FEMA Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) Toolkit 6.0 Release Notes

July 31, 2020

What's new

- A recent Microsoft Office update affected the Import, Export, and Print Report features in the desktop version of Microsoft Excel. This update fixes those issues. Directions for using these features are in the Help content in the BCA Toolkit, which may be accessed by clicking the "i" on the Home screen.
- This update includes a batch template feature that can be utilized to create and import projects with large numbers of structures. For details, see the Help content in the BCA Toolkit.
- The BCA Toolkit now incorporates the Landslide Acquisition Calculator for residential structures.
- The General Services Administration (GSA) federal mileage rate has been updated to the 2020 rate of $0.575 per mile.
- Some standard values have been updated, as follows:
  - Value of lost time (per hour) (used in the Roads/Bridges detour cost): $34.72
  - Value of Statistical Life (per person): $7,500,000
  - Value of electrical service (per person per day): $174
  - Value of wastewater service (per person per day): $58
  - Value of potable water service (per person per day): $114
- GSA lodging rates for continental United States locations are location-specific and auto-populated.
- Displacement costs for non-residential structures are now auto-calculated. The Help content has more information on calculating displacement costs for non-residential structures.
- Users now have the option to enter only three (3) known Recurrence Intervals (RIs) in the Riverine and Coastal Flood modeled damages modules.
- The Annualized Benefits display has been updated for Historical and Professional Expected Damages to more accurately display the Recurrence Intervals calculated using the Unknown Frequency Calculator.

Important notes

- You should submit both the (1) PDF report <u>and</u> (2) the exported project file(s) (can be .xlsx, text, or .zip) with your project application.
- Version 6.0 is not recommended for use on iOS devices.

Known issues

- Some users are experiencing issues installing and launching the BCA Toolkit add-in, usually due to security settings on the user's machine. If you are having issues launching the BCA Toolkit in Excel desktop, FEMA recommends using it in [Excel Online](#).
- To save your work, you must save the Excel file after closing the add-in. Files with large numbers of projects may take several seconds to save. FEMA recommends using the AutoSave feature if available.

Technical assistance

- FEMA's BCA Helpline is available to provide assistance using the BCA Toolkit. The Helpline's hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (EST) Monday through Friday. Questions may be directed to bchelpline@fema.dhs.gov or by calling toll free at 1-855-540-6744.
- The BCA Helpline cannot review, perform, or adjudicate BCAs. Assistance requests in reviewing or performing BCAs and eligibility or policy questions should be directed to the [local State Hazard Mitigation Officer](#).