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# News from Region X

## Chelan County Public Utility District Awarded Wildfire Assistance Grant

**Washington** – The Chelan County Public Utility District No. 1 has been awarded a Public Assistance (PA) grant to help reimburse the utility for costs to restore power to residents during the summer of 2015 wildfires.

The utility district will receive \$1,459,947 from FEMA for reimbursement of expenses to restore power to 9,000 customers. The grant helps cover costs for replacing burned poles, damaged transformers, utility lines and miles of fiber optic line. The money will also help pay the cost of overtime for employees who worked around the clock to restore service.

The grant comes from FEMA's Public Assistance program, which reimburse the state and state agencies, local and tribal governments, and certain private nonprofit organizations for their eligible expenses for disaster-related response and recovery.

Although funds go to government entities and nonprofits, the PA program is intended to benefit everyone — communities, cities and states. PA dollars help pay for efforts to keep residents and property safe during an event and clean up communities of disaster-related debris. They also help put utilities, roads and bridges, public parks and other infrastructure back in order after the disaster.

The disaster declaration for the August 9 to September 10, 2015 wildfires makes PA grants available to eligible applicants in Chelan,

Ferry, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Stevens, Whatcom and Yakima counties and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.

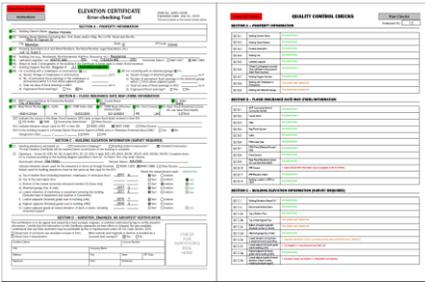
A fire adapted community acknowledges and takes responsibility for its wildfire risk and implements appropriate actions at all levels. Among the concerns are the safety of residents and the protection of homes, businesses, infrastructure, forests, parks and other community assets. Since each community or group has a unique set of circumstances and capacities, the actions they take will vary. But the core work involves forming and sustaining effective partnerships, discovering new strategies and building new capacities to meet changing conditions.

Under the PA program, FEMA reimburses applicants for 75 percent of eligible expenses, while the other 25 percent is the nonfederal share. The federal portion is paid directly to the state, which then makes disbursements to the local and tribal jurisdictions and organizations that incurred costs.

More information about the PA program is available at [www.fema.gov/public-assistance-local-state-tribal-and-non-profit](http://www.fema.gov/public-assistance-local-state-tribal-and-non-profit) and on the Washington EMD website at <http://mil.wa.gov/emergency-management-division/>.

*This press release was issued by FEMA on March 1, 2016.*

## Elevation Certificate Error Checking Tool



**ECQC Tool finds potential errors and violations from submitted ECs**

FEMA's Elevation Certificate (EC) is an important administrative tool of the NFIP. It is used to determine proper flood insurance premiums, document elevation information necessary to ensure compliance with community floodplain management regulations, and to support requests for Letters of Map Change.

There are often errors associated with the data recorded on ECs, and in some instances the elevation data may reflect a potential violation of a community's floodplain ordinance. In an effort to help communities identify these potential concerns during the permit review and inspections process, Region X has partnered with STARR to create the new "ECQC Tool" that will perform quality reviews of ECs.

The tool was developed for new floodplain administrators, permit technicians, and building inspectors or those who don't frequently review submitted ECs for errors. It's a stand-alone PDF that can be used in Adobe Acrobat or Reader or within an Adobe-enabled web browser. Copy data from submitted ECs and the Tool provides feedback about potential data entry errors and floodplain ordinance violations.

The tool is available for download at [http://j.mp/RX\\_ECQC\\_Tool](http://j.mp/RX_ECQC_Tool). Comments and bug reports are welcome at [RegionXHelpDesk@starr-team.com](mailto:RegionXHelpDesk@starr-team.com).

## Newsletter Ideas?

Let us know what you want to see in future issues! Articles can be up to 500 words and may include pictures. Email us at [RXNewsletter@starr-team.com](mailto:RXNewsletter@starr-team.com).

## Extreme Event: A decision-making, role playing exercise

Is your community prepared for an extreme event? The National Academy of Sciences' Koshland Science Museum in collaboration with the Resilient America Roundtable have developed an exercise that engages participants to role-play as members of a community that is hit by a disaster. Players must work together to solve problems during a disaster simulation. In the process, players learn the importance of building coalitions across all sectors of a community and the consequences of pre-disaster resource investment decisions on a community's ability to respond to a disaster. The exercise can be used for:

- An ice-breaker at a community meeting
- A kick-off activity for a disaster response training
- Classroom curriculum
- A learning experience for clubs, camps, or service organizations

For more information please visit [extreme-event.org](http://extreme-event.org) and view the [Extreme Event Flyer](#).

## Ask the Help Desk

The Region X Service Center is here to help with technical, training, mitigation, mapping, and project status questions. How can we help you?

Send your questions by email to [RegionXHelpDesk@starr-team.com](mailto:RegionXHelpDesk@starr-team.com).

## Grant Opportunities

### Fiscal Year 2016 Pre-Disaster Mitigation

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program makes available Federal funds to State, Local and Tribal Governments to implement and sustain cost-effective measures designed to reduce the risk to individuals and property from natural hazards, while also reducing reliance on Federal funding from future disasters. FEMA will provide allocations of \$575,000 as required by the Stafford Act to states and territories; and a tribal set aside of \$10 million for allocations up to \$575,000 for Native American Indian tribal governments to support overall mitigation planning and projects. The remaining PDM funds will be awarded on a competitive basis with a focus on Climate Resilient Mitigation Activities.

### Fiscal Year 2016 Flood Mitigation Assistance

The Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program makes available federal funds to State, Local and Tribal Governments to implement and sustain cost-effective measures that reduce or eliminate risk of flood damage to buildings insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). FEMA will fund planning up to \$100,000 per applicant with a maximum of \$50,000 for state plans and \$25,000 for local plans. FEMA will fund technical assistance up to \$50,000 for states who were awarded FMA Grant Program funds totaling at least \$1 million in FY 2015. The remaining FMA funds will be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will reduce or eliminate claims under

*Continued on next page*

**RiskMAP**  
Increasing Resilience Together

**Grants (cont.)**

the NFIP with a focus on mitigation of severe repetitive loss and repetitive loss properties as well as projects that will reduce the risk profile in communities through mitigation of the largest number of NFIP-insured properties on a neighborhood level.

Applications for both PDM and FMA grants are due by June 15, 2016.

Click below to view additional grant information:

- [PDM Grant information](#)
- [FMA Grant information](#)

Local jurisdictions should contact their state emergency management officer. Tribal communities should contact Kristen Meyers at [kristen.meyers@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:kristen.meyers@fema.dhs.gov) or (425) 487-4543

**Training Opportunities in Oregon**

These courses are offered by FEMA Region X as training for local government elected officials, floodplain administrators, and building code officials.

The public is welcome to attend any of these training sessions.

**Residential Coastal Construction**

- March 17 – Coos Bay
- March 29 – Newport
- March 25 – Tillamook

**Substantial Damage Determinations**

- March 15 – Coquille
- March 19 – Portland
- March 21 – Rockaway Beach
- March 30 – Newport

For location and times, please download the training flyer at [www.starr-team.com](http://www.starr-team.com). RSVP to [scott.vanhoff@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:scott.vanhoff@fema.dhs.gov).

**Upcoming NORFMA Meetings**

**CRS Users Group**

- March 17
- June 16
- September 8
- December 15

All meetings will be held from 1pm to 3pm at Tacoma Mall Plaza. A webinar connection will also be available for those that cannot attend in person. Each meeting will offer training, mentoring and encouragement to communities in the CRS or looking to join to program. Certified Floodplain Managers can also earn continuing education credits for attending.

Please call or email Dennis Dixon if you have any questions. (253) 798-3696 or [ddixon@co.pierce.wa.us](mailto:ddixon@co.pierce.wa.us).



**Online Training**

(All times Pacific)

**Floodplain Development Permit Review**

- March 3, 9am
- May 12, 9 am
- Online\* - 1 CEC

**Inspecting Floodplain Development**

- March 3, 10:30 am
- May 12, 10:30 am
- Online\* - 1 CEC

**CRS: Preparing for a Verification Visit**

- March 15, 10am
- May 17, 10am
- Online\* - 1 CEC

**CRS: Flood Warning & Response (Activity 610)**

- March 16, 10am
- Online\* - 1 CEC

**Using Risk MAP Products in Floodplain Management**

- March 17, 10am
- Online\* - 1 CEC

**NFIP Basics**

- March 31, 10am
- June 9, 10am
- Online\* - 1 CEC

**Tools for Determining BFE**

- April 13, 10am
- Online\* - 1 CEC

**Elevation Certificates**

- April 14, 10am
- Online\* - 2 CEC

**Introduction to CRS**

- April 19, 10am
- Online\* - 1 CEC

**CRS and Natural Floodplain Functions**

- April 20, 10am
- Online\* - 1 CEC

**CRS: Preparing for a Verification Visit**

- May 17, 10am
- Online\* - 1 CEC

**CRS and Coastal Hazards**

- May 18, 10am
- Online\* - 1 CEC

\*To register for online courses, visit STARR's training site online at [j.mp/starronlinetraining](http://j.mp/starronlinetraining), or email [RXTraining@starr-team.com](mailto:RXTraining@starr-team.com).

