

Building Code Initiative Helps Boost Resilience in American Samoa

Unexpected interruptions like a fire alarm, power outage, or even breaking news are sometimes a part of the routine business day. But there was nothing routine for FLASH SVP Mike Rimoldi while he was nearly 7,000 miles away in American Samoa last month. Mike was teaching a seismic building code training course when the students requested a 30-minute break to follow the [fautasi](#) race, a sport where longboats powered by oars compete.

American Samoa interest in fautasi is similar to the United States interest in the World Series.

Mike was in American Samoa to deliver training on seismic building safety as well as to dialogue about how American Samoa can update building codes and standards to maximize public safety. Over the three-day visit, Mike met and worked with 30 attendees, including American Samoa's Director and Deputy Director of Homeland Security, the Deputy Director of Public Works, the Director of Building Services, and many staff.

"Building safer structures is important anywhere in the world, especially in an area which lives under the ever-present risk of seismic activity," Rimoldi said. "Not unlike where I live in Florida, we don't always get hurricanes, but we must be ready for them by building resilient structures and ensuring codes are up to date."

Editor's Note: Mike is now a bona fide fan of fautasi!