ASFPM
Region 9
Status
Report

Jeanne Ruefer, PMP, CFM, Region 9 Director
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Region 9 Overview

Region 9 represents Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada and the island nations of Guam, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands. It serves a culturally-diverse population in excess of 47 million people and covers almost 400,000 square miles with a breadth of more than 8,000 miles and three time zones, including the international date line. The region’s most common disasters are hurricanes, typhoons and other storms such as atmospheric river events that can cause flooding, flash flooding and landslides. It also experiences earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and wildfires.

Arizona and Region 9 are excited to be the location for ASFPM’s 2018 annual national conference, and appreciate the opportunity to highlight some of the unique features of our western environment.

Disasters

In the winter of 2017-2018, Region 9 experienced a series of devastating fire disasters in northern and southern California, with fires starting in wildland-urban interface areas, and moving into densely populated urban environments, burning more than 500,000 acres, and claiming 40 lives. The fires were followed by flooding, which resulted in a severe mudslide in Santa Barbara, California, in which dozens of homes were lost and a major coastal highway was closed for several weeks. In addition to these fire-followed-by-flood disasters, the islands of Kauai and Hawaii have been devastated by flooding and a volcanic eruption that is claiming subdivisions house by house. The economic damage from these disasters have yet to be fully evaluated.

NFIP, CRS and Mapping

California continues to express interest in exemptions to the NFIP requirements for agricultural structures in the floodplains, and is planning to conduct panel discussions on this topic at the annual Floodplain Management Association conference in September.

Arizona has expressed concerns about clusters of CRS retrogrades, specifically in points awarded in CRS section 610, regarding early warning systems.

Mitigation Plans

All of the states in Region 9 are updating their Hazard Mitigation Plans this year. Region 9 has two out of the 12 states with Enhanced Plans, which makes these states eligible for up to 20% of eligible federal funding for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, instead of the standard plans 15%. All plans are scheduled to be referred to FEMA for review and approval before the end of September.
Additional information and resources from California

1. California Flood Preparedness Week (CFPW) – Oct. 20-26, 2018*
   a. [https://www.water.ca.gov/What-We-Do/Flood-Preparedness/Flood-Preparedness-Week](https://www.water.ca.gov/What-We-Do/Flood-Preparedness/Flood-Preparedness-Week)
   b. Statewide Kickoff Call on Thursday, May 31, 2018, 9 am – 10 am, via Eventbrite
   c. CFPW Events (3) in planning phase
      i. Northern, Central and Southern California

2. Watershed University – May 30, 2018*
   a. Jim Eto, NFIP Overview, Noon – 1 p.m.
   b. 1 CEC credit for CFM available
   c. [https://www.water.ca.gov/Programs/Flood-Management/Community-Resources/Watershed-University](https://www.water.ca.gov/Programs/Flood-Management/Community-Resources/Watershed-University)

3. Post-Wildfire/Flood after Fire*
   a. Draft of Post-Wildfire Guidebook – late May/early June
      i. [http://www.readyforwildfire.org/](http://www.readyforwildfire.org/)
   b. Begin Flood after Fire Brochure after Guidebook
      i. Final FAF Brochure should be ready for CA Flood Preparedness Week

4. California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services – Extension of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Notice of Interest submittal deadline for December 2017 wildfires, now June 15, 2018
   a. Increase in funding from $189 Million to $333 Million
   b. See May 2018 update in the link below

5. Flood Risk Notification flyer (to 17 northern California counties in the Levee Flood Protection Zone) is undergoing a redesign for the look and feel, not content. The CRS information will still be included.
   a. [https://www.water.ca.gov/Programs/Flood-Management/Community-Resources/Flood-Risk](https://www.water.ca.gov/Programs/Flood-Management/Community-Resources/Flood-Risk)

6. FEMA’s Collaborative Technical Assistance for a flood/dam safety workshop in California is tentatively scheduled for June 2018.
   a. Shared ASFPM 2013 documents and other flood/dam materials with planning CTA team
http://www.floods.org/ace-files/Projects/DamRiskReductionStrategy_20130722_FINAL.pdf

7. 2018 CA/NV/HI Floodplain Management Association conference, www.floodplain.org, includes:
   a. Larry Larson Speakers Series plenary session
   b. Agricultural Floodplain Panel
   c. Three separate, but coordinated Flood/Dam Risk Safety Panels
   d. Flood after Fire Panel, and more.