



# News from Region 10

**August 2023**

Volume 13, Issue 8

## **Inside this Issue:**

- FEMA Authorizes Funds to Fight Eagle Bluff Fire in WA
- Be Prepared: How to Stay Safe When a Wildfire Threatens
- Flood After Fire: The Increased Risk
- Online Training Calendar

## ***Newsletter Ideas?***

*Do you want to spread the word about an upcoming event or recent success story? Let us know what you'd like to see in future issues! Articles can be up to 500 words and may include pictures. **Email:** [RXNewsletter@starr-team.com](mailto:RXNewsletter@starr-team.com).*

---

## FEMA Authorizes Funds to Fight Eagle Bluff Fire in Washington

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) authorized the use of federal funds to help with firefighting costs for the Eagle Bluff Fire burning in Okanogan County, Washington. The State of Washington's request for a federal [Fire Management Assistance Grant \(FMAG\)](#) was approved by FEMA Region 10 Administrator Willie G. Nunn on Sunday, July 30, 2023. He determined the Eagle Bluff Fire threatened to cause such destruction as would constitute a major disaster. This is the fifth FMAG declared in 2023 to help fight Washington wildfires.

At the time of the request, the wildfire threatened homes in and around the community of Oroville, WA. The fire also threatened public buildings, businesses, utilities, an airport, golf course, multiple parks, recreational facilities, local roads, vineyards, orchards, farms, water reservoirs, U.S. Border Patrol communication towers, and a Canadian high pressure natural gas pipeline.

FMAGs are provided through the President's Disaster Relief Fund and are made available by FEMA to assist in fighting fires that threaten to cause a major disaster. Eligible items can include expenses for field camps; equipment use, repair, and replacement; mobilization and demobilization activities; and tools, materials, and supplies. This authorization makes FEMA funding available to pay 75 percent of the state's eligible firefighting costs under an approved grant for managing, mitigating, and controlling designated fires. These grants do not provide assistance to individual home or business owners and do not cover other infrastructure damage caused by the fire.

In addition to the firefighting funds authorized under this FMAG, another \$1,225,032 will be available to Washington through the [Hazard Mitigation Grant Program \(HMGP\) Post Fire](#) for the mitigation of future wildfires and related hazards, such as flood after fire or erosion. Some eligible wildfire project types include defensible space measures, ignition-resistant construction, and hazardous fuels reduction. The [Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018](#) authorizes FEMA to provide [HMGP Post-Fire](#) funds to eligible states and territories that receive Fire Management Assistance declarations and federally recognized tribes that have land burned within a designated area.

Follow FEMA Region 10 on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) for the latest updates and visit [FEMA.gov](#) for more information.



## Be Prepared: How to Stay Safe When a Wildfire Threatens



A wildfire is an unplanned fire that burns in a natural area such as a forest, grassland, or prairie. These unexpected fires are often caused by humans or lightning and can ruin homes, often causing injuries or death to people and animals. It's important to remember that wildfires can happen anywhere, anytime – with the risk of fire ignition increasing in seasons of little rain and high winds. Communities and property owners near areas where wildfires have occurred are most at risk for flooding, including mudflow hazards and flash flooding.

When a wildfire threatens, being prepared can help you stay safe. Here are a few examples of simple preparedness steps you could take: know your community's evacuation routes, gather emergency supplies and N95 respirator masks, store your important documents digitally or in fireproof safe, create a fire-resistant zone (i.e., free of leaves, debris, or flammable materials for at least 30 feet from your home), review your insurance coverage, and find an outdoor water source with a hose that can reach any area of your property in case of an emergency. Additionally, homeowners are encouraged to use fire-resistant materials to build, renovate, or make repairs. Community members are also encouraged to sign up for their local warning notification system. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.

During a wildfire event, if authorities evacuate your area or tell you to leave – **do so immediately**. If you become trapped, call 911 and give your location and turn on any lights to help people find you – but be aware that emergency response could be delayed or impossible. To stay aware on local evacuations and other emergency communications, listen to EAS, NOAA Weather Radio, or your local alerting systems for current emergency information and instructions. Use an N95 mask to keep particles out of the air you breathe.

Members of communities impacted by wildfire should listen to authorities to find out if it's safe to return and whether the water is safe to drink. The ground may contain heat pockets that can burn you or spark another fire, and hot ash, charred trees, smoldering debris, and live embers should be avoided. Phone systems are often busy following a disaster, and it might be more efficient to communicate with family and friends via text messaging or social media. Property owners should conduct an inventory and document any damage with photographs in preparation for contacting their insurance company for assistance.

*For more information on preparing for a wildfire, please visit [FEMA's Wildfire Actions site](#).*

## Flood After Fire: The Increased Risk

Large-scale wildfires dramatically alter the terrain and ground conditions. Normally, vegetation absorbs rainfall, reducing runoff. However, wildfires leave the ground charred, barren, and unable to absorb water, creating conditions ripe for flash flooding and mudflow.

Floods are the most common and costly natural hazard in the nation. Whether caused by heavy rain, thunderstorms, or winter storms, the results of flooding can be devastating. While some floods develop over time, flash floods ([particularly common after wildfires](#)) can occur within minutes after the onset of a rainstorm. Even areas that are not traditionally flood-prone are at risk, due to changes to the landscape caused by fire. Residents need to protect their homes and personal property with flood insurance before a weather event occurs and it's too late.

Flood risk remains significantly higher until vegetation is restored – up to 5 years after a wildfire. Flooding and flood damage after fire is often more severe, as debris and ash left from the fire can form mudflows. As rainwater moves across charred and barren ground, it can also pick up soil and sediment and carry it in a stream of floodwaters. This can cause more significant damage. Residents and business owners are also urged to purchase flood insurance to assure financial protection from flooding.

A flood does not have to be a catastrophic event to bring high out-of-pocket costs, and you do not have to live in a high-risk flood area to suffer flood damage. In fact, from 2014 to 2018, policyholders outside of high-risk flood areas filed over 40% of all NFIP flood insurance claims and required one-third of federal disaster assistance for flooding. Property owners should remember to:

- › **Buy Flood Insurance.** Most standard homeowner policies do not cover flood damage. Flood insurance protects your investment and provides peace of mind. Talk to your insurance agent about the National Flood Insurance Program's low-cost options.
- › **Prepare Now.** Gather supplies in case of a storm, strengthen your home against damage, and review your insurance coverages. No flood insurance? Remember: it typically takes 30 days for a new flood insurance policy to go into effect, so get your policy now.
- › **Plan Ahead.** Plan evacuation routes. Keep important papers in a safe, waterproof place. Conduct a home inventory; itemize and take pictures of possessions and the inside and outside of your home.

For more information about flood insurance, please call your insurance agent or contact your [NFIP Regional Support Contact](#).

### **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).

## **Online Training Calendar**

(All times Pacific)

<b>Course</b>	<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Continuing Education Credits (CECs)</b>
STARR II: NFIP Basics	August 10, 10 am	1
CRS: FEMA Elevation Certificates	August 15, 10 am	1.5
CRS: CRS & Substantial Damage Properties Management Plans	August 16, 10 am	1
STARR II: Floodplain Development Permit Review	August 17, 9 am	1
STARR II: Inspecting Floodplain Development	August 17, 10:30 am	1.5
CRS: Annual CRS Requirements	September 19, 10 am	1.5
CRS: FEMA Elevation Certificates	September 20, 10 am	1.5



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).

---

You are receiving this email because you are subscribed to the STARR II Region 10 monthly newsletter. [Click here to unsubscribe.](#)

Previous editions and articles are still available to view or download. [Click here to visit the STARR II R10 Monthly Newsletter Archive.](#)

Was this forwarded to you? Want to subscribe? [Click here to subscribe to the Region 10 Newsletter.](#)

### **STARR II - Strategic Alliance for Risk Reduction**

FEMA Region 10 Service Center

20700 44th Ave W, Suite 130, Lynnwood, WA 98036

Email: [rxnewsletter@starr-team.com](mailto:rxnewsletter@starr-team.com) | [STARR II Newsletter Website](#)