



February, 2015
Volume 5, Issue 2

Inside this Issue

- 1** Fire Adapted Communities
- 2** Federal Flood Risk Management Standard
- 2** Levee Factsheets
- 2** Calendar
- 3** eLOMA Tool
- 3** Planning Near Pipelines

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



Laying the Foundation for Fire Adapted Communities in Washington State

Conditions in Washington have changed significantly since the days of the 1910 Big Burn. After a century of fire suppression, our forests and rangelands are loaded with fuel and under stress from a warming climate. Fire risk is compounded as more people move into the wildlands, making fires a bigger threat to life and property. However, preparing Washington State for wildfire in these challenging conditions is getting some serious attention after the 2014 wildfire season- the largest in the state's recorded history.

A new network of communities working to live with wildfire will be launched in Washington this spring, modeled after the national Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network. A meeting in early January brought together representatives from the Bureau of Land Management, Washington Department of Natural Resources, conservation districts, U.S. Forest Service, Federal Emergency Management Agency, The Nature Conservancy, Department of

Defense Joint Base Lewis-McChord, fire departments, the Pacific Northwest Wildfire Coordinating Group and more in order to adopt the Fire Adapted Communities concept in Washington State.

"Fire Adapted Communities are communities that take action to reduce their risk of losses from wildfire; a key component of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. They recognize that each of us have a role in those actions," explained Ryan Anderson, newly minted Director of the Washington State Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network, a program designed to share best practices and innovations in order to accelerate the adoption of fire adapted community concepts nationwide. Across the nation, there are 17 hubs participating in the national FAC Learning Network.

The Bureau of Land Management is supporting acceleration of Fire Adapted Communities in Washington State through funding for a state-level Learning Network in Washington. The Washington Fire

Continued on next page



Fire Adapted (cont.)

Adapted Communities Learning Network will begin with a small group of communities. The ultimate goal? A resilient, fire-adapted Washington comprised of communities that understand both their role and the role of fire in the landscapes we share. "At the end of the day, it is about stepping up and contributing to the solution - it is about doing what we can to reduce our risk from wildfire," concluded Anderson. Individuals wanting to learn more about their role in fire adapted communities can visit www.fireadapted.org.

New Flood Risk Management Standard

The President recently released an Executive Order Establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) for new and rebuilt federally funded structures in and around floodplains. This new resilience standard will help ensure taxpayer dollars are well spent on infrastructure that can better withstand the impacts of flooding.

Agencies will have the flexibility to choose among different approaches to apply the resilience standard -- by using the best methods informed by the best available, actionable climate science; by building two or three feet, depending on how critical the structure is, above the 100-year flood level; or by building above the 500-year flood level.

The new standard will help ensure that taxpayer investments last as long as they are intended in the face of a changing climate and help communities bounce back faster from disasters. The standard does not alter flood standards for levees and will not affect the standards or rates of the National Flood Insurance Program. On behalf of the federal

government, FEMA will solicit public input prior to the implementation of the new standard for 60 days online and through a series of public meetings in flood-prone areas around the country. From extreme events to the day-to-day impacts resulting from climate change, today's announcement will help make communities across the country safer and more resilient.

Submit Public Comments by Email

FEMA is interested in getting input from all stakeholders regarding implementation of the Standard. Comments will be accepted by email on the Draft Guidelines for Implementing Executive Order, Establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard and a Process for Further Soliciting and Considering Stakeholder Input.

To provide input to FEMA, please send an email to FEMA-FFRMS@fema.dhs.gov.

To learn more about the FFRMS, visit www.fema.gov.

Levee Factsheet Updates

Seclusion Fact Sheet Update

The new Levee Seclusion Mapping fact sheet is now available in the [FEMA Library](#). This resource provides details on eligibility, the impact of secluded levees on the application of the LAMP approach for non-accredited levees, and depicting seclusion on FIRMs. This fact sheet is intended for state and local officials. More information is available online in the [FEMA Levee Resources Library](#).

Zone AR/A99 Update

Fact sheets and updated web content for Zone AR/A99 determinations can be accessed here: Zone AR (<http://j.mp/18MkGV1>) and Zone A99 (<http://j.mp/16wASJ3>).

Upcoming Events & Training

(All times Pacific)

STARR: Floodplain Development Permit Review

February 4, 10am
Online* - 1 CEC

STARR: Inspecting Floodplain Development

February 5, 10am
Online* - 2 CEC

ESA Puget Sound Workshops

February 10, Port Angeles
February 12, Tacoma
March 10, Anacortes
March 12, Everett
5 CEC

becca.croft@starr-team.com

CRS: Introduction to CRS

February 17, 10am
March 17, 10am
May 19, 10am
Online* - 1 CEC

CRS: Developing Outreach Projects (Activity 330)

February 18, 10am
Online* - 1 CEC

STARR: Elevation Certificates

February 19, 10am
Online* - 2 CEC

CRS: Developing a PPI and CIP

March 18, 10am
Online* - 1 CEC

CFM Exam

March 20, 8am
Yakima, WA
norfma.clubexpress.com

CRS: Preparing for a Verfication Visit

April 21, 10am
Online* - 1 CEC

CRS: Drainage System Maintenance (Activity 540)

April 22, 10am
Online* - 1 CEC

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

RiskMAP

Increasing Resilience Together

eLOMA Tool

FEMA is enhancing its eLOMA tool for licensed surveyors and professional engineers and other FEMA approved professionals to submit selected Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) requests, known as an electronic Letter of Map Amendment (eLOMA).

The tool allows LOMA requests that meet eLOMA criteria to be expedited by generating a FEMA eLOMA Determination Letter within minutes of submitting the application.

Accepts a Majority of LOMA Requests, including requests for multiple residential lots.

Facilitated Communication—Upload additional supporting documents within the tool

Register and Renew License Information instead of submitting a registration form to MIP Help

Central Repository of eLOMA Data—Along with monitoring application status, users may also refer to saved data for a period of 3 years

Reporting Features—Generate Status and Case Tracking Reports of submitted and completed eLOMA applications.

No Cost—There is still no fee to use the eLOMA tool or to receive an eLOMA determination.

The Risk MAP Customer and Data Services (CDS) Team will be conducting training to internal eLOMA stakeholders on specific workflow changes, as well as conducting public user training on new features of the tool.

Details are available in the [eLOMA Factsheet](#) at www.starr-team.com

Suggested Reading

Hazard Mitigation Planning: Practices for Land Use Planning and Development near Pipelines.”

FEMA, in coordination with the US Department of Transportation Pipeline Hazard Materials and Safety Administration (PHMSA), just released the new guidance document, [Hazard Mitigation Planning: Practices for Land Use Planning and Development near Pipelines](#). The primer outlines best practices for

Ask the Help Desk

The Region X Service Center is here to help with technical, training, mitigation and mapping questions. Send your question to email to RegionXHelpDesk@starr-team.com.

communities to reduce risks from pipeline incidents, including those caused by natural hazards. The guidance aims to provide emergency managers, planners, and others involved with developing hazard mitigation plans with the knowledge and understanding of how pipelines operate, the common products that may be transported through transmission pipelines, the potential impacts of pipeline incidents, and mitigation strategies they can implement to reduce these risks.

FEMA, DOT and the PIPA team worked closely together over the last few years to share program requirements and guidance, and discuss opportunities for collaboration. PIPA team contributors include state, federal and local government officials, as well as representatives from the pipeline industry and the general public. To view the new guidance document and for additional information and resources to support states, tribes and local communities in developing hazard mitigation plans to build and maintain capabilities to reduce risks from all hazards visit www.fema.gov/multi-hazard-mitigation-planning.

