



November 2013
Volume 3, Issue 12

Inside this Issue

- 1** Plan Credited for Preventing Flooding
- 1** Beach Nourishment and Dune Construction Fact Sheet
- 2** Grays Harbor County Vertical Tsunami Refuge
- 2** LAMP Operating Guidance
- 2** Coastal Resilience Website
- 3** Featured Training
- 3** New Idaho NFIP Coordinator
- 3** Upcoming Events & Training

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

News from Region X

Plan Credited for Preventing Flooding

Earlier this year the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) partnered with North Coast Land Conservancy on a \$1 million project to remove a levee along the Necanicum River. The project had been in Conservancy’s plan for years, but lacked funding until ODOT needed to find a project to enhance wetlands in other areas as mitigation for nearby road work.

This spring and summer conservancy staff and volunteers added more than 100 woody debris complexes inside the floodplain.

Comprised of logs jammed into the ground as anchors with additional trees and their rootwads tethered to the logs, the complexes provide fish habitat when the plain is flooded, as well as perches for raptors and nesting habitat for birds. They also create eddies and calm water to keep young fish from being flushed out to sea, Voelke said.

The Necanicum River crested on Sept. 28 and the water began flowing into the floodplain for the next three days; 120 acres were inundated, but U.S. 101 wasn't. The flood plain also came alive with hundreds of birds.

The preceding was excerpted from Stuart Tomlinson’s article in The Oregonian. View the entire article with photos at www.oregonlive.com.

Beach Nourishment and Dune Construction Fact Sheet

The FEMA Risk Analysis Branch is pleased to announce the new Beach Nourishment and Dune Construction Fact Sheet is now available in the FEMA Library.

With coastal communities increasingly opting for beach nourishment as an erosion control alternative, this fact sheet was written to clarify FEMA’s approach to evaluating beach nourishment and dune construction during coastal flood hazard mapping studies. The fact sheet explains how beach nourishment and dune construction projects affect FEMA’s coastal mapping studies and how FEMA evaluates those projects during a mapping study.

The fact sheet also includes side bars featuring relevant clauses of the NFIP Code of Federal Regulations and an example of a beach nourishment project in Hilton Head. Intended for both a technical and non-technical audience, the fact sheet can be used to educate a wide variety of stakeholders such as mapping partners, community officials, and the general public.

Download the fact sheet at www.fema.gov.



Grays Harbor County Vertical Tsunami Refuge

Seattle Times Editorial

Kudos to the Ocosta School District in Grays Harbor County for taking the lead on including tsunami protections in its school rebuilding plan.

School administrators and residents of Westport, Grayland and other communities in this beautiful but vulnerable setting on the Pacific Ocean deserve credit for planning for the worst.

Times reporter Sandi Doughton described how the district will offer the first U.S. vertical tsunami refuge. Plans call for construction of a school facility that is tall enough and stout enough to shelter 1,500 people from an ocean surge triggered by a tsunami.

The Cascadia subduction zone is a 700-mile offshore fault, which has coastal communities in Washington and Oregon contemplating how to prepare for a devastating quake and the lethal wave that follows.

Coastal communities have been identifying evacuation routes and meeting areas as they anticipate the need to flee a surging tsunami. A new awareness and a new vocabulary, such as inundation lines — how far inland the water would flow — are part of the ongoing preparation.

Washington's coastal communities are invoked as examples of the subtleties of the hazards. Aberdeen is at risk, but the community has higher ground nearby. Ocean Shores, about half the population,

has no higher ground close by.

The Ocosta School District needed to shelter people in place. The community has worked to find extra resources to supplement the \$14 million approved by voters.

This is a worthy investment that sets an excellent example for others who face the same threat.

Read Sandi Doughton's full article in the Seattle Times at seattletimes.com.

Operating Guidance for Non-Accredited Levee Analysis and Mapping

The Risk MAP program provides State, Tribal, and community officials with information on flood hazards and tools they can use to enhance their Hazard Mitigation Plans and take other actions to better protect their citizens.

Recently, FEMA conducted a review of its procedures for analyzing and mapping flood hazards behind non-accredited levee systems. As a result of this review, FEMA has developed new analysis and mapping procedures for non-accredited levee systems, as documented in *Analysis and Mapping Procedures for Non-Accredited Levees* released in July 2013. Non-accredited levee systems are levee systems that do not meet all requirements outlined in 44 CFR 65.10 along the entire length of the levee system. FEMA recognizes that levee systems that do not fully meet the requirements set forth in 44 CFR 65.10 may still provide a measure of flood risk reduction; for

that reason, the FEMA has developed a suite of procedures for providing a more refined depiction of flood hazards on affected Flood Insurance Rate Map panels.

FEMA has published *Operating Guidance 12-13, Non-Accredited Levee Analysis and Mapping Guidance*. This document provides guidance to FEMA Regional Offices, Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP), and contractor staff that manage or perform flood risk projects where non-accredited levee systems have been identified. Operating Guidance documents provide best practices for the FEMA Risk MAP program. These guidance documents are intended to support current FEMA standards and facilitate effective and efficient implementation of these standards.

For additional information, please visit the FEMA Final Levee Analysis and Mapping Approach webpage at www.fema.gov.

Coastal Resilience 2.0 Website Launch

The Nature Conservancy announced the release of the Coastal Resilience 2.0 website. The website offers a suite of tools that enables decision-makers to assess risk and identify nature-based solutions to reduce socio-economic vulnerability to coastal hazards. The mapping tools allow users to interactively examine storm surge; sea level rise; natural resources; vulnerable communities and assets and to develop risk reduction and restoration solutions. These tools are just one part of a wider array of resources available at <http://www.coastalresilience.org>.

Ask the Help Desk

The Region X Service Center is here to help you with all your Risk MAP needs. We can help connect you to resources and answers about project status updates, mitigation planning, floodplain development regulations, training resources, outreach ideas and more. Email us at RegionXHelpDesk@starr-team.com.

RiskMAP
Increasing Resilience Together

Featured Training

NORFMA HEC-RAS Workshop

December 4 – 6
Tacoma, Washington

This hands-on 3-day workshop prepares water resources professionals to use the HEC-RAS (Hydrologic Engineering Center River Analysis System) in real world situations. Participants learn how to conduct water surface profiles, building/culvert hydraulics, and floodplain studies using the steady flow capabilities to HEC-RAS.

Participants will learn how to use the HEC-RAS software; review hydraulic principles and apply them in HEC-RAS steady flow hydraulic models, gain critical hands-on experience through in-class workshops and obtain valuable insights in model development and floodway optimization for FEMA flood insurance studies.

12 CECs for CFMs

Registration deadline is November 27, 5:00 p.m. Seating limited to 18

Instructor: Dr. Ray Walton, P.E., D.

For more information, www.norfma.org

Welcome, Keri Smith-Sigman!

Idaho has a new State Floodplain Coordinator! We want to congratulate Keri and introduce her to our Idaho readers. Keri was the local Floodplain Administrator, Zoning Administrator, and Land Use Planner for Canyon County, Idaho, and has firsthand knowledge of many things that local floodplain administrators deal with on a day-to-day basis. She can help you with permitting processes, ordinance amendments and rewrites, anything NFIP related (elevation certificates, Letters of Map Amendments, new FIRM adoptions, development permits, site reviews, etc.), and local politics and getting support from elected officials. If you haven't met her yet, please join us in giving her a warm welcome. Her email address is Keri.Sigman@idwr.idaho.gov. She'll also be at the NORFMA Idaho Floodplain Conference in Boise this month, if you want to meet her in person.



Alaska Hazus Overview

January 7-9 (**Rescheduled**)
Anchorage, Alaska

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 requirements to update HAZUS with local data and complete flood and earthquake analysis using ShakeMap's and flood depth grids. The course will use data from the Kodiak Island Borough, Kenai Peninsula Bureau, and the City of Anchorage; but the same principles can be applied to any community. Communities are encouraged to bring their own local data for use in the course. This is not an EMI Certified Course, so you will not receive EMI Credit or credit towards a HAZUS certificate. You will receive a FEMA certificate for this course which may be used to waive the basic Hazus course requirement for EMI Hazus courses.

Contact Kelly.stone@fema.dhs.gov for course registration.

Deadline to apply is December 16.

View all upcoming online trainings at <http://j.mp/starronlinetraining>

Upcoming Events & Training

(All times Pacific)

Floodplain Development Permit Review

November 6, 10am
December 4, 9am
January 14, 9am
Online* – 1 CEC

Inspecting Floodplain Development

November 7, 10am
December 5, 10am
January 16, 10am
Online* – 2 CECs

Idaho Floodplain Conference

November 13-15
Boise, Idaho
norfma.org

Determining Base Flood Elevation

November 20, 10am
December 17, 9am
Online* – 1 CEC

Substantial Damage Estimation

November 20, noon
Online* – 1 CEC

Elevation Certificates

November 21, 9am
December 12, 10am
Online* – 2 CECs

NORFMA HEC-RAS Workshop

December 4-6
Tacoma, Washington
www.norfma.org

NFIP Basics

December 11, 9am
Online* – 1 CEC

Alaska HAZUS Overview

January 7-9
Anchorage, Alaska
Kelly.Stone@fema.dhs.gov

Elevation Certificates for A Zones

January 9, 10am
Online* – 2 CECs

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

RiskMAP
Increasing Resilience Together