



# News from Region 10

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## ***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).*

## Tribal Partners Shape FEMA's Tribal Disaster Recovery Video Series

A new video series developed by FEMA in partnership with tribal emergency managers helps improve access to FEMA assistance for Tribal Nations. The videos explain FEMA's tribal declaration pilot guidance, the disaster declaration process and key decision points for tribal leaders, and along with [FEMA's Disaster Declaration Process Card](#), were created in response to tribal partners' requests for products that better explain FEMA's disaster declaration process.

*"FEMA programs are a partnership from beginning to end,"*

said FEMA Region 10 Administrator Willie G. Nunn.

*"We worked together with tribal emergency managers to create a product that supports tribal nations in a way that meets their communities' needs."*

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*"These videos are tools that help tribes when they are impacted by a disaster and need federal assistance,"*

said Tulalip Tribes Chief Administrative Officer Rochelle Lubbers.

*"This is just one part in making sure we are building our capabilities to protect our communities."*

The Tribal Disaster Recovery Video Series can be viewed [here](#) and includes the following:

- › *FEMA Tribal Recovery Video Series Trailer* – previews the series
- › *Disaster Overview for Tribal Leaders* – provides an overview of FEMA's disaster declaration process and informs tribal leaders on key decisions
- › *Step 1: Declaration Process & Assessing Damage* – outlines the initial response to a disaster and provides some best practices for assessing the damage to public infrastructure and the community
- › *Step 2: Requesting PDAs* – provides information on the PDA process
- › *Step 3: FEMA Disaster Assistance Programs* – covers the administrative requirements for Public Assistance, Individual Assistance, and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
- › *Step 4: Disaster Declaration & the First 30 Days* – provides information on disaster recovery implementation and the importance of tribal staff for the disaster recovery process
- › *Step 5: What Comes Next on the Road to Recovery* – explains how long FEMA programs may take, the importance of FEMA tribal partnerships, and steps that can be taken now

FEMA is continuing to consult on the Tribal Declarations Pilot Guidance, and encourages stakeholders to share these videos with their community leaders and partners in emergency management. To better support Tribal Nations, FEMA also recommends regularly engaging with their tribal liaisons regarding any potential feedback or questions.

For more information or to request consultation, visit [FEMA'S Tribal Consultations webpage](#).

To submit questions or request copies of these videos and/or tribal declaration cards, please reach out to [your FEMA Tribal Liaison](#).

## Thurston County, WA Takes Steps to Get ‘Flood Smart’ | Flood Awareness Week 2023

In October of this year, county leaders in Thurston County, WA encouraged residents to prepare for winter storms by checking their emergency kits, making plans with family members, and getting flood insurance before disaster strikes. Residents of unincorporated Thurston County were informed of the potential flood insurance discounts for properties **in** Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) (i.e. up to 40%), and for properties **not in** SFHAs (i.e., up to 10%) – visit [Thurston County’s Flood Plans & Insurance webpage](#) to learn more.

*“The clock is ticking. With a mandatory 30-day waiting period once you make your initial premium payment, every second counts,”*

*said Kyle Bustad, Thurston County Emergency Management Manager.*

*“We’re focusing this week on encouraging residents to get flood insurance now before storm season sets in. Get your flood insurance today.”*

With an average annual rainfall of 50 inches, floods are one of the most common natural hazards in Thurston County. However, its top-rated floodplain management program has helped reduce flood damage and encouraged property owners and residents in flood hazard areas to obtain flood insurance, at a reduced price. The community completed several flood mitigation and preparedness actions, receiving a high Community Rating System (CRS) score as a participant of FEMA’s National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Thurston County Emergency Management also recommends homeowners and renters obtain flood insurance as a reliable financial safety net against flood-induced damages. Additionally, they inform their constituents that homeowner’s insurance doesn’t envelop flood damage, and federal disaster assistance is available only for federally declared disasters.

County leaders also encourage their residents to sign up for the Thurston Community Alert (TC Alert), or the county’s official emergency notification system. With TC Alert, community members can get alerts to their smartphones or other devices (e.g., flood warnings, evacuation notices and instructions, and severe weather alerts) – visit [Thurston County’s Community Alert website](#) to learn more.



## FEMA Extends the Alaska Spring Floods Individual Assistance Registration Deadline

Anchorage, Alaska residents affected by the ice jam and snow melt flooding that occurred between May 12 and June 3, 2023, now have until December 22, 2023, to apply for FEMA Individual Assistance.

Requested by the State of Alaska and approved by FEMA, the deadline extension applies to survivors living in the Copper River, Kuspuk, Lower Kuskokwim, Lower Yukon, and Yukon Flats Regional Educational Attendance Areas (REAs). In addition, the State of Alaska has re-opened its own Individual Assistance program, which will allow those with damage from 2023 spring floods who have not previously registered an opportunity to seek state assistance.

Applying with FEMA will be required for any future state IA payments. State and federal Individual Assistance programs cannot duplicate benefits. However, specific damages (e.g., subsistence camps), are eligible under the state program. Even if you have already registered for the State of Alaska's disaster assistance program, you are encouraged to also register with FEMA to determine if you may be eligible to receive additional funds through FEMA.

The deadline to apply for U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) low-interest loans has also been extended. Businesses, homeowners, renters, and private nonprofit organizations referred by FEMA now have until December 22, 2023, to apply with SBA. As of the close of business on October 22, FEMA had received 498 total registrations and approved almost \$2.5 million in assistance for the spring ice jam and snowmelt flooding. FEMA and SBA disaster assistance staff have visited numerous communities in the impacted areas.

*If you are unable to meet with FEMA staff visiting your community, you can still apply for FEMA assistance by calling: 1-866-342-1699 – this hotline has staff trained to answer Alaska-specific questions.*

You can also apply on [disasterassistance.gov](https://disasterassistance.gov), or by using the [FEMA mobile app](#).

For questions about SBA loans, call: 1-800-659-2955 or email: [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov).

*If you require a reasonable accommodation (i.e., language translation or interpretation, mobility assistance, or sign language interpretation), call or text: 907-727-6221 or email: [FEMA-language-access-request@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-language-access-request@fema.dhs.gov) – you can also notify staff in the field.*

## Career Opportunity: STARR II Senior GIS Analyst | AtkinsRéalis | RSC 10, Lynnwood, WA

We are hiring! AtkinsRéalis is seeking a Senior GIS Analyst to join our Lynnwood, WA office. AtkinsRéalis is one of the world's most respected design, engineering, and project management consultancies and has been providing infrastructure planning, engineering, construction, environmental consulting, urban planning, architecture, and program management services to public and private clients across the United States for more than 50 years.



AtkinsRéalis has the depth and breadth of expertise to respond to the most technically challenging and time-critical infrastructure projects and the urgent transition to a low-carbon economy. This work involves GIS studies of considerably complex problems or GIS support to complex projects. Additionally, this position requires the use of advanced techniques and the modification and extension of theories, precepts, and practices.

*If you'd like to learn more or submit an application, please visit [this webpage](#).*

## Online Training Calendar

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*\*No December classes scheduled at this time; please stay tuned for 2024 offerings!*

### ***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).

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

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