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News from Region X

Washington Coastal Atlas



The Washington Coastal Atlas (<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/coastalatl/Default.aspx>) makes relevant information easily available for use in coastal and shoreline resource planning and management. Since inception in 1995, it has undergone many changes and upgrades to become what it is today. The Atlas is now used by many people and organizations including local, state, and Tribal government agencies; private contractors; advocacy groups; educators; outdoor recreationalists; and interested citizens.

The Washington Coastal Atlas is managed and maintained by the Washington Department of Ecology with funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Ocean and Coastal and Resource Management (OCRM). The data presented on the Atlas comes from many sources and is available through the cooperation and partnership of Federal and state agencies such as the NOAA Coastal Services Center, the Washington Department of Natural Resources, and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The Washington Coastal Atlas is a participant in the International Coastal Atlas Network.

Flood maps were made available

through a FEMA grant to Ecology managed by Jerry Franklin of the Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program.

For more information contact Jerry.Franklin@ecy.wa.gov.

National Disaster Recovery Program Database

With the development of the National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF), FEMA has been working to create systems that can supplement, and not replace, current and ongoing community planning and recovery efforts. To support this effort, FEMA developed a web-based tool, the National Disaster Recovery Program Database (NDRPD), which provides data on different programs to help communities prepare for, respond to, and rebuild after a disaster. This is a tool for members from all levels of government, emergency managers, and planners to find resources provided by federal, state, tribal, and territorial governments, private sector entities, and non-governmental organizations to assist in response and recovery efforts. To apply for assistance or obtain information on the availability of resources, contact the program sponsors and refer to the instructions on each program's website.

The Database is available online at www.fema.gov/ndrpd.

Ask the Help Desk!

Need information about a mapping project, mitigation planning, or NFIP regulations? Email your questions to RegionXHelpDesk@starr-team.com.

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Recorded Trainings Now Available

Many of the past STARR training sessions have been recorded and are now available for online viewing. If you or a colleague missed a session, you can now view it anytime online. Here's a list of available sessions:

- Overview of FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Grants
- Overview of Hazard Mitigation Planning
- Using Hazus in Mitigation Planning
- Post-Flood Recovery & Substantial Damage Assessments for Planners
- Why Hydrology Matters

For more information, visit j.mp/starrtraining. See "Recorded Sessions" on the left side of the page.

Training Opportunities

Fundamentals of Building Science Webinar Series

Earthquake Hazard Mitigation Design Concepts

March 7, 2012, 11:00 am–Noon PT

Many of our communities are subjected to various levels of earthquake risk. Even though large earthquakes mostly strike at high seismic regions such as Japan, Chile, New Zealand and west coast of the US, moderate earthquakes such as the recent one in Virginia that typically occur at moderate and low seismic places can still generate serious damage. This one-hour webinar presents an overview of the earthquake hazards and how earthquakes affect buildings and other structures. Following some typical damage from past

Questions or comments?

If you have suggestions for the Region X Newsletter staff, we would like to hear from you! Please contact the FEMA Region X Service Center by email at RXNewsletter@starr-team.com.

Community Rating System Manual Change Webinars

CRS is hosting a series of webinars to review upcoming changes to the CRS Manual, including general overviews of the approved changes and individual activities. Suggestions for topics are welcome, and CRS users groups can also request a webinar to coincide with their meetings.

To download an overview of the proposed CRS manual changes, or for more information on the upcoming webinars, visit www.crs2012.org.

EMI Training Opportunity: L273 in Oregon

FEMA Region X will be hosting the Emergency Management Institute course, L273, Managing Floodplain Development Through the National Flood Insurance Program course in Medford, Oregon, April 23-26, 2012.

This course is designed to provide an organized training opportunity for local officials responsible for administering their local floodplain management ordinance. The course will focus on the National Flood Insurance Program and concepts of floodplain management, maps and studies, ordinance administration, and the relationship between floodplain management and flood insurance.

The course is targeted to local officials responsible for administering floodplain management ordinances, including but not limited to floodplain management administrators, building inspectors, code enforcement & zoning officers, planners, city/county managers, attorneys, engineers, and public works officials. Federal, state, and regional floodplain managers are encouraged to attend.

Tuition is free for those accepted, but there are no travel or salary stipends available for this offering and all incurred costs are the responsibility of the attendee or sending organization.

For more information, contact Karen Wood-McGuinness, FEMA Region X, karen.wood-mcguinness@fema.dhs.gov.

earthquakes, the webinar introduces the basic concepts of earthquake-resistant design for new and retrofitted buildings along with some examples. It also provides some highlights of the engineering design standards and the national model building codes and some recent FEMA NEHRP publications.

Target Audience: Disaster planners, mitigation specialists, community policy and program coordinators, and those who perform damage assessments and develop mitigation options for buildings damaged by earthquake.

Flood Hazard Mitigation Design Concepts

March 28, 2012, 11:00 am–Noon PT

Floods are the most common hazard in the United States, representing more than 70 percent of Presidential

disaster declarations. Flood damage can range from minor cosmetic damage to catastrophic structural damage depending on a variety of factors, such as flood source and depth. This one-hour webinar briefly introduces those factors and discusses the concepts behind flood damage-resistant construction and retrofitting. Mitigation applications for residential and commercial construction, critical facilities, utility systems, and manufactured homes are introduced. Applicable code and regulatory requirements are presented, and FEMA Building Science resources are recommended for more in-depth information.

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Training Opportunities *(cont.)*

Target Audience: Disaster planners, mitigation specialists, community policy and program coordinators, and those who participate in damage assessments and the development of mitigation options for buildings damaged in flood events.

STARR Training Series

Elevation Certificates for A Zones

March 15, 2012, 10:00 am–12:30 pm

This two-hour session explains the proper way to complete FEMA Form 81-31 and best practices for using the Elevation Certificate in the floodplain development review process.

Topics include the basics of the Elevation Certificate form, the 10 building diagrams, and the difference between “bottom floor” and “lowest floor”.

The March session will highlight special considerations for using the Elevation Certificate in A Zones without a Base Flood Elevation and will focus more attention to Section E and working with relative elevations.

Two (2) CECs for CFMs

Presenter: Becca Croft, STARR RSC

Idaho Hazus Overview

Boise, Idaho

March 22-23, 2012

This course will provide an overview of Hazus tools such as CDMS and the earthquake and flood modules. Training topics include how to update Hazus with local data and how to complete flood and earthquake analyses using shake maps and flood depth grids. The course will focus on data for Ada County, but the same principles apply to any community. Communities are encouraged to bring their own local data for use in the course.

Prerequisites: GIS experience and the Hazus-MH Overview Course (available free online through ESRI).

Training Schedule

(All times Pacific)

Earthquake Hazard Mitigation Design Concepts

March 7, 2012, 11:00 am – Noon
Webinar

fema.connectsolutions.com/nehrrp-webinar

Elevation Certificates for A Zones
March 15, 10:00 am – 12:30 pm
Online* – 2 CECs

Idaho Hazus Overview

March 22-23, 2012

Boise, Idaho

pmarusich@adaweb.net

Flood Hazard Mitigation Design Concepts

March 28, 2012, 11:00 am–Noon
Webinar

fema.connectsolutions.com/nehrrp-webinar

Hazard Mitigation Planning 201

April 6, 10:00 am – 11:00 am

Online* – 1 CEC

Floodplain Management in A Zones

April 12, 10:00 am – 11:00 am

Online* – 1 CEC

Elevation Certificates

April 20, 10:00 am – 12:30 pm

Online* – 2 CECs

L273 Managing Floodplain Development Through the NFIP

April 23-26

Medford, Oregon

12 CECs

Karen.Wood-McGuinness@fema.dhs.gov

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

NORFMA Quarterly FEMA Mapping Update

March 8, 2012

FEMA Regional Offices
20700 44th Ave W, 4th Floor
Lynnwood, WA 98036

Space is limited. For security reasons, RSVP is required to Hans Hunger, NORFMA Chair, hhunger@co.pierce.wa.us.

If you cannot attend in person, the conference call in phone number is 1-800-320-4330. PIN #: 318745

All attendees are required to bring a laptop loaded with ArcGIS 9.3 or 10 and Hazus MR5 or 2.0.

Hazard Mitigation Planning 201

April 6, 2012, 10:00 am -11:00 am

As a follow up to the Hazard Mitigation Planning Overview, this training will cover mitigation planning in greater detail. The target audience will have a basic familiarity with mitigation planning and knowledge of their local mitigation plan. There will be ample time provided for questions and discussions. Attendees may submit questions or requests for topics prior to the training session.


One (1) CEC for CFMs

Presented by Kristen Meyers and Brett Holt, FEMA Region X

For details about upcoming trainings, visit our Region X event calendar, www.starr-team.com.

NORFMA News

The Northwest Regional Floodplain Managers Association (NORFMA) is in an exciting growth period, expanding what they do and the number of communities they serve. The association is strengthened and is more useful to communities in the northwest with a diverse group of volunteers. There are opportunities to get involved in planning not only the next annual conference in Spokane but also in developing mini conferences in both Oregon and Idaho. NORFMA is also hoping to develop webinar activities for Alaska and has a committee that is working on applying to become a chapter of ASFPM. Other opportunities are with the Policy Committee which recently submitted comments on the NFIP Levee Mapping policy.

For more information and a list of NORFMA committees, visit www.norfma.org. 

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