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# News from Region 10

## Mitigation Planning for Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dams

In Fiscal Year 2019, FEMA was appropriated \$10 million to implement the Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dams (HHPD) Grant Program. High Hazard Potential is a classification standard for any dam whose failure or misoperation will cause loss of human life and significant property destruction. Generally not defined as “natural hazards”, most states and local communities were not focusing on dams as an element of their Hazard Mitigation Plans.

With a goal of reducing unacceptable risk to the public from these structures, the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for this new grant program required a FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan from each applying state, local jurisdiction, or nonprofit to be considered eligible.

In addition to this restriction, the NOFO outlined several new and unique requirements relating to mitigation planning. These requirements include the identification of all dam risks within the mitigation plan if a community plans to seek funding through the program. FEMA Region 10 had a 75% participation rate from states, and three sub-applications from the state of Washington were received, which is a great showing from our region.

After a compliance review of state and local hazard mitigation plans for grant program applicants across the Nation, six states and one local



**Howard A. Hanson Dam, (HHPD), completed in 1961 - King County, WA.**

jurisdiction met all of the necessary criteria with their submissions. Applicants that didn't fully meet the requirements had the opportunity to submit a request to update their hazard mitigation plan within the next 12 months to become compliant.

While future NOFOs may have different eligibility requirements, a good way to begin getting your community's Hazard Mitigation Plan HHPD-Ready is evaluate it against last year's criteria. Communities with High Hazard Potential Dams may want to complete a self-assessment using the Local Plan Review Tool to see how well it addresses HHPD risks.

*Have questions about the grant or mitigation planning requirements? Contact John Schelling, Region 10 Mitigation Planning Team: [john.schelling@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:john.schelling@fema.dhs.gov). For additional information, please visit the [HHPD Grant Program website](#).*

## Shaken Fury 2019: Response & Recovery Exercise

Designing an exercise for the most catastrophic events comes with many challenges, including long term planning and organization across many local government and community members. Unlike many other natural disasters, earthquakes do not occur during a specific time of the year, so communities here and in all FEMA Regions are under pressure to be prepared at any time.

Shaken Fury 2019 (SF 19), was a recent preparedness example from another Region. The exercise was intended to evaluate and improve a whole community's response to a "no-notice" earthquake, identify gaps in resources, and implement a coordinated recovery strategy that prioritized resources required for the response.

In this exercise, a 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck along the Cottonwood Grove Fault, the southwest segment of the New Madrid Seismic Zone (NMSZ), near Memphis, Tennessee. Organizations from the whole community participated, including Federal, State and local governments, non-governmental and private sectors, as well as utility and critical infrastructure partners.



SF 19 Participation - 8 states along the New Madrid Seismic Zone.

With participation from communities in 8 states across Regions IV, V, VI, and VII, this exercise provided an opportunity to evaluate readiness, challenge assumptions, uncover gaps, and bring partners closer together as a team.

*To find out more about participating in a Response and Recovery Exercise, please email questions to: [FEMA-exercise@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-exercise@fema.dhs.gov).*

## Irrigation and Drainage Guidance for Idaho

**Maureen O'Shea, ID State NFIP  
Coordinator**

Eligibility for enrollment and continued participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requires communities to adopt and implement regulations to permit all development within the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). The term "development" is defined broadly and similarly in both federal NFIP regulations and Idaho law. However, Idaho Code §46-1021(1) states that "the term 'development' does not include the operation, cleaning, maintenance or repair of any ditch, canal, lateral, drain, diversion structure or other irrigation or drainage works." Further, Idaho Code § 46-1022 specifies that local "floodplain zoning ordinances shall not regulate the operation, cleaning, maintenance or repair" of irrigation and drainage ditches and works.

FEMA has advised the State of Idaho that its statutory definition of "development" is not consistent with Federal law, and that a blanket exclusion of irrigation-related activities could result in some development going un-permitted.

FEMA and the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) have developed guidance to clarify permitting requirements for irrigation and drainage development

activities in the SFHA. A permit process flowchart and FAQ document, as well as the Memorandum of Agreement between IDWR and FEMA, are available online at <https://idwr.idaho.gov/floods/>.

Additionally, there are Guidance Workshops taking place in August, both online and in-person, to review these materials and requirements.

**Tuesday, August 6**

9:00 am Mountain Time

<https://fema.connectsolutions.com/rx/training/>

Audio Call-in number:

1-800-320-4330 / PIN: 282069#

**Wednesday, August 14**

9:00 – 11:00 am Mountain Time

Canyon County Offices

111 N. 11th Ave., Caldwell, ID

**Wednesday, August 21**

9:00 – 11:00 am Mountain Time

Pocatello Water Department

1889 N. Arthur Ave., Pocatello, ID

IDWR encourages Floodplain Administrators to share and discuss this Guidance with appropriate community officials, staff, and elected officials, and to encourage irrigation entities to implement this guidance immediately or as soon as practicable. Implementation should not require any change to community floodplain ordinances.

*Please contact Maureen O'Shea with questions at 208-287-4928 or [Maureen.OShea@idwr.idaho.gov](mailto:Maureen.OShea@idwr.idaho.gov).*

## Ask the Help Desk

The Region 10 Service Center is here to help local community officials and stakeholders with technical, training, mitigation, and mapping questions.

Email [RegionXHelpDesk@starr-team.com](mailto:RegionXHelpDesk@starr-team.com).

## Featured Training and Regional Events

**L273: Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP**  
October 21 - 24, 2019  
Lewiston, ID

Spaces are still available for this course, designed for local officials responsible for administering their local floodplain management ordinance. The course, hosted by FEMA Region 10 and the Idaho Department of Water Resources, will focus on the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and concepts of floodplain management, maps and studies, ordinances administration, and the relationship between floodplain management and flood insurance.

Tuition is free for those accepted; there are no travel or salary stipends available. To apply, please use the following application form: [FEMA Form 119-25-1 Application](#).

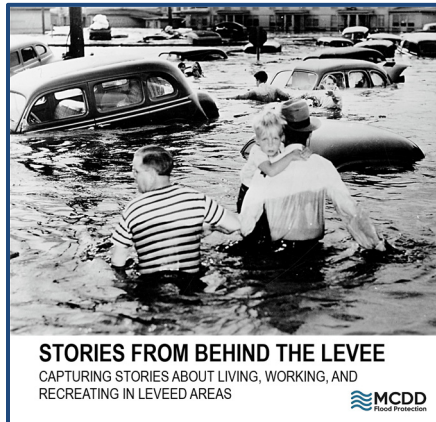
Please direct any questions to the course coordinator at [michelle.schmeling@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:michelle.schmeling@fema.dhs.gov).

### Stories from Behind the Levee: Storytelling Booth at the 24th Annual Columbia Slough Regatta

This year, FEMA Region 10 and the Multnomah County Drainage District (MCDD) – an agency responsible for reducing flood-risk for communities along the watershed and Columbia River by managing levees and interior drainage systems – are partnering to host a storytelling booth for participants interested in sharing their experiences of living, working, and recreating behind the levee system at the [24th Annual Columbia Slough Regatta](#).

The space is offered for participants to share their connection to this watershed, and the areas protected by

the flood management systems. Interviews will be used to enhance awareness about flood risk in the area and empower communities to express what they care more about in the managed floodplain.



For more information about the story booth, please contact Brian Eberhardt, MCDD Project Manager, via email: [beberhardt@mcdd.org](mailto:beberhardt@mcdd.org).

## NORFMA News

### Floodplain Award Nominations

Do you know an outstanding floodplain manager or community who deserves recognition? NORFMA is seeking nominations for an outstanding individual and an outstanding community to be honored at the 2019 Conference in Boise, ID, September 24-28, 2019. This year's theme is "Fires, Floods, Mud & More: Integrated Processes."

### Outstanding Individual in Floodplain Management

This award honors an individual responsible for the development or implementation of a distinguished local program or activity, or who overcomes obstacles to champion sound floodplain management principles at the local level. Selection criteria will include the individual's role in the program or activity, level of innovation and collaboration, and program impact.

### Outstanding Community in Floodplain Management

This award honors a local community (city, town, county, borough, tribe, etc.) with a program that demonstrates commitment and leadership in floodplain management through initiatives and projects that demonstrate vision or forward thinking toward floodplain management, bring resources together, partner with other organizations, or overcome obstacles to do the right thing. Selection criteria will include the community's leadership in the initiative or project, level of innovation and collaboration, and the overall impact that the initiative or project delivers.

**Submit your nominations by August 15<sup>th</sup> using the survey at the following link:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BV2XLNF>

Registration is still open for the NORFMA 2019 Conference. To register for the conference at the Early Bird Rate, view the Draft Conference Agenda, or make an Award Nomination, please visit [www.norfma.org](http://www.norfma.org).



## Newsletter Ideas?

Want to spread the word about an upcoming event or recent success story? Let us know what you want to see in future issues! Articles can be up to 500 words and may include pictures.

Email [RXNewsletter@starr-team.com](mailto:RXNewsletter@starr-team.com).

**Online Training**

(All times Pacific)

**CRS: Watershed Impact  
Adjustment Maps  
(Activity 450)**

August 14, 10 am  
Online – 1 CEC

**NFIP Basics**

August 15, 10 am  
Online – 1 CEC

**CRS: Intro to CRS**

August 20, 10 am  
Online – 1 CEC

**PDM: Intro to Pre-Disaster  
Mitigation Grants**

August 21, 11 am  
Online

**PDM: Planning Grant  
Application Development**

August 28, 10 am  
Online

**Tools for Determining BFE**

September 5, 10 am  
Online – 1 CEC

**PDM: Project Grant  
Application Development**

September 11, 10 am  
Online

**Floodplain Development  
Permit Review**

September 12, 9 am  
Online – 1 CEC

**Inspecting Floodplain Development**

September 12, 10:30 am  
Online – 1.5 CECs

**Elevation Certificates**

October 10, 10 am  
Online – 2 CECs

**CRS: Preparing for a Verification  
Visit**

October 15, 10 am  
Online – 1 CEC

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