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# News from Region X

## Enhanced GIS Services for MSC and MIP



FEMA recently deployed the new Geographic Information System services for the Map Service Center and the Mapping Information Platform. These updates and enhancements bring additional capabilities and greater ease-of-use for all users of these systems. Enhancements include:

- Easier use of the Map Product Search, now incorporating a familiar Bing™ Map interface and more flexible search bar
- Replacement of the outdated MapViewer-Web with an updated National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL) service for viewing in *Google Earth* and display in the FEMA GeoPlatform
- Improvement in the usability of the NFHL WMS service and its implementation in *Google Earth*
- Updating of the NFHL to the 2012 FIRM Database schema

These improvements also make additional services available to the public for the first time, including access to the NFHL through REST and WFS services.

*The following links provide additional information on the enhanced services (click to follow): MSC - MIP - GeoPlatform.*

## Online LOMC – New Capabilities

FEMA has successfully launched new capabilities to the Online Letter of Map Change (LOMC)! Requestors may now submit both Amendment and Revision applications through Online LOMC. This convenient web tool is now an alternative to the paper MT-EZ, MT-1, and MT-2 forms.

There are many benefits to applying for a LOMC online:

- Submit, pay, and upload supporting documentation for all LOMC requests through one single online platform
- Applicants may save information online and finish applying at their convenience
- Clear and intuitive interface makes applying user-friendly
- Frequent applicants can manage multiple LOMC requests online
- Applicants can check their application status in real-time
- More efficient communications with LOMC processing staff

*For more information visit <http://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program-flood-hazard-mapping/letter-map-change> or [starr-team.com](http://starr-team.com) to view the LOMC Subscription Flyer*

## Risk MAP and CRS Synergies Training

In late June, FEMA sponsored several online trainings on the synergies between Risk MAP and the Community Rating System (CRS). If you would like to know more about how the two programs can work together to reduce risk and lower insurance premiums in your community, you can view the recorded session online. Visit <http://j.mp/starr-recorded-training> for more information.

### Upcoming Events & Training

(All times Pacific)

#### NFIP Basics

July 3, 9am  
September 11, 10am  
Online\* - 1 CEC

#### Elevation Certificates

July 25, 10am  
August 22, 10am  
September 26, 10am  
Online\* - 2 CECs

#### Elevation Certificates for A Zones

August 15, 10am  
Online\* - 2 CECs

#### Determining a Base Flood Elevation

August 28, 10am  
Online\* - 1 CEC

#### Using DFIRMS and Other Digital Flood Data

August 14, 9am  
Online\* - 1 CEC

#### Biggert-Waters NFIP Reform Act of 2013

August 21, 10am  
Online\* - 1 CEC

\*For a complete list and to register for online courses, visit STARR's training site online at [j.mp/starrwebtraining](http://j.mp/starrwebtraining), or email [RXTraining@starr-team.com](mailto:RXTraining@starr-team.com).

## EMI Training Opportunity

### E386 Residual Coastal Construction

August 5-8, 2013  
EMI, Maryland

The Residual Coastal Construction course is designed to train participant on FEMA's Coastal Construction Manual. This manual is the primary, state-of-the-art reference for planning, designing, and constructing residual structures in the various coastal environments.

#### Course Goals

- Understand the basic principles of designing in coastal environment.
- Understand the differences in design requirements and expected performance between coastal construction and inland construction.
- Understand the significance and "lessons" of historical events at the coast.
- Describe minimum requirements and "best practices" for coastal construction
- Identify coastal hazards at potential building sites and identify where to obtain pertinent information.
- Understand how to calculate design loads and conditions.
- Understand the continuous load path principle
- Identify siting, design, construction, and maintenance defects that result in vulnerable buildings.

Twelve (12) CECs for CFMs

To apply, submit FEMA Form 119-25-1 to your State Emergency Management Training office.

## FEMA P-464

### Guidelines for Design of Structures for Vertical Evacuation from Tsunamis

July 10, 12pm

This 90 minute webinar will provide an overview of FEMA P-646 report, *Guidelines for Design of Structures for Vertical Evacuation from Tsunamis (Second Edition)*. Participants will be introduced to the concept of vertical evacuation from tsunamis. The webinar will summarize guidance on tsunami hazard assessment, vertical evacuation options, siting concepts, performance objectives, design loads, design concepts, and emergency management issues that should be considered in locating, designing, and operating vertical evacuation structures. The target audience are building officials, emergency managers, engineers, architects, town planners, and others who may be involved in developing tsunami evacuation procedures for coastal communities

Registration is \$200 per computer site. The registration fee will increase to \$225 per computer site after Friday, July 5, 2013. To pay by check or purchase order, please contact the ATC office at (650) 595-1542 or [atc@atcouncil.org](mailto:atc@atcouncil.org).

To register please go to the online registration page or to register by mail please complete this form.

1.5 Professional Development Hours (PDHs)

Presenter: Ian N. Robertson, S.E., Professor of Structural Engineering, University of Hawaii

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## Region X Retirement

### Farewell Denise Atkinson

Denise Atkinson retired at the end of May after almost 40 years of federal civil service. Denise worked for the Dept. of the Navy beginning in 1973 until she transferred to FEMA in 1992. Denise was promoted to Floodplain Management Specialist in 1998 and served in that capacity until her retirement. Denise worked with many communities in Region X throughout her career, but primarily with communities in Oregon.

Denise was deployed to help flood victims recover following presidentially declared disasters in Florida (2004), Louisiana (2005), Oregon (2006) and New York (2012).

*We miss you already, Denise!*

### Welcome Back Bryan Weber

Region X is looking forward to Major Bryan Weber's return following almost a year of active military duty. Bryan will return to Region X to resume his duties as a Floodplain Management Specialist on July 15. Bryan will work primarily with communities in Idaho and eastern Oregon.

## Suggested Reading

There is another great article in the American Surveyor Newsletter (from earlier this year) about Elevation Certificates titled "Don't Forget that Flood Certification" by Terri L. Turner, AICP, CFM. Surveyors and local floodplain officials will appreciate this useful resource that illustrates the importance of Elevation Certificates. The newsletter can be viewed at [www.amerisurv.com](http://www.amerisurv.com).

## Ask the Help Desk

If you have questions about a mapping project, or mitigation planning, the Region X Service Center is here to help. Email us at [RegionXHelpDesk@starr-team.com](mailto:RegionXHelpDesk@starr-team.com).

## Oregon Programmatic Biological Assessment

The Final Programmatic Biological Assessment (PBA) for the NFIP in Oregon was completed by FEMA earlier in 2013 and is available to read at: the FEMA Library. The Portland, Oregon office of the National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS) is now writing the Biological Opinion on that PBA, and a draft of the Biological Opinion (BO) is expected to be delivered to FEMA for comment in late-summer or early-fall of 2013.

Once the final version of the BO for the NFIP in Oregon is completed by NMFS, FEMA Region X will write Habitat Assessment and Mitigation guidance for Oregon. This guidance is intended to accompany the BO written by NMFS in order to assist jurisdictions in understanding how to assess and document the environmental effects of NFIP-related projects on listed Endangered Species Act (ESA) species and their designated critical habitats. A 2010 version of similar guidance for the Puget Sound Basin of Western Washington is already available for viewing, but will soon be replaced with a revised 2013 version that provides additional information on how to comply with the ESA under the BO written by NMFS for Puget Sound.

*For more information on the PBA or the BO contact [Barry.Gall@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Barry.Gall@fema.dhs.gov) and to read the Assessment please visit the FEMA Library.*

## Preliminary National Seismic Hazard Maps

The National Seismic Hazard Mapping Program is pleased to announce that preliminary documentation of the 2014 update of the National Seismic Hazard Maps (NSHM) has been posted on the USGS hazards website.

These documents are being made available for public comment. If you would like to give specific feedback, please use the 'Contact Us' link at the bottom of the webpage listed below. The email will be routed to the NSHM team.

The NSHM team will aggregate comments received over the next 6 weeks and consider them collectively before moving forward with the update.

*The preliminary National Seismic Hazard Maps can be downloaded from the USGS Earthquake Hazards Program website*

## Risk Awareness Survey

### FEMA needs your help!

Since 2010, FEMA has conducted an annual nationwide survey on Risk Awareness of local officials. Survey results, such as those presented below from 2012, track trends and inform federal agencies and state and local communities how to most effectively engage and support communities toward advancing mitigation actions to reduce vulnerabilities to natural hazards.

It is now time to take the 2013 local official survey!

*Continued on next page*

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**Survey (cont.)**

If you are currently a local official, please follow the link below and take this 15-minute survey before July 31. Your individual responses will be kept confidential and anonymous.

Click the link below or copy/paste into your browser to take the survey:

<https://svy.cfgroup.com/cgi-bin/qwebcorporate.dll?idx=DB6QFC>

Your participation will provide FEMA and other agencies with the information necessary to better

engage communities in efforts to build a safer stronger nation.

*If you have questions about the survey, please contact Vincent.Brown@fema.dhs.gov.*

## FEMA 2012 Risk Awareness Survey Findings

### Public Officials Obtain and Communicate Flood Risk in Multiple Ways

Over 70% of officials get information about flood risk from flood maps. The majority of officials surveyed obtain flood risk information from a combination of flood maps, FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program, and their own experience. Just under half of the officials also received information about flood risk from other officials.

Officials communicate flood risk through community meetings and postings to websites: Holding community meetings/open houses and posting to a community website were the most popular methods officials used to communicate flood risk to their citizens - both were cited by over 40% of officials surveyed.

There is an opportunity for local officials to communicate more about flood risk: Less than a third of officials stated they communicate about flood risk to the general public at least annually. About a quarter (28%) stated they communicate about flood risk once every few years, while 16% stated they never communicate about flood risk.

Floodplain and Emergency Managers communicate the most about flood risk: The majority of officials stated that the public hears most about flood risk from Floodplain and Emergency Managers, whereas only a third of officials felt that the Mayor communicated with the public about flood risk.

### Community Mitigation Action Advancement is a Collaborative Effort

Developing a community multi-hazard plan requires collaboration: A variety of officials participated in developing their community's multi-hazard mitigation plan. 74% of Emergency managers cited involvement, versus 62% of community planning officials, 59% of other local officials, 57% of city council or planning commission members, and 50% of floodplain managers.

Over 70% of officials took action to mitigate their community's flood risk: Of those who took action, over 80% did so through floodplain management ordinances. Additionally, zoning, storm water management regulations, and enforcing building codes were each cited by over 60% of officials.

### The General Public Wants Flood Risk Information Delivered to Them

People want to hear about flood risk on the news and through mailings. Local news (76%) was by far the preferred information source regarding general flood risk at 76% (as opposed to specific flood-related news), with mailings a distant second at almost 30%.

People expect to hear about flood risk from their mayor or local media. The most cited source of where people expect to get information about flood risk from was their Mayor/ other local elected officials and the local media.

People get information from the local media and insurance agents: Local media and insurance agents were most mentioned as sources for information on individual's risk of flooding to their property. 