

MEMORANDUM FOR: All FEMA Employees

FROM: W. Craig Fugate /s/
Administrator

SUBJECT: Update on the Ongoing Government Shutdown

I am writing to update you as we enter the second day of the government's lapse of appropriations. Yesterday thousands of FEMA employees paid from annual appropriations received furlough notices and spent several hours performing an orderly shutdown of their activities. Other employees funded by non-lapsing appropriations, or with certain exempted responsibilities, remained at work.

Rich Serino and I tried to speak personally with as many employees as we could and while it was a difficult day for the entire FEMA team, I was very impressed with the professionalism all FEMA employees showed. I want to reiterate my earlier message that you are all essential to the execution of FEMA's mission, and regardless of your status during this lapse in appropriations, you are critically important to the nation.

Because of our unique emergency management mission, furloughed employees were informed they may passively monitor their FEMA-issued mobile devices for updates and recall notices, but they may not log in to the FEMA network and they may not do any work. In the event of an emergency, we are in a position to recall furloughed employees and would notify them right away.

Those members of the leadership team who were not furloughed will continue to work hard to keep everyone informed as we learn new information. Below please find links to the many resources that are available to help during this time of uncertainty:

Status of FY 2014 Appropriations

- The lapse and furloughs continue

Employee Resources:

- For any specific questions, please email lapse@fema.dhs.gov and we will get back to you with responses as soon as possible.
- We have established a resource page on [fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) (outside of the firewall) that you can access at <http://www.fema.gov/lapse-appropriations-employee-resource-page>
- OPM is continuing to update guidance on shut-down furloughs on its website <http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/furlough-guidance/#url=Shutdown-Furlough>
- The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is available for employees to get counseling or advice as needed. Employees can call (800) 222-0364 or (888) 262-7848 (TTY) from anywhere in the United States to receive immediate assistance, 24-hours a day, 365 days a year. You can also

obtain information and resources online at the Federal Occupational health website at <http://www.foh.hhs.gov/services/eap/eap.asp>

- For those that have contributed to the federal Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), you may be able to take advantage of a general purpose loan. Visit www.tsp.gov for more information on this program.

Please know that your continued dedication to our country is deeply appreciated.

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