



October 2013
Volume 3, Issue 11

Inside this Issue

1 America's PrepareAthon!

1 Post-Wildfire Flood Risk

2 The Great ShakeOut!

2 NFHL GIS Data Available for Download

2 Flood Risk Analysis and Mapping Standards

2 Mitigation Planning Portal

3 Featured Training

3 Upcoming Events

Strategic Alliance for Risk Reduction
FEMA Region X Service Center
20700 44th Avenue West, Suite 110
Lynnwood, Washington 98036
(425) 329-3699

News from Region X

AMERICA'S PrepareAthon!

Be Smart. Take Part. Prepare.

As part of National Preparedness Month, FEMA unveiled America's PrepareAthon! a new grassroots campaign to increase community preparedness. The strategy and structure of the campaign are based on new social science research conducted by FEMA and presented in *Preparedness in America: Research Insights to Increase Individual, Organizational, and Community Action*.

Each spring and fall, schools and universities, churches and faith-based organizations, businesses, and civic organizations around the country will organize community days of action to discuss, practice, and train for relevant hazards such as tornados, hurricanes, floods, extreme heat, earthquakes, wildfires, hazardous materials, and severe winter weather.

The goal of the campaign is to increase the number of people who understand the hazards most relevant to their community; know the corresponding protective actions, mitigation measures and community plans; practice actions that increase their preparedness; and contribute to whole community preparedness planning.

For more information, email FEMA-PrepareAthon@fema.dhs.gov or visit www.fema.gov. You can also join the twitter discussion @PrepareAthon.

Post-Wildfire Flood Risk

Floods are the most common and costly natural hazard in the United States. While some floods develop over time, flash floods are particularly common following wildfires. Flash floods can occur within minutes of a rain event. Due to the changes in landscape caused by wildfires, even historically low flood risk areas are at risk. The large wildfires that have recently burned out of control increase the risk of flooding and mudflow.

Wildfires alter the terrain and ground conditions. Under normal conditions the vegetation absorbs rainfall, but after a wildfire the ground is left charred and barren, and unable to absorb the water. This is compounded by debris and ash from the fire which form mudflows as the rainfall moves across the charred and barren ground. Mudflows are rivers of liquid and flowing mud caused by a combination of brush loss and subsequent heavy rains or rapid snowmelt. Unlike landslides or other slope failures, mudflows are covered by flood insurance.

The National Hazard Mitigation Association suggests that local and state governments consider working with FEMA, USDA and any other expert agency to distribute an advisory notice, including an advisory map of the new flood risk in watersheds affected by wildfires.

For more information on Post Wildfire Flood Risk visit floodsmart.gov. For the "Flood After Fire" fact sheet, visit ready.gov.

RiskMAP

Increasing Resilience Together

Get Ready to ShakeOut!



You are invited to join thousands of people in Region X who will “Drop, Cover, and Hold On” on October 17th at 10:17 a.m. in the 2013 Great ShakeOut!

More than 19.4 million people were registered in ShakeOut drills worldwide in 2012. Participating is a great way for your community to become better prepared to survive and recover quickly from big earthquakes.



Why is “Drop, Cover, and Hold On”

important to practice? You may only have seconds to protect yourself in an earthquake before strong shaking knocks you down, or something falls on you. Practicing helps you be ready to react. Visit shakeout.org to learn more.

NFHL GIS Data Available for Download

Check out the changes to the Map Service Center Product Catalog and Map Search:

- National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL) Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Data are searchable through Map Search
- County and State NFHL databases are downloadable from MSC Product Catalog
- Effective FIRM Databases are no longer available for purchase. Users will instead be directed to download the effective NFHL data at no charge.
- Future Effective FIRM Databases are still available for purchase.

Contact the FEMA Map Information eXchange (FMIX) at 1-877-FEMA-MAP if you have any questions.

Flood Risk Analysis and Mapping Standards

The Risk MAP Program provides communities with information on flooding and tools they can use to enhance their mitigation plans and take action to better protect their citizens. FEMA recently published a policy memo with updated standards to define the requirements for working with communities to analyze and publish flood risk information and review requests to change existing flood risk data.

FEMA is improving the way guidelines and standards for flood risk mapping are presented and completed the extraction of distinct standards from the existing Guidelines and Specifications for Flood Hazard Mapping Partners. These standards are consistent with the previous requirements and are organized in a separate policy document to highlight the mandatory requirements of the program, and separate guidance or recommendations.

The new approach restates, organizes and separates existing standards and provides new standards. The Mapping Standards Policy also includes some elements from the Biggert Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (BW-12), but not all. The development and implementation of the changes outlined in BW-12 will happen over the next several years as the Technical Mapping Advisory Council makes its recommendations to FEMA.

FEMA will continue to update the existing guidance based on this new approach. Until the Standards for Flood Risk Analysis and Mapping are completed, mapping partners can locate the historical guidelines in the

previous Guidelines and Specifications documents. These guidance documents can be used to identify most recommended methods to meet the standards.

For additional information, visit www.fema.gov

New Mitigation Planning Portal

In November, FEMA will launch an online platform for tracking and reporting mitigation plans and related data elements across all ten FEMA Regions. The portal will become the system of record for mitigation plan status data.

Mitigation Planning Portal Benefits

- Obtain plan status information from a single system of record
- Reduce mitigation data requests from FEMA Headquarters
- Increase efficiency in communication between Risk MAP Partners and FEMA Headquarters
- Improve data integrity and accuracy
- Share reports easily
- Real time data synchronization
- Leverage data elements to capture region specific information
- Export data for use in GIS
- Track expiring plans and

The portal will replace the current tracking systems being used by FEMA Regional and Headquarters offices. A single system promotes greater integrity, efficiencies in reporting, improved data access by other offices and users, and the ability to integrate with other systems.

RiskMAP
Increasing Resilience Together

Featured Training

Hazus and the Community Rating System

October 17, 10:00 am

Hazus is a loss estimation tool which uses ArcGIS to determine losses to flood, hurricane, and earthquake hazards. Local data can be used in Hazus to determine losses at the building level. This presentation will summarize the local data needed to update Hazus as well as identify examples of flood loss estimations. Hazus losses can be used to determine areas of mitigation action (buyouts, elevations etc.) as well as identify areas of potential outreach. Using Hazus loss data can help with the requirements in the Community Rating System by identify properties at risk.

Presenter: Kelly Stone

Registration is free, and required.

One CEC for CFMs.

View all upcoming online trainings at <http://j.mp/starrwebtraining>

Alaska Hazus Overview

October 22-23
Anchorage, Alaska

This course is designed to provide an overview of HAZUS tools such as CDMS and the earthquake and flood modules. This course will provide each user the necessary requirements to update HAZUS with local data and complete flood and earthquake analysis using ShakeMap's and flood depth grids. The course will use data from the Kodiak Island Borough, Kenai Peninsula Bureau, and the City of Anchorage; but the same principles can be applied to any community. Communities are encouraged to bring their own local data for use in the course. This is not an EMI Certified Course, so you will not receive EMI Credit or credit towards a HAZUS certificate. You will receive a FEMA certificate for this course which may be used to waive the basic Hazus course requirement for EMI Hazus courses.

Contact Kelly.stone@fema.dhs.gov for course registration.

The deadline to apply is October 11.



Upcoming Events & Training

(All times Pacific)

Determining Base Flood Elevation

October 9, 10am
November 20, 10am
Online* – 1 CEC

Elevation Certificates for A Zones

October 10, 9am
Online* – 1 CEC

CRS Basics

October 16, 11am
Online* – 1 CEC

Hazus and the CRS

October 17, 10am
Online* – 1 CEC

The Great ShakeOut!

October 17
10:17am
www.shakeout.org

Alaska HAZUS Overview

October 22-23
Anchorage, Alaska
Kelly.Stone@fema.dhs.gov

Elevation Certificates

October 23, 10am
November 21, 9am
Online* – 2 CECs

NFIP Basics

October 24, 9am
Online* – 1 CEC

Floodplain Development Plan Review

November 6, 10am
December 4, 9am
Online* – 1 CEC

Inspecting Floodplain Development

November 7, 10am
December 5, 10am
Online* – 2 CECs

Idaho Floodplain Conference

November 13-15
Boise, Idaho
www.norfma.org

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

Ask the Help Desk

The Region X Service Center is here to help you with all your Risk MAP needs. We can help connect you to resources and answers about project status updates, mitigation planning, floodplain development regulations, training resources, outreach ideas and more. Email us at RegionXHelpDesk@starr-team.com.

RiskMAP

Increasing Resilience Together