



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.*

FEMA Dam Safety Updates

DSS-WISE™ Lite Updates

DSS-WISE™ Lite is a web-based, automated two-dimensional dam-break flood modeling and mapping system developed by the National Center for Computational Hydroscience and Engineering (NCCHE) at the University of Mississippi. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) supports the development, operation, and maintenance of DSS-WISE™ Lite.

DSS-WISE™ Lite service is accessible to registered users from FEMA, other federal agencies, state dam safety offices, and other designated users via the DSS-WISE™ web portal. DSS-WISE™ Lite Web includes:

- Map Viewer: Provides access to several analytical capabilities.
- Status and Results Page: Manages simulations, views, and monitors results, and downloads final results packages.
- Group Management Page: Allows group managers to manage memberships.
- Resources Page: Contains the manual, tutorials, webinars, and FAQs.

DSS-WISE™ Lite Web has made great progress in simulation modeling and analysis, including integrating watershed modeling methods, improving culvert simulation modeling, developing a hybrid cloud solution for simulations, enhancing the use of the USGS 3D Elevation Program's dataset, enabling the upload of GIS overlay data, updating the back-end system, and creating modules for levee-break inundation mapping and economic consequences.

The team working on DSS-WISE™ Lite Web is also working on big improvements such as modeling cascading dam failures, enhancing watershed modeling for real-time hydrographs, developing a web-based API for DSS-WISE™ Lite results, integrating high-resolution LIDAR elevation data, and expanding the global module for U.S. federal agencies with international applications.

FEMA Releases Updated Glossary of Terms for Dam Safety (P-148)

FEMA has released the updated P-148: Glossary of Terms for Dam Safety. This document is available on FEMA's Dam Safety website and offers significant improvements in accessibility and usability compared to the 2014 version. The updated Glossary of Terms builds on previous editions by providing a modern, accessible tool while enhancing collaboration and consistency across the dam safety community.

The Glossary of Terms provides standardized terminology for dam safety that is applicable across all federal agencies. It includes terms relevant to all dams, regardless of size, ownership, or location, and has served as a foundational resource for dam safety terminology for decades. First published in February 1988, it has been updated and refined over the years by the Interagency Committee on Dam Safety (ICODS) and the National Dam Safety Review Board (NDSRB).

For more information about FEMA's DSS-WISE™ Lite, visit the National Dam Safety Program webpage: <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/risk-management/dam-safety>. A direct link to the DSS-WISE™ Web tool is <https://dsswiseweb.ncche.olemiss.edu/>. To access the updated P-148: Glossary of Terms for Dam Safety, visit FEMA's Dam Safety Federal Guidelines website at <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/risk-management/dam-safety/federal-guidelines>.

FEMA Grants Virtual Training Sessions Open

FEMA is hosting a series of virtual training sessions on the federal procurement rules applicable to recipients and subrecipients purchasing under a FEMA grant award or declaration. These trainings are facilitated by the agency's Grant Programs Directorate Procurement Under Grants Division (PUG) and offered on various dates from January through the end of the year.

More than 50 training sessions are scheduled to cover various procurement under grant concepts, frequent compliance issues, and domestic preference requirements. The sessions will also highlight various user-friendly resources.

These trainings are appropriate for award recipients and subrecipients; federal, state, local, Tribal Nation, and territorial government personnel; nonprofit organization staff; and eligible private entities.

For more information, please visit the Procurement Under Grants Training website: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/procurement/training>.

FEMA GeoConnect Resource Center Available

In August, FEMA released the Floodplain Management GeoConnect Resource Center to serve as a "one-stop shop" for discovering floodplain management and interrelated geo-enabled applications. This data helps communities with their decision making to improve their resilience and safeguard against flooding.

The Resource Center provides specific interactive map applications highlighting flood risk, insurance, building code adoption, endangered species, mitigation, and other topics. This includes geospatial databases pertaining to:

- Effective flood hazard data through the National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL);
- The Endangered Species Act (ESA);
- Building Code Adoption; and
- The Community Rating System (CRS).

The GeoConnect Resource Center website is <https://fpm-fema.hub.arcgis.com/>.

FEMA Updates NFIP Technical Bulletins

In January 2025, FEMA released an updated [National Flood Insurance Program \(NFIP\) Technical Bulletin 2: Flood Damage-Resistant Materials Requirements](#), which replaces the 2008 version. Updates to Technical Bulletin 2 include:

- A brief description of the processes used to identify whether materials are flood damage-resistant, including new ASTM International standards available to assist in the determination.
- Material classifications simplified to rate materials as acceptable or unacceptable for flood damage-resistance.
- The one large flood damage-resistant materials table in the previous TB2 (2008) and been streamlined and reorganized into two tables – one for structural materials and the other for finish materials – to allow users to locate and assess materials more quickly.

At the same time, FEMA released a fact sheet announcing ongoing updates to NFIP Technical Bulletins 1-10. These updates are designed to modernize the Technical Bulletins and streamline their content and presentation. The updated bulletins will:

- Incorporate relevant information from the latest consensus codes.
- Provide updated guidance and best practices observed from post-disaster assessments.
- Update known issues based on input from a wide range of stakeholders.

The FEMA fact sheet explaining the changes to the TBs can found here: https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_update-to-nfip-technical-bulletins.pdf. Access the current version of the Technical Bulletins here: www.fema.gov/nfip-technical-bulletins.

FEMA Building Code Communication Pocket Guide Released

Last month, FEMA published [FEMA P-2420: Building Code Communication Pocket Guide](#). This Pocket Guide provides key messages to encourage the adoption, administration, implementation, and enforcement of up-to-date building codes. It addresses common misunderstandings and provides effective communication strategies for conveying the value of building codes. This document pairs well with the [Building Codes Adoption Playbook](#), which is intended for local officials who want to help their communities increase their resilience by adopting the latest editions of model building codes. Both documents are relevant to Region 10, because while some states have mandatory statewide building codes, others do not.

FEMA studies how natural hazards affect structures and employs leading industry professionals in architecture, engineering, and seismology to create solutions to these challenges. Through research and data, it is proven that natural hazard-resistant building codes save lives and protect structures. [FEMA's Building Science website](#) has resources related to Building Codes. This includes the [Building Science Resource Library](#), which provides a centralized location for users to easily access FEMA's hazard-specific guidance focused on creating disaster-resistant structures and communities.

Updated Flood Resistant Design and Construction ASCE/SEI 24-24

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) recently published the updated Flood Resistant Design and Construction, ASCE/SEI 24-24. This standard provides recommended minimum requirements for designing and constructing structures in flood hazard areas, ensuring safety and compliance with building codes and floodplain management regulations. As with the previous version, ASCE 24-24 meets FEMA's NFIP requirements, protecting public safety and property against flood hazards.

Key updates include:

- Expanding the flood hazard area to include the 500-year floodplains.
- New elevation requirements and flood load calculations.
- Enhanced guidelines for agricultural, healthcare, and mixed-use buildings.
- Improved flood mitigation measures and emergency operation plans.
- New criteria for helical piles, anchors, and the distinction between columns and walls.

To obtain a copy of ASCE 24-24, please visit <https://sp360.asce.org/personifybusiness/Merchandise/Product-Details/productId/318295190>.

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.

Online Training Calendar

(All times Pacific)

Course	Date/Time	Continuing Education Credits (CECs)
STARR II: Preparing for a CAC/CAV	February 27, 10 am	1
STARR II: Tools for Determining BFE	March 6, 10 am	1.5
STARR II: Substantial Damage and DRRA 1206	March 13, 10 am	1.5
STARR II: Coastal Construction Intro	March 20, 10 am	1
STARR II: Permitting Floodplain Development	March 27, 10 am	1
STARR II: Inspecting Floodplain Development	March 27, 11:30 am	1.5



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

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STARR II - Strategic Alliance for Risk Reduction

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