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News from Region X

eLOMA: A Powerful Tool and Vital Resource

Nearly 20,000 communities within the United States participate in the NFIP by adopting and enforcing floodplain ordinances to reduce future flood damage. In return, the NFIP makes federally backed flood insurance available to the general public in these communities.

The Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) area of the NFIP involves amending structures and/or properties that are inadvertently depicted in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) on the Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM). If a structure's Lowest Adjacent Grade (LAG) or a property's Lowest Lot elevation is equal to or above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE), the subject can be amended from the SFHA. While the DFIRMs represent a scientific engineering analysis, they can have a +/- error due to data and map scale limitations. LOMAs (and other types of amendments) are performed to a tenth of a foot and provide a more specific analysis on an individual structure or property.

eLOMA is a web-based application within the Mapping Information Platform (MIP) that provides Licensed Professionals (registered surveyors and professional engineers) with a system to submit simple LOMA requests to FEMA. The tool is designed to make a determination based on the information submitted by the licensed professional and allow them to generate a determination from FEMA in minutes.

Currently, only simple LOMA

requests qualify for eLOMA. Simple LOMA requests include as-built primary residences, commercial structures and legally recorded parcels of land with established Base Flood Elevations posted in the community's Flood Insurance Study (FIS) or Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). The structure or property can qualify for an eLOMA as long as no fill was placed on the property to raise the area above the Base Flood Elevation, no Letter of Map Revision is in effect for the area, and/or if the structure does not reside in the Regulatory Floodway. Some eLOMAs will be randomly selected for audit. Depending on eLOMA experience, users are more or less susceptible to certain audit trigger levels. If an eLOMA is selected for audit, the user is notified and required to submit supporting data that was used to apply for the eLOMA. Audits are generally performed no more than five days from all required data having been received. If an audit reveals/requires substantial corrections, the eLOMA is rejected and reopened and reviewed as a traditional LOMA.

For additional information on eLOMA and how to apply to become a Licensed Professional, go to hazards.fema.gov, and select MIP User Care – Access Requests – eLOMA.

Eric Ratcliffe is the MT-1/eLOMA Control Account Manager for STARR

RiskMAP
Increasing Resilience Together

Region X Staff Deployed to Hurricane Sandy Recovery

Due to Hurricane Sandy relief efforts, several staff from FEMA Region X have been deployed to the east coast. More deployments are expected in the coming weeks.

STARR is maintaining a list of staff availability from the Region X Risk Analysis and Floodplain Management and Insurance Branches on www.starr-team.com. This list will be updated as staffing changes occur over the coming months, so check back often.

The STARR Region X Service Center remains open and available to assist you with all floodplain management and mapping project needs. Please feel free to contact us with any questions at RegionXHelpDesk@starr-team.com

Upcoming Events & Training

(All times Pacific)

Elevation Certificates

December 13, 10am-12:30pm
January 10, 10am-12:30pm
Online* - 2 CECs

Determining BFE

December 14, 10 am
Online* - 1 CEC

NFIP Basics

January 16, 10 am
Online* - 1 CEC

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

Training & Exercise Quarterly Compendium

FEMA Region X publishes a Training & Exercise Quarterly Compendium is published on a quarterly basis that contains basic information about regionally significant training and exercise events occurring in the next three (3) years.

The latest edition includes events occurring between October 2012 and December 2015. It's available for download at www.starr-team.com in the Tools and Resources section.

A regionally significant training or exercise event includes but is not limited to the following types of events;

- training which is open for enrollment by outside agencies,
- exercises in need of evaluators or controllers,
- exercises open to observers,
- multi-jurisdictional training and exercises,
- regional training and exercises,
- and training and exercises which an agency would like other regional partners to be aware of.

For more information about the Region X Training & Exercise Quarterly Compendium please contact Adina Pease, adina.pease@fema.dhs.gov.

Spread the Word!


If you have a story or event to share in the the Region X Newsletter, email us at RXNewsletter@starr-team.com.

Earthquake Basics Independent Study

FEMA is pleased to announce a new web-based, independent study training course, IS-325—Earthquake Basics: Science, Risk, and Mitigation.

This interactive, 30-minute course presents basic information on earthquake science, the risks posed by earthquakes and the mitigation activities individuals can take to prepare for earthquakes and increase their community's earthquake resilience. The course also discusses the benefits of structural and non-structural earthquake mitigation. After completing the course, participants should be able to describe what causes earthquakes, differentiate between hazards and vulnerabilities, identify potential vulnerabilities in their homes and businesses, and take additional steps toward reducing their overall risk. Short quizzes are included to enhance interactivity and to boost retention.

Earthquake Basics is targeted to a wide range of audiences, including homeowners, business owners, the private sector, the federal, state, tribal, and local government workforce at all levels, first responders, non-profit organizations, volunteers, and community-based organizations. Earthquake Basics resides on the FEMA Emergency Management Institute (EMI) website, IS-325—Earthquake Basics: Science, Risk, and Mitigation.

For information on other earthquake training courses and assistance, visit the National Earthquake Technical Assistance Program at www.fema.gov. 



Region X States Contact Information				
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