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Strategic Alliance for Risk Reduction
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News from Region 10

Protect the life you've built with flood insurance.



FEMA



NFIP Risk Rating 2.0: Equity in Action

Begins October 1st, 2021

FEMA is updating the National Flood Insurance Program's pricing methodology to communicate flood risk more clearly, so policyholders can make more informed decisions on the purchase of adequate insurance and on mitigation actions to protect against the perils of flooding.

The 21st century rating system, Risk Rating 2.0—Equity in Action, provides actuarially sound rates that are equitable and easy to understand. It transforms a pricing methodology that has not been updated in 50 years by leveraging improved technology and FEMA's enhanced understanding of flood risk.

"The new pricing methodology is the right thing to do. It mitigates risk, delivers equitable rates and advances the Agency's goal to reduce suffering after flooding disasters," said David Maurstad, senior executive of FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program. "Equity in Action is the generational change we need to spur action now in the face of changing climate conditions, build individual and community resilience,

and deliver on the Biden Administration's priority of providing equitable programs for all."

The NFIP provides approximately \$1.3 trillion in coverage for more than 5 million policyholders in 22,500 communities across the nation. Understanding the magnitude of even the smallest changes of a program of this scale, FEMA devoted thousands of hours to develop the new pricing methodology to ensure equity and accuracy.

In developing the new rates, FEMA coordinated with subject matter experts from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Geological Survey and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration along with experts from across the insurance industry and actuarial science to ensure alignment with federal regulations, systems, guidance and policies.

The new methodology allows FEMA to equitably distribute premiums across all policyholders based on the value of their home and the unique flood risk of their property.

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Risk Rating 2.0 (cont'd)

Currently, many policyholders with lower-value homes are paying more than they should and policyholders with higher-value homes are paying less than they should.

To provide more equity, FEMA now has the capability and tools to address rating disparities by incorporating more flood risk variables. These include flood frequency, multiple flood types—river overflow, storm surge, coastal erosion and heavy rainfall—distance to a water source and property characteristics such as elevation and the cost to rebuild.

The cost to rebuild is key to an equitable distribution of premiums across all policyholders because it is based on the value of their home and the unique flood risk of their property. This has been an industry standard for years.

FEMA is conscious of the far-reaching economic impacts COVID-19 has had on the nation and existing policyholders and is taking a phased approach to rolling out the new rates.

Phase I:

New policies beginning **Oct. 1, 2021** will be subject to the new rating methodology. Also beginning Oct. 1, existing policyholders eligible for renewal will be able to take advantage of immediate decreases in their premiums.

Phase II:

All remaining policies renewing on or after **April 1, 2022** will be subject to the new rating methodology.

FEMA continues to engage with Congress, its industry partners and state, local, tribal and territorial agencies to ensure clear understanding of these changes.

For the latest information on Risk Rating 2.0, visit [fema.gov](https://www.fema.gov).

Wildfire Mitigation Funding Opportunity Guides

FEMA Region 10

The Pacific Northwest has faced historic wildfires in recent years. These fires spread quickly and devastate natural areas and communities. They also increase secondary hazards by leaving areas prone to flood and erosion for many years.

To address this risk, FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant programs provide funding to help communities implement hazard mitigation measures focused on reducing the risk of harm from wildfire.

Recently, FEMA Region 10 created ten wildfire mitigation guides to support our communities with identifying eligible wildfire and post-wildfire mitigation projects. The guides provide an overview of each wildfire project type, the application requirements, and the relative application, environmental and legal complexity.

Eligible project types include defensible space initiatives, ignition-resistant construction, hazardous fuels reduction, erosion control measures, slope failure prevention measures and flash flooding prevention measures.

For more information on Mitigation Funding Opportunity Guides, visit [fema.gov](https://www.fema.gov).

Now Accepting Applications:

2022 Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) External Stakeholder Working Group

FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Division is now accepting applications to join the HMA External Stakeholder Working Group (ESWG). To be considered for a January 2022 membership term start date, complete an Expression of Interest form by July 16, 2021.

This collaborative working group was established in 2016 with the purpose of increasing engagement and transparency with non-federal partners in hazard mitigation. This includes states, local communities and jurisdictions, tribal nations, and territories.

The group provides a venue in which federal partners and external stakeholders can openly communicate, share insight and feedback about mitigation and/or program issues, and increase transparency and understanding about hazard mitigation policy development and program priorities

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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.

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.

HMA Working Group (cont'd)

To be considered for a position in the group, please download and complete the [Expression of Interest form](#). Email your completed forms to FEMA-HMA-ESWG@fema.dhs.gov by July 16, 2021.

To learn more about this effort, visit the [External Stakeholder Working Group site](#).

If you have any questions, please contact FEMA Region 10 Office of External Affairs:

[News Desk](#) or (425) 487-4610

[Congressional Affairs](#)

[Tribal Affairs](#)

[Private Sector](#)

FEMA Region 10 Training Opportunity:

Intro to Environmental & Historic Preservation Compliance
July 12 -15, 2021 | 8:00 am – 4:00 pm (PDT)

FEMA Region 10 is hosting a virtual, four-day course providing an introduction to FEMA’s Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) compliance responsibilities.

Upon completion of this course, participants should have a basic knowledge of Federal EHP laws, be able to outline FEMA’s responsibilities under these laws, know how to access EHP resources and staff, and be able to identify and address EHP issues when they arise in FEMA projects.

The target audience for this training is FEMA program managers and staff, EHP specialists, state emergency management program staff, FEMA’s technical assistance contractors, and any others who

require a basic knowledge of FEMA’s EHP compliance process.

For more information on this training, contact [Jessica Stewart](#).

To apply for this training, please complete [this application](#) and submit to the appropriate state training officer (listed below):

Alaska:

[Jeffery McKenzie](#) - (907) 428-7021

Idaho:

[Natalie Lahti](#) - (208) 258-6543

Oregon:

[Karen Layng](#) - (503) 378-3231

Washington:

[William Vance](#) - (253) 381-8891



Online Training

(All times Pacific)

CRS: Preparing an Annual Recertification

July 20, 10:00 am
Online – 1 CEC

CRS: Developing PPI & Insurance Coverage Improvement Plans

July 21, 10:00 am
Online – 1 CEC

CRS: Preparing for a Verification Visit

August 17, 10:00 am
Online – 1 CEC

CRS: Flood Warning & Response (Activity 610)

August 18, 10:00 am
Online – 1 CEC

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