

October 10, 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR: All FEMA Employees

FROM: Rich Serino /s/
Deputy Administrator

SUBJECT: Shutdown Update

Yesterday, Administrator Fugate and I went up to visit our colleagues at the National Processing Service Center (NPSC) in Hyattsville, Maryland. Day in and day out this team works directly with disaster survivors, which is the main priority during the government shutdown. Most of our activities are limited to the protection of life and property, including supporting the immediate needs of survivors. The work the NPSC team does is critically important and reinforces the importance of ensuring we keep our focus on being able to respond when the nation calls. This work, however is just one piece of the vital mission every FEMA employee contributes to and I know that the 86% of our permanent workforce that has been furloughed shares this dedication to survivors and to FEMA's mission to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

Things are definitely not business as usual around here – for example, just today we had to cancel the FEMA National Advisory Council meeting scheduled for next week – and we are all eagerly awaiting the end of this shutdown and the return of our colleagues. Until that time, everyone should know that help exists for those who need it, especially as employees begin to feel the financial impacts of the shutdown. The websites noted below contain some new information to assist employees. We have posted a letter employees can provide to creditors explaining the shutdown is having a financial impact and asking for flexibility in paying bills, information about applying for unemployment insurance, guidance on flexibility in paying certain Travel Card bills, and a link to the Thrift Saving Plan for employees eligible to take out a personal loan.

Thank you all for your patience and dedication to service during this tough time.

Rich

Please see the links below for more information.

Status of FY 2014 Appropriations

- The lapse and furloughs continue

Employee Resources:

- For specific employee 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/lapse-appropriations-employee-resource-page) (outside of the firewall) that you can access at <http://www.fema.gov/lapse-appropriations-employee-resource-page>

- FEMA has posted Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) regarding the Lapse on fema.net (inside the firewall) that you can access at <http://on.fema.net/components/msb/Federal%20Emergency%20Management%20Administration%20FEMA%20D/FAQ%20-%20FEMA%20Lapse%20in%20Appropriations%20-%2010-04-13.pdf>
- 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.