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News from Region 10

FEMA Announces New Online "NFIP 101"

Free, Self-Paced Course: Introduction to Floodplain Management



Together with the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM), FEMA has announced a new online, self-paced course NFIP 101: *Introduction to Floodplain Management*. The course is free and available to you all and the general public. You may start, stop, and return to the course as your schedule allows and you may take it as many times as you like. ASFPM is hosting the course on their Training and Knowledge page under "On-Demand Learning" or find it at [this link](#).

Two Ways to Use the Course

Users can complete this course in full and pass a final exam to obtain a certificate of completion from FEMA's Floodplain Management Division as well as 12 continuing education credits for CFMs.

Additionally, this course can be used as a reference guide on fundamental floodplain management concepts. No need to take the entire course over again, just jump to the Chapter or Section you need a refresher on.

Course Summary:

This course is intended for those just beginning a career in floodplain

management. It provides:

- Local, state, tribal, territorial, and federal officials with the knowledge and skills to administer and enforce floodplain management regulations.
- New floodplain administrators with tools and techniques to explain the impact of floodplain management and permitting decisions on insurance, public safety, and health.
- An overview of NFIP minimum floodplain management regulations, including Substantial Improvement (SI) and Substantial Damage (SD), and using flood maps and studies.
- A basic introduction to the current flood insurance rating factors and variables.

Can I earn EMI credit for taking the course in this format?

While the content of this course is congruent with EMI's EL-0273: *Managing Floodplain Development Through the NFIP*, successful completion of this course does not confer credit from EMI. To inquire about taking the in-person E-273 (273 offered at EMI in Emmitsburg, MD, in a classroom setting) please visit [EMI's course registration page](#). Or, to inquire about L-273 (273 offered locally, in a classroom setting), please contact your [State NFIP Coordinator](#).

Finally, students need not choose between the in-person, classroom experience versus the online course. Take them both!

For any questions or feedback, please email Mitch Paine, Floodplain Specialist, FEMA Region 10, at mitch.paine@fema.dhs.gov.

Mapping Debris Flow Hazards in Oregon

Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI)

In 1996 and 1997, three large storms caused thousands of debris flows in Oregon. Many community members were impacted by this type of fast-moving landslide through the destruction of property, disruption of roads and critical infrastructure, and several fatalities that occurred. Tragically, in 2021, another fatality was caused by a debris flow in the Columbia River Gorge following a major wildfire.

To address debris flow hazards, the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) recently published [Special Paper 53](#), which provides a protocol for channelized debris flow susceptibility mapping. The method described in the paper is intended to raise awareness of debris flow risks and help Oregonians prepare for this hazard. With grant support from FEMA, DOGAMI will apply this method to identify locations at risk from debris flows in areas impacted by recent, major wildfires.



Figure 1: This photo shows the deposit of a debris flow in the Columbia River Gorge on January 13th, 2021, which occurred after heavy rains and within the 2017 Eagle Creek burn area.

Debris flows are fast-moving, highly destructive landslides that can easily travel a mile or more, depending on the terrain. They typically contain boulders and logs transported in a mix of soil and water slurry down canyons. A debris flow can move faster than a person can run. People, buildings, and roads located below steep slopes in canyons and near the mouths of canyons may be at serious risk. You can learn more about debris flows and mapping protocols from this DOGAMI [Story Map](#).



Figure 2: DOGAMI will create debris flow hazard maps for the areas impacted by the Eagle Creek Wildfire, seen here on Sept 17, 2017, near the Bonneville Dam.

DOGAMI’s channelized debris flow susceptibility mapping protocol can be a useful tool for differentiating areas of higher and lower debris flow hazards. Common applications of landslide inventory and susceptibility data include:

- Promoting community awareness and understanding of landslide hazards and risks;
- Supporting communities in developing strategic methods for landslide risk reduction;
- Informing local and regional land use planning; and
- Assisting in the development of hazard ordinances with attached zoning and regulations.

With funding provided by FEMA’s Cooperating Technical Partners Program, DOGAMI is applying this new protocol to create maps of landslide risk in recently burned mountainous terrain in the Oregon Cascade Mountains, including areas affected by the Archie Creek fire (near Roseburg), the Holiday Farm fire (near Eugene), the Beachie Creek-Lionshead fire (near Salem), and the 2017 Eagle Creek fire (near Portland). More information can be found on the [project website](#).

To learn more, please see the following DOGAMI Resources:

Story Maps:

[Debris Flow Story Map](#)

[Landslide Inventory Story Map](#)

Method Papers:

- Channelized debris flow susceptibility mapping protocol ([Special Paper \(SP\) 53, 2022](#))
- Landslide inventory mapping protocol ([SP-42, 2009](#))
- Shallow landslide susceptibility mapping protocol ([SP-45, 2012](#))
- Deep landslide susceptibility mapping protocol ([SP-48, 2016](#))



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.

Online Training

(All times Pacific)

CRS: Flood Warning & Response (Activity 610)

June 14, 10 am

Online – 1 CEC

CRS: Substantial Damage Properties Management Plans

June 15, 10 am

Online – 1 CEC

CRS: Annual CRS Requirements

July 19, 10 am

Online – 1 CEC

CRS: Floodplain Management Planning (Activity 510)

July 20, 10 am

Online – 1 CEC

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