



Strategic Alliance for  
Risk Reduction

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# News from Region 10



## NFIP Risk Rating 2.0: Training Opportunity

FEMA is conducting a webinar series to introduce the new flood insurance rating system known as Risk Rating 2.0, Equity in Action.

This is a four-part series of briefings offered on a rotating schedule that will introduce the fundamentals of Risk Rating 2.0 and the details of the rating methodology this new system will use.

### The four training sessions are:

#### **RR 2.0 Fundamentals**

#### **Rating Methodology 1 – Premium Calculation Variables**

#### **Rating Methodology 2 – Mitigation Credits & Other Variables**

#### **Rating Methodology 3 – Transition of Policies, Use Cases, & Rating Examples**

It is recommended but, not required that you take the training sessions in the order listed above.

These trainings will take place every Wednesday through November 3, 2021, from 1:00pm – 3:00 pm (EST).

There is no registration requirement for these training sessions, but the room size will be limited to the first 350 participants for each section.

To attend these webinars, please follow this [Zoom Meeting Link](#) at the scheduled time and enter the following information:

**Meeting ID:** 161-1208-9704

**Passcode:** 127630

#### **Session Schedule:**

Aug 18 – Fundamentals

Aug 25 – Methodology 1

Sept 1 – Methodology 2

Sept 8 – Methodology 3

Sept 15 – Fundamentals

Sept 22 – Methodology 1

Sept 29 – Methodology 2

Oct 6 – Methodology 3

Oct 13 – Fundamentals

Oct 20 – Methodology 1

Oct 27 – Methodology 2

Nov 3 – Methodology 3

*More information can be found on the [FEMA Risk Rating 2.0 website](#).*

## FEMA Region 10 Welcomes New Civil Engineer



**Dale Meck,  
Mitigation &  
Risk Analysis**

Dale Meck joined the Region 10 Risk

Analysis Branch of the Mitigation Division in July of 2021 as a civil engineer. He is committed to working with communities across FEMA Region 10 to equitably and sustainably improve floodplain functions and to reduce flood damages. Within the context of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), Dale works with a larger group to implement a national program (Risk MAP) that is moving the focus to getting communities to reduce their overall hazard exposure through better communication of the hazards the communities are exposed to, overlapping the hazards with vulnerable and essential infrastructure, and working to help the communities find ways to improve resilience to these potential disasters.

Dale studied civil engineering at Cornell University and environmental fluid mechanics and hydrology at Stanford University. He acquired an additional, in-depth understanding of hydraulics and riverine processes through numerous immersive experiences as a wilderness raft guide in Alaska. He enjoys exploring wild and scenic rivers across the Pacific Northwest. He is married with two kids and lives in Yakima, Washington.

*To connect with Dale, please reach out to him [via email](#).*

## Managing Floodways in the PNW

By Mitch Paine, FEMA Region 10

After a successful set of trainings around Managing Floodways in the Pacific Northwest in early June, I wanted to recap some of the major points from the training as a refresher for those who attended or assistance for those who couldn't attend.

### Why are floodways important?



Floodways are critical parts of floodplains that communities need to take particular care to manage well. Floodways see the fastest moving and deepest floodwaters, making them the most dangerous places for buildings, infrastructure, and places for people to go. They also typically host the most beneficial ecological functions of floodplains.

Floodways can be some of the most challenging areas in floodplain permitting. Local floodplain regulations require permit applicants to submit a hydrologic and hydraulic (H&H) analysis conducted appropriately by an engineer to

### 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](mailto:RegionXHelpDesk@starr-team.com).

demonstrate that the proposed development within the floodway will result in no rise in base flood levels. Any type of development from constructing a building to adding a small amount of fill to level a site would require an H&H analysis to demonstrate "no-rise".

### Reviewing H&H analyses

Communities must be prepared to review the submitted H&H analyses to ensure that an analysis was actually completed, and that the conclusion from the engineer's study is that the proposed development will not result in a rise in base flood levels anywhere in the community. It is imperative that the community have an engineer review these submitted H&H analyses to ensure that they're completed using accepted practices. If your community doesn't have an engineer on staff, you can contract with another community or with a private company and pass along the review costs to the permit applicant.



Another option is to require floodway permit applicants to submit a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR). Through that process, FEMA-contracted engineers review the H&H analyses and will confirm that the study has been conducted appropriately. However, requiring a CLOMR can be expensive, so if your community seeks to do that, updating your floodplain management regulations to include that

*Continued on next page*

***Floodways in the PNW (cont'd)***

requirement would be recommended.

**Floodway modification projects**

Lastly, if a development proposal would result in a rise in base flood levels and the project cannot be redesigned to avoid the rise, and your community believes the rise is acceptable, then a CLOMR is required before the project is constructed. For example, let's say a non-profit is proposing a habitat restoration project in a stream system with a floodway. They would hire an engineer to evaluate the impact of the project and if a rise is found, they'll have a conversation with the floodplain administrator. If the rise affects other property owners, the non-profit will have to notify them. Then, the non-profit and their engineer would apply for a CLOMR and submit all the engineering documentation to the community as well. Assuming the submittal meets the criteria, FEMA would approve the CLOMR.



The community would issue a floodplain development permit with the conditions that the restoration project design must match the design approved with the CLOMR and that after the project is completed, a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) would be obtained. After the non-profit completes the work, they would submit as-builts along with any other permit documentation to the floodplain administrator and simultaneously apply to FEMA for a

LOMR to officially change the maps to account for the rise in base flood elevation caused by the project. The floodplain administrator would keep the LOMR in the permit file for the property.

While submitting CLOMRs and LOMRs come with a fee, many habitat restoration projects can apply for a fee exemption. See [this website](#) for more details.

Floodways are parts of communities that are tough to permit and are areas in which applicants have a tough time getting permits. It's vital that communities take care to permit development floodways correctly and to ensure that development does not result in any rise in the base flood levels anywhere in the community as a result of buildings, fill, infrastructure, restoration, or other projects so that property owners are protected from flooding.

*If you need any technical assistance around floodway development, please contact your [State NFIP Coordinator](#) or [FEMA Region 10 Floodplain Specialist](#).*

## NORFMA 2021 Virtual Conference

September 28-30, 2021

Theme: "Change is Constant"

The Northwest Regional Floodplain Management Association (NORFMA) will host this year's annual conference, which will once again be a digital experience.

The event will be held over 3 half-days, and presenters will be in a single session (no concurrent sessions to jump between) with opportunities for Q&A, discussions, and a variety of speakers. Following the live conference, attendees will have access to the recordings.

The call for abstracts has been extended through August 9<sup>th</sup>, and

registration is now open. To register or to submit an abstract, please visit the [event webpage](#).

*If you have any questions or would like more information about the conference, please email [norfma@norfma.org](mailto:norfma@norfma.org).*

## Life Along the Columbia: Stories from Behind the Levees

### Multnomah County Drainage District

Recently, the Multnomah County Drainage District (MCDD) released "Life Along the Columbia," a collection of stories (in English and Spanish) told by individuals who live, work, and recreate within the Portland metro levee system.

This risk communication tool focuses on helping people to better understand regional flood risk and flood management in addition to special areas that need protection.

This tool consists of 8 stories (5 in English and 3 in Spanish) that are the culmination of work completed over the last two years in collaboration with FEMA Region 10.

*For more information about this project, please visit [MCDD's website](#).*

### 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@starrteam.com](mailto:RXNewsletter@starrteam.com).

## **STARR II is Hiring! Join the RSC10 Team**

### **Senior FEMA/Water Resources Engineer**

SNC-Lavalin's Atkins business (part of the STARR II Team) is seeking a Senior Water Resources Engineer to support activities related to the NFIP. As part of the world's most respected design, engineering, and project management consultancies, the applicant will complete new hydrologic and hydraulic (H&H) analyses that conform to NFIP guidelines and specifications. These tasks will involve the use of various H&H engineering software as well as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software.

Atkins seeks applicants with a B.S. in Civil Engineering, preferably with a specialization in Water Resources,

and 5-10 years of work experience. Proficiency in hydrology, hydraulics, and GIS is required; experience in coding languages such as Python is a plus.

*For more information or to apply for this career opportunity, please visit this [job listing](#).*

### **FEMA Water Resources**

#### **Planner/Scientist**

Atkins is seeking a FEMA Water Resources Planner or Scientist to support the training and outreach lead. Duties for this position will include National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)-related technical assistance, ordinance review support, technical writing support, document editing and publication, SharePoint site administration, database maintenance, and training coordination (facilitation, development, and delivery).

Candidates must have a thorough understanding of floodplain management, hazard mitigation, and risk communication principles. A Bachelor's or Master's degree in Planning or a related field, or 10 years of related working experience is preferred. Ideal candidates must have at least 5 years of experience with a combination of floodplain development/permit review, ordinance enforcement, hazard mitigation plan development, and public information or outreach related activities. Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) is preferred.

*For more information or to apply for this career opportunity, please visit this [job listing](#).*



## **Online Training**

(All times Pacific)

### **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

### **CRS: Preparing an Annual Recertification**

September 21, 10:00 am  
Online - 1 CEC

### **CRS: CRS and Coastal Hazards**

September 22, 10:00 am  
Online - 1 CEC

To register for online courses, visit

STARR's training site:  
[j.mp/starronlinetraining](http://j.mp/starronlinetraining), or email  
[RXTraining@starr-team.com](mailto:RXTraining@starr-team.com).