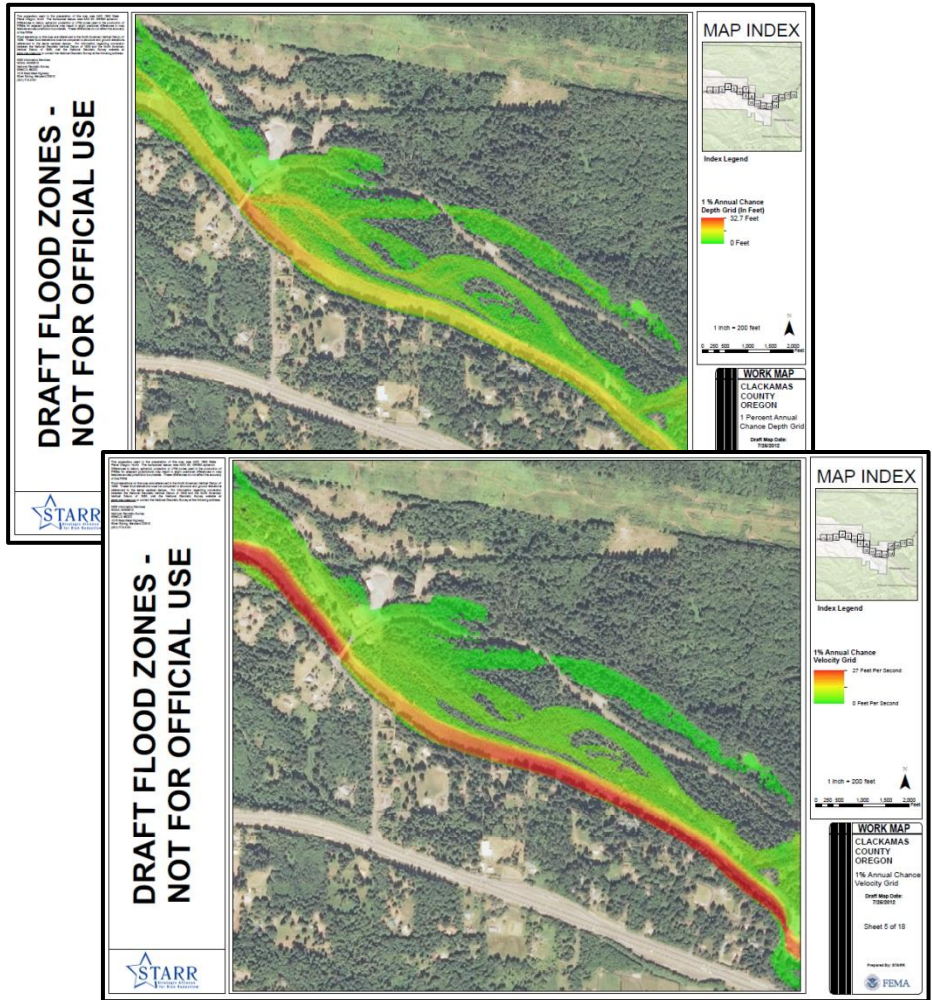
RiskMAP
Increasing Resilience Together

Upper Sandy River Flood-Related Risks

As a result of a flood ravaging the banks of the upper Sandy River in Oregon in the shadows of Mount Hood in January of 2011, Clackamas County was more concerned with erosive velocities and long term changes in the river alignment than base flood elevations. The event coincided with FEMA’s effort to restudy the area using recent high resolution LiDAR terrain data. The effort involves multiple partners including the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI), the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development, and STARR.

As a result of the disaster, Clackamas County asked the State about potential projects to further analyze the risks attributed to effects of long term erosion and urgent needs for data to help manage planned bank stabilization projects during the upcoming summer building period. Given that a new study was underway; all stakeholders concluded that using the more accurate study data would be beneficial. However, the surveying and hydraulic analyses would not be completed until the spring of 2013. Clackamas County was concerned about the upcoming 2012-2013 flood season.

FEMA Regional Engineer David Ratté learned about the concerns and proposed that through Risk MAP, we could better identify the velocity hazards with a limited-detail hydraulic model. A limited-detail model is based on geometry derived from the LiDAR terrain data rather than field surveys. The effort would not be too costly and could be finished before the flood season. Furthermore, velocity data could be



extracted from the model and projected on risk maps showing where the higher velocities were most likely, as well as ranges. The areas of highest risk based on depth and velocity magnitudes could be color-coded for better graphic representations. The County and the state were pleased with the proposal.

Upon completion of the work, Clackamas County Emergency Manager Jay Wilson observed that the products "...help tell the story of the river and how it changes." The County used the data to present to local property owners and stakeholders at a preparedness workshop. The results were well received. The Sandy River Basin Watershed Council expressed interest to use the data for their outreach activities.

The work is a great start towards developing a better understanding of the river’s powerful impacts, but more studies are needed to develop bank stabilization design guidance and to examine specific properties and account for side channels. The new detailed study underway will help support additional assessments and the County is planning projects through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The maps bring the dynamic nature of the river to life in a way that a FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map aren’t designed to do.

For more information, contact David Ratté, Regional Engineer, David.Ratte@fema.dhs.gov.



Upcoming Events & Training

(All times Pacific)

Hazus Flood Tutorial

January 9, 10am
Online* - 1 CEC

Elevation Certificates

January 10, 10am-12:30pm
February 14, 10am-12:30pm
March 14, 10am-12:30pm
Online* - 2 CECs

Determining BFE

January 17, 10 am
Online* - 1 CEC

NFIP Basics

January 16, 10 am
February 7, 10 am
Online* - 1 CEC

Elevation Certificates for A Zones

January 24, 10am-12:30pm
Online* - 2 CECs

Reducing Non-Structural Damages from Earthquakes

January 30, 2pm-3:30pm
Online
fema-nehrrp@fema.dhs.gov

Earthquake Safety & Mitigation for Schools

January 31, 2pm-3:30pm
Online
fema-nehrrp@fema.gov

Christchurch Earthquakes Workshop

February 12, 1pm-5pm
Seattle, WA
eeri.org

Earthquake Engineering Research Institute 65th Annual Meeting

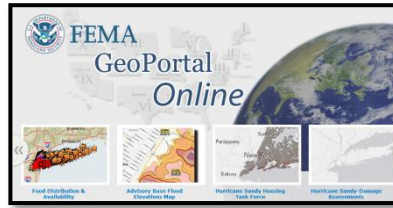
February 12-15, 2013
Seattle, WA
eeri.org

Comprehensive Data Management for Hazus

March 26-29, 2013
Tacoma, WA
Kelly.Stone@fema.dhs.gov

*To register for online courses, visit STARR's training site online at j.mp/starrwebtraining, or email RXTraining@starr-team.com.

FEMA GeoPortal

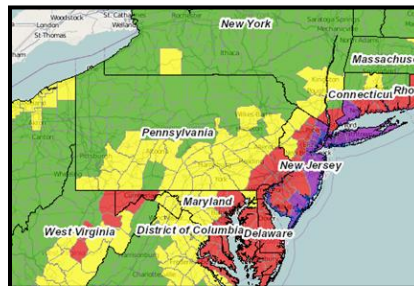


The FEMA GeoPortal Online is an open web based mapping and data tool which allows FEMA to post information outside of their firewall for the first time. Hurricane Sandy was the first full-scale disaster that utilized the online GeoPortal to showcase various web maps focusing on shelters, Hazus output, housing, projected hurricane paths, flood losses etc.

Region X GeoPortal usage could include but is not limited to the following:

- Post information for any large scale event which FEMA is responding to.
- Post additional information such as Hazus outputs.
- Data storage for download

Currently the GeoPortal has a Washington Hazus User Group that



you can join which provides updated Hazus datasets for all States within FEMA Region X. You are encouraged to look at the Hurricane Sandy maps which will provide an overview of the type of datasets that FEMA can provide in an event.

The FEMA GeoPortal can be accessed at fema.maps.arcgis.com.

Featured Training

NFIP Basics


January 16, 2013 – 10:00 am
February 7, 2013 – 10:00 am

This one-hour session will cover the history of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), basic terminology, governing authority, and provide an overview of the community's role in floodplain management through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The target audience includes state and local officials who need a general understanding of the ins and outs of the program and guidance on where to go for more training and answers.

One (1) CEC for CFMs

The Christchurch Workshop

February 12, 2013, 1pm-5pm
Grand Hyatt Hotel, Seattle, WA

The workshop brings a recent, relevant earthquake sequence to Seattle, as a vivid example of the impacts and opportunities that result when low-probability moderate earthquakes strike an urban area. By relating the experiences surrounding the earthquake sequence that struck the Canterbury New Zealand region in 2010-2011, particularly for the city of Christchurch, the workshop will provide lessons relevant to building more resilient communities. Targeted attendees include local public and private decision-makers and the 2013 EERI annual meeting participants. 

Happy Holidays!



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