

Natural Hazard Mitigation Association

Welcome to the September edition of our member newsletter!

RNN Community Member Mary Kell is one of three AIA representatives attending Habitat III

Every 20 years, the United Nations has a conference to discuss the future of cities. So far, it appears almost no mayors from America will attend, but our RNN community member Mary Kell will be in attendance!

[Click here to read more](#)

NHMA Blog

Be sure to check out our [latest blog](#) from our Tulsa, Oklahoma RNN community!

Free Building Codes Webinar- October 5th

Purpose: Building codes are regulations governing design, construction, alteration, and maintenance of structures, and are the foundation for community resilience. This webinar will provide an overview of the building code pertaining to earthquake effects on

UPCOMING EVENTS

10/5/16
Building
Codes
Webinar

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buildings and underline the importance of code adoption and enforcement.

This webinar is intended for a non-technical audience, and in particular, decision makers, such as city officials. Engineers and building professionals who are interested in communicating the importance of building codes to decision-makers may also find this webinar useful.

Webinar Presenter: Michael J. Griffin, P.E. is a Principal and Partner at CCS Group, Inc. in Chesterfield, Missouri. Griffin has over thirty years of extensive experience in the assessment of natural hazards—earthquake and high wind, for structures and nonstructural components, equipment, and systems. Griffin routinely provides training and education sessions to engineers, management personnel, and students in natural hazards and risk assessments. He holds both a Master and Bachelor of Science degree from the University of California, Irvine and is registered as a licensed Professional Engineer in seven states.

Professional Development Hours (PDHs). Each participant of this webinar will receive a certificate in PDF format documenting 1.5 PDHs. Each additional participant sharing the registrant's computer may request PDH documentation following the webinar.

[Click here to register](#)

**New Policy Report Highlighting Five
River-Smart Recommendations**

Released

In the publication Supporting New England Communities to Become River-Smart: Policies and Programs that can Help New England Towns Thrive Despite River Floods, **published September 1, 2016 by Eve Vogel and her UMass Amherst RiverSmart project colleagues**, residents, as well as the governments that serve them can learn how to better deal with and adjust to river floods. The report points to practical policy solutions at federal, state and regional levels that can support New England communities to become what we call *river-smart*.

Five policy changes are identified and discussed in detail:

- 1. Develop Fluvial Hazard Assessments**
- 2. Upgrade Vulnerable Stream Crossing Infrastructure**
- 3. Support River-Smart Planning and Mitigation**
- 4. Provide Outreach and Training on River Dynamics and River-Smart Practice**
- 5. Designate, Recognize and Support River-Smart Regional Intermediaries**

Project Principal Investigator Eve Vogel said: "We intend this summary report to be widely comprehensible and useful to people who care about New England's communities and their abilities to withstand and manage river floods."

The report can be downloaded in low or high resolution [here](#).

Why current disaster planning doesn't cut it, and what we can do instead

The flood waters have receded in southeastern Louisiana, revealing a landscape etched by loss. The torrential rains that began on Aug 11 cost 13 people their lives, and damaged some 160,000 buildings — many irreparably. In the hardest-hit areas, such as Livingston Parish, three quarters of homes are considered a "total loss"

Worse, many of those who lost their homes did not have flood insurance. Even in the parts of Louisiana at highest risk of flooding, only 42 percent of homeowners are insured. But the floods of August deluged so-called low- and moderate-risk areas, where only 12.5% carry insurance.

[Click here to learn more](#)

FEMA Seeks Applicants for Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) Subcommittee of the FEMA National Advisory Council

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is accepting applications for individuals to serve on the new Integrated Public Alert and Warning System, or IPAWs, subcommittee of the [National Advisory Council \(NAC\)](#).

As mandated in the IPAWs Modernization Act of 2015, the subcommittee will develop and submit recommendations for an improved integrated public alert and warning system to the NAC. The subcommittee will consider common alerting and warning protocols, standards, terminology, and operating procedures to ensure standards and

operating procedures exist for a national public alert warning system.

[Click here to learn more](#)

**WHITE HOUSE FACT SHEET:
Launching New Public-Private
Partnership and Announcing Joint
Declaration on Leveraging Open
Data for Climate Resilience**

Even as the United States and the international community act to curb the carbon pollution that is driving climate change, citizens and communities need to prepare for the current and future impacts of a changing climate and work with partners around the world to do the same. That is why, over the last seven and a half years, the Obama Administration has worked to advance the development and provision of data, information, tools, and technical assistance to support climate preparedness and resilience efforts both domestically and internationally.

Today, to continue these efforts, the Administration is launching the Partnership for Resilience and Preparedness (PREP), a public-private collaboration among Federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, private-sector companies, and civil-society organizations. The partnership will identify priority-information needs, reduce barriers to data access and usability, and develop an open-source platform to enable sharing and learning on the availability and use of data and information for climate resilience.

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