



**2020 Montana Floodplain Resource Seminar  
Empowering Montana to be Disaster Resilient  
September 14-17, 2020**

The Floodplain Resource Seminar offers free training on various topics to Montana’s floodplain professionals and others interested. All sessions will be hosted via Adobe Connect. A link to the seminar will be sent the week prior to the email you provide at registration.

**Please use the link below to register for the Resource Seminar. The registration form will inquire as to which sessions you plan to attend, for example ‘Community Resilience, Part 1’ on Monday morning, however you are welcome to adjust as necessary throughout the week.**

**[Registration Link](#)**

**Monday, 9/14**

**Community Resilience, Part 1**

▶ **Understanding community vulnerabilities to natural disasters**

9:00 am – 10:00 am

**CECs: Pending**

**Presenters**

Natural Hazards Mitigation Association (NHMA) Speakers

**Description**

Promoting natural hazard mitigation and disaster risk reduction begins with understanding community dynamics and vulnerabilities. This session will introduce the NHMA's approach to community resilience, including advocacy for: sharing ideas and experiences; promoting greater awareness of the social, economic, and environmental components of safe and resilient development; and creating more equitable, safe, and sustainable hazard mitigation programs so that that foreseeable natural events do not become disasters.

▶ **Achieving community buy-in for disaster risk reduction**

10:00 am – 11:00 am

**CECs: Pending**

**Presenters**

Natural Hazards Mitigation Association (NHMA) Speakers

**Description**

Incentivizing community resilience can take thoughtful negotiation and outreach. We will discuss basic principles to address the growing toll of disasters, climate change, and safe and sustainable development.

### ▶ Stronger Codes, Stronger DRR

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

**CECs: Pending**

**Presenters**

Natural Hazards Mitigation Association (NHMA) Speakers

**Description**

Strengthening local zoning regulations and building codes provides an opportunity to increase disaster risk reduction and community resilience. We will describe why and how zoning regulations and building codes are developed and identify opportunities to adopt DRR best practices to enhance local planning and building regulations.

### ▶ Risk Assessment Basics

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

**CECs: Pending**

**Presenters**

Natural Hazards Mitigation Association (NHMA) Speakers

**Description**

Risk assessment is an essential element in the disaster risk reduction decision-making process. The objectives of this module include defining risk, explaining the role of benefit-cost analysis in risk assessment, and providing resources and decision tools.

### ▶ Wildfire-Flood Connection

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

**CECs: Pending**

**Presenters**

Natural Hazards Mitigation Association (NHMA) Speakers

**Description**

After a wildfire, flood risk increases during heavy rains because the burned ground is unable to absorb water, producing runoff conditions. This session incorporates perspectives from the western U.S. and other high-risk locations for insights, best practices, and creative funding solutions to encourage communities in addressing the post-fire flood risk, fire-flood connections, and reducing future damage.

Tuesday, 9/15

Mapping, Part 1

▶ **Navigating the alphabet soup of LOMCs**

9:00 am – 10:00 am

**CECs: Pending**

**Presenter**

Tiffany Lyden – Outreach Specialist, MT DNRC Floodplain Program

**Description**

LOMA, LOMR-F, LOMR, CLOMR-F, LOMR-FW, CLOMA, MT-1, MT-2..... What do they all mean? And when do they apply? This presentation will provide an overview of FEMA Letter of Map Changes, including what they are, the purpose behind them, and when they are needed or required. We will give a high-level overview of how LOMCs are submitted, reviewed and finalized, and how to search FEMA's Map Repository or the National Flood Hazard Layer to find LOMCs that have been issued, and why you might need to look for them. The presentation will also discuss ways to understand and explain Letters of Map Change to landowners, elected officials, and clients, without using confusing acronyms or jargon.

▶ **Community responsibilities**

10:00 am – 11:00 am

**CECs: Pending**

**Presenter**

Tom Birney – Natural Hazard Program Specialist, FEMA Region VIII

**Description**

MT-1 Community Acknowledgement Form: Do you know what you have just done? The discussion will be centered on what this form is, who should be signing them and what are the ramifications of signing and not signing the form. We will finish with an overview of an issued determination, what communities should be looking at and what does it potentially mean for a community's ordinance.

## Mapping, Part 2

### ▶ **DNRC Mapping 5-year plan and mapping projects update**

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

**CECs: Pending**

**Presenter**

Doug Brugger – Civil Engineering Specialist, MT DNRC Floodplain Program

**Description**

This session will provide an overview of Montana's floodplain mapping program, and how DNRC works collaboratively with FEMA and communities to update and produce new floodplain maps. We will give an update on current and future floodplain mapping projects around the state and introduce new staff that have joined the DNRC team.

### ▶ **Montana Lidar**

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

**CECs: Pending**

**Presenter**

Katie Shank – Flood Hazard GIS Specialist, MT DNRC Floodplain Program

**Description**

This presentation will go over where lidar has been collected in the state, where people can access/obtain that data, and examples of how lidar can be used. An overview of the State Library's Montana Lidar Inventory web application will show users how to navigate the site and obtain data. There will also be Montana examples of how lidar is being used, including how the DNRC Water Operations Bureau uses it in floodplain mapping.

### ▶ **Floodplain Design, Construction, and Impacts on Flood Insurance**

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

**CECs: 1 AIA-HSW, 1 ICC-CEU, 1 CFM-CEC, or 1 PHD**

**Presenter**

Bryan Christopherson – Flood Mitigation Specialist, Floodproofing.com

**Description**

This session provides insight into the importance of proper foundation flood vents and dry floodproofing techniques for buildings located in a flood zone. It will identify FEMA Technical Bulletins 1,2, and 3, the NFIP, ASCE 24, ICC, and Building Code regulations and standards as they relate to sustaining foundations and overall business continuity in flood hazard areas. This session will also analyze the role of building compliance in securing lower flood insurance rates and what mitigation solutions are available for both residential and non-residential structures.

**Wednesday, 9/16**

**Working in and around floodplains, Part 1**

▶ **How to locate a property on a flood map and use online tools**

9:00 am – 10:00 am

**CECs: To be announced**

**Presenters**

Stephanie Dibetto – Floodplain Management and Insurance Manager, FEMA Region VIII

**Description**

This workshop should provide important information for surveyors, engineers, local officials, and others who work in floodplains as they navigate through the regulatory requirements to reduce flood damage and risk. Topics will include how to: use paper maps, identify if a property is located in the SFHA (FEMA), utilize the FIS, and employ online tools.

▶ **Technical Assistance Program**

10:00 am – 11:00 am

**CECs: To be announced**

**Presenters**

Steve Story – Bureau Chief, MT DNRC Water Operations Bureau  
Traci Sears – NFIP/CAP Coordinator, MT DNRC Floodplain Program  
Ada Montague – Legal Counsel, MT DNRC

**Description**

The DNRC provides technical assistance to communities with limited resources and expertise to help them evaluate sufficiency of floodplain submittals and make sound floodplain management decisions. This session will review the general services provided and the technical review process.

## ▶ **Legal and policy opportunities for disaster risk reduction**

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

**CECs: Pending**

### **Presenters**

Natural Hazards Mitigation Association (NHMA) Speakers

### **Description**

This session is specifically designed to fit into the FEMA Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (aka Risk MAP) vision of using the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) as the basis of future planning and hazard mitigation. Questions considered include: What impediments are there to hazard mitigation, such as perceived legal concerns or external dynamics? What makes sense for pre-disaster preparation for local jurisdictions and insurance requirements of reconstruction? What is the law?

## ▶ **Design for Flood Resilience**

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

**CECs: Pending**

### **Presenters**

Natural Hazards Mitigation Association (NHMA) Speakers

### **Description**

We design for flood resilience to protect communities and regions through (1) floodplain management and (2) flood-resilient design of buildings and infrastructure. This session will include a focus on the special challenges and opportunities in Montana.

## ▶ **Overcoming Impediments to Flood Resilience**

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

**CECs: Pending**

### **Presenters**

Natural Hazards Mitigation Association (NHMA) Speakers

### **Description**

It's critical to understand the limitations of current National Flood Insurance Program mapping in identifying flood risk. This session will explain common impediments to flood resilience and suggest ways to overcome them. Higher standards are a critical part of the long-term solution to flood loss, including the Community Rating System (CRS).

Thursday, 9/17

Levee Workshop

If you'd like to participate in the Levee Workshop, please contact Nadene Wadsworth or DNRC mapping team members:

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