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News from Region 10

What Influences Hazard Mitigation Plan Quality?

Researchers: Daniel S. Feinberg, Dr. Clare Ryan, University of Washington

Two recent studies from the University of Washington's School of Environmental and Forest Sciences analyzed 34 hazard mitigation plans (HMPs) from counties in Washington State. Partially funded by Washington Sea Grant, the projects analyzed plan documents and interviewed hazard planning professionals to learn about plan quality and strategies that may help to enhance communities' resilience to natural hazards.

HMP documents were analyzed and scored, based on how they addressed pre-determined elements of high-quality plans. Plans tended to receive high scores in certain elements, such as having clear vision statements. However, the plans generally received lower scores for specific policies and actions that would enable the communities to achieve their respective visions. Also, some survey respondents reported barriers to implementing their plans, including insufficient funding, coordination, and leadership. This finding suggests that even if a community creates a good plan, the plan's objectives might not be achieved in practice.

Counties tended to have higher-quality HMPs if they referenced the state-level HMP, suggesting that counties may develop better plans through learning from higher levels of government. Other significant predictors of plan quality included counties' economic capacity (in

terms of Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants), as well as nearby counties' losses from past disasters – in other words, a county was more likely to have a good plan if its peers had previously experienced greater losses.

Subsequent interviews with planners and emergency managers revealed that some of the planning meetings may not have achieved balanced stakeholder representation. If all affected interests are included in hazard planning processes, they can contribute local knowledge and help with implementing the plans. One planner suggested that an effective approach for building participation is to relate hazard mitigation to citizens' lives through storytelling, rather than simply compiling data.

Counties in Washington appear to be on the right track with hazard mitigation planning, yet there is room for improvement in both the HMP documents and their implementation. Counties wishing to fine-tune their policies and actions for future HMP updates may consider examples in the state plan and other counties' plans. Although these studies looked at Washington in particular, the other states in FEMA Region 10 may similarly benefit from increasing coordination with regard to hazard mitigation planning from one jurisdiction to another (e.g., state-to-local; local-to-local).

For more information about these research efforts, contact Daniel Feinberg at danielscottfeinberg@gmail.com or Professor Clare Ryan at cmryan@uw.edu.

Region 10 Infographic: Wildfire Grants

Across the Northwest, the risk of wildfire is real. FEMA has several grant programs to help mitigate future wildfire damage, assist with wildfire recovery, and support readiness efforts. This infographic highlights the grant expenditures from 2000 – 2017 across Region 10 for these programs.

For more information on each grant program, visit these websites:

Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM): <https://www.fema.gov/pre-disaster-mitigation-grant-program>

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP): <https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-grant-program>

HMGP Post Fire: <https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-grant-program-post-fire>

Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG): <https://www.fema.gov/assistance-firefighters-grant>

Fire Management Assistance Grant Program (FMAG): <https://www.fema.gov/fire-management-assistance-grant-program>

Full-size infographic available at <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/180016>.

Region 10 Model Ordinance Available

Region 10 has completed a Model Floodplain Development Ordinance that has the minimum requirements from Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (44 CFR). This Model contains definitions and regulations that the Region requires to be incorporated into all jurisdictions' ordinances, including State Model Ordinances, and includes a bonus table reference sheet that provides the 44 CFR citation where applicable. There are also appendices that contain additional definitions and regulations that any community may adopt if so desired.

As always, any floodplain management regulation from the State or a local jurisdiction which are more restrictive than the criteria listed in the Region 10 Model are encouraged and shall take precedence.

If you would like a copy of the Region's Model Ordinance, send an email to Suzanne Sarpong at Suzanne.Sarpong@fema.dhs.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.

Wildfire

FEMA Region 10 • By The Numbers

Wildfires have always shaped the West. Moderate wildfire nourishes the soils, fosters biodiversity, and reduces vegetation, allowing sun to reach the forest floor to encourage growth of native flora. Changes in weather, development, suppression, and forest management changed how wildfires burn. The wildfire season is longer and fires are more intense, causing severe destruction. FEMA has several programs that provide funding to mitigate future wildfire damage, help communities recover from wildfire, and support wildfire readiness efforts. The chart below shows expenditures in each of those programs in the FEMA Region 10 states of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.

Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program (PDM)	\$7,472,398
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)	\$930,264
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Post Fire	\$2,392,986
Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG)	\$42,557,593
Disaster Assistance	\$45,016,205
Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAG)	\$227,208,926
Total	\$325,578,372

Data Source: www.fema.gov/data-visualization
 Fiscal Years: PDM 2002 – 2017, HMGP 2002 – 2017, AFG 2005 – 2017, FMAG 2003 – 2018, Post-Fire HMGP 2015 – 2018, Disaster Assistance 1979 – Present

FEMA Podcast Feature

Episode 38: “Advancing Wildfire Resilience through the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network”

In late May, FEMA released a podcast titled, “Advancing Wildfire Resilience through the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network.” The FEMA podcast series is available to anyone interested in learning more about the Agency, hearing about innovation in the field of emergency management, and listening to stories about communities and individuals recovering after disasters.

Since 2013, the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network (FAC Net) has connected and supported people and communities who are striving to live more safely with wildfire. It serves as a catalyst for spreading best practices and innovations in fire adaptation concepts across the country.

FEMA Region 10 visited Ashland, Oregon in April, interviewing members of FAC Net during its annual workshop. Michelle Medley-Daniel with FAC Net, Allie Lerch and Chris Chambers with Ashland Fire & Rescue, and Hilary Lundgren with the WA FAC Net shared perspectives and experiences on successes, tools, and growth of the network to 24 communities.

To download this episode and others, please visit www.fema.gov/podcast.

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.

Featured Training

L273: Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP

October 21 - 24, 2019
Lewiston, ID

Hosted by FEMA Region X and the Idaho Department of Water Resources, this course is designed for local officials responsible for administering their local floodplain management ordinance. The course 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.

The primary audience for this course is local floodplain officials, including building inspectors, code enforcement/zoning officers, planners, city/county managers, attorneys, engineers, and public work officials. Federal/state/regional floodplain managers are also encouraged to attend. The course is designed for those officials with less than three years of floodplain management experience.

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.

National Incident Management System ICS All-Hazards Courses Openings in 2 “Train-the-Trainer” (TtT) Courses in Region 10

Interested in being an Incident Command System (ICS) instructor? Please be advised that there are still openings available in upcoming National Incident Management System (NIMS) ICS All-Hazards Position Specific (AHPS) Local

(“L”) classes currently scheduled for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2019.

Please refer to the course catalog (<https://www.firstrespondertraining.gov/frt/npccatalog/EMI>) for the specific selection criteria for each course of instruction.

Applicants must have a solid background in ICS, experience, and related credentials as an instructor. In addition, all applicants for any AHPS Train the Trainer class must be qualified as a Type III credential holder and have active participation on an Incident Management Team in the past 5 years.

Applicants must complete a [FEMA Form 119-25-1 Application](#) with student signature and signature of supervisor or sponsoring agency official. Submit the application through the State Emergency Management Training Office. Tribal representatives can submit their application directly to NETC Admission Office.

For additional information, contact Robert C. Patrick, Training Specialist/Course Manager, at (301) 447-1297 or by email at robert.patrick@fema.dhs.gov.

NORFMA News

As a reminder, the Call for Abstracts for the 2019 NORFMA Annual Conference is still open. This year’s conference will be held in Boise, ID. Come and share your work with fellow floodplain managers. **Abstracts are due by June 15th.**

Scholarship applications will also be accepted through June 15th, to support participation by jurisdictions with limited travel budgets/capacity.

For information on Abstracts, Scholarships, and to register for the conference at the Early Bird Rate, visit www.norfma.org.



Online Training

(All times Pacific)

CRS: Credit for Drainage System Maintenance (Activity 540)

June 18, 10 am
Online – 1 CEC

CRS: Preparing for a Verification Visit

June 19, 10 am
Online – 1 CEC

NFIP Basics

June 20, 10 am
August 15, 10 am
Online – 1 CEC

CRS: Developing a Repetitive Loss Area Analysis

July 16, 10 am
Online – 1 CEC

CRS: Flood Warning & Response (Activity 610)

July 17, 10 am
Online – 1 CEC

Floodplain Development Permit Review

July 18, 9 am
September 12, 9 am
Online – 1 CEC

Inspecting Floodplain Development

July 18, 10:30 am
September 12, 10:30 am
Online – 1 CEC

Elevation Certificates

August 1, 10 am
Online – 2 CECs

Tools for Determining BFE

September 5, 10 am
Online – 1 CEC

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