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News from Region 10



Figure 1: A scene of the resulting landscape from Echo Mountain Complex Fire - Lincoln County, Oregon (Sept. 18, 2020).

Flood After Fire

The Increased Risk of Flooding, Following Wildfires

Floods are the most common and costly natural hazard in the nation. After a wildfire, the flood risk increases significantly. Residents and business owners need to protect their homes and assets from the devastating financial losses from a flood, especially after a wildfire, before the next weather event occurs.

Large-scale wildfires dramatically alter the terrain and ground conditions. Normally, vegetation absorbs rainfall, reducing runoff. However, wildfires leave the ground charred, barren, and unable to absorb water, creating conditions ripe for flash flooding and mudflow. Flood risk remains significantly higher until vegetation is restored - up to 5 years after a wildfire. Flooding after a fire is often more severe, as debris and ash left from the fire can form mudflows. As rainwater moves across charred and denuded ground,

it can also pick up soil and sediment and carry it in a stream of floodwaters. This can cause more significant damage.

A flood does not have to be a catastrophic event to bring high out-of-pocket costs, and you do not have to live in a high-risk flood area to suffer flood damage. Around twenty percent of flood insurance claims occur in moderate-to-low risk areas.

States in FEMA Region 10 have once again been greatly impacted by wildfires, so it is important to communicate early and often with your residents. A recent [Flood after Fire infographic](#) is available from the FEMA website, and can be added to your outreach.

Messages you can convey include:

Flood Insurance is important in post-fire areas, too. Most standard homeowner's policies do not cover flood damage. Flood insurance is affordable, and important to protecting your investment.

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Flood After Fire (cont'd)

The average flood policy costs around \$890 a year, and rates start at less than \$516 a year for homes in moderate- to low-risk areas.

Plan Ahead. Plan evacuation routes. Keep important papers in a safe, waterproof place. Conduct a home inventory; itemize and take pictures of possessions and the inside and outside of your home.

For more information about flood insurance, please visit: www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program



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.

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.

The “Great ShakeOut” Earthquake Drill, 2020

This year, The Great Washington ShakeOut Drill was scheduled for 10:15 a.m. on October 15, 2020. The main goal of this annual event is to get Washingtonians well prepared for major earthquakes by providing an opportunity to learn what to do before, during, and after an earthquake.

Federal, state, and local emergency management experts and other official preparedness organizations all agree that “Drop, Cover, and Hold On” is the appropriate action to reduce injury and death during earthquakes. Therefore, ShakeOut participants at home, work, and school practiced these recommended safety measures for earthquake preparedness.

In most situations, you will reduce your chance of injury if you:

DROP where you are, onto your hands and knees. This position protects you from being knocked down and also allows you to stay low and crawl to shelter, if nearby.

COVER your head and neck with one arm and hand. If a sturdy table or desk is nearby, crawl underneath it for shelter. If no shelter is nearby, crawl next to an interior wall (away from windows). Stay on your knees; bend over to protect your vital organs.

HOLD ON until the shaking stops. If you are able to get under shelter of some sort, hold on to it with one hand; be ready to move with your shelter if it shifts. If you are unable to get under some type of shelter, hold on to your head and neck with both arms and hands.

Remember, trying to move during the shaking taking place in an

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FEMA Region 10 Family Practicing Drop, Cover, & Hold On!

Great ShakeOut Drill (cont'd)

earthquake puts you at risk. Earthquakes can occur without any warning and may be so violent that you cannot run or crawl. Additionally, the greatest danger is from falling and flying objects. Studies of injuries and deaths caused by earthquakes over the last several decades show that you are much more likely to be injured by falling or flying objects (TVs, lamps, glass, bookcases, etc.) than to die in a collapsed building.

For more information on The Great ShakeOut and how to prepare, visit: <https://www.shakeout.org/>

Upcoming Training

NFIP 102 workshops in Idaho

Spaces are still available in the Idaho Department of Water Resources workshops which will cover NFIP 102 topics including permitting, substantial damage, substantial improvements, manufactured homes, elevation certificates, and LOMCs.

NFIP 102

11.19.20 | 8:30am – 4:30pm
City of Pocatello Water Department
1889 N Arthur Ave, Pocatello, ID

NFIP 102

11.17.20 | 8:30am – 4:30pm
City of Rexburg Council Room
35 N 1ST E, Rexburg, ID

For additional information or to RSVP for one of these events, please contact the Idaho State NFIP Coordinator, Maureen O'Shea at maureen.oshea@idwr.idaho.gov.



Online Training

(All times Pacific)

BRIC Series: FEMA GO Introduction and Basics

November 4, 10 am
Online – 1 CEC

CRS: Changes in the CRS – 2021 Addendum to Manual

November 17, 10 am
Online – 1 CEC

CRS: Activity 370 – Flood Insurance Promotion

November 18, 10 am
Online – 1 CEC

STARR: Tools for Developing Base Flood Elevation

November 19, 10 am
Online – 1 CEC

STARR: Floodplain Development Permit Review

December 3, 9 am
Online – 1 CEC

STARR: Inspecting Floodplain Development

December 3, 10:30 am
Online – 1 CEC

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