



FEMA

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN

WEEK OF MARCH 17, 2014
Comments Are Requested On:

[Proposed Flood Hazard Determinations](#)

(Due March 27, 2014)

[New Tribal Consultation Policy](#)

(Due March 31, 2014)

[Hazard Mitigation Grant Program](#)

(Due May 12, 2014)

FEMA, Federal Agencies Host Webinar for First America's PrepareAthon! National Day of Action

In an effort to continue building resilience, the federal family is pleased to announce America's PrepareAthon!, a community-based campaign to increase emergency preparedness at the grassroots level in support of Presidential Policy Directive (PPD-8), National Preparedness. More information about America's PrepareAthon! can be found at Ready.gov/prepare.

The first America's PrepareAthon! national day of action is **April 30, 2014**. It will focus on preparing organizations and individuals for tornadoes, hurricanes, flooding and wild fires. America's PrepareAthon! events and activities will be held across the country twice a year to organize community days of action and encourage individuals to discuss, practice and train for relevant hazards. The national days of action will be held in the spring and fall this year.

In preparation for America's PrepareAthon!'s first national day of action, FEMA and participating federal agencies supporting America's PrepareAthon! invite organizations to participate in a webinar to learn about the campaign and ways to be involved. It will be hosted on **Thursday, March 20, from 4-5:30 p.m. EDT**. Participants must [register](#) for the [webinar](#). For more information, please email PrepareAthon@fema.dhs.gov.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Open Comment Period Begins

Last week, FEMA issued an advance notice of proposed rulemaking and is seeking public comment on implementing a provision of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act regarding State administration of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). The HMGP provides grants to state, local, tribal and territorial governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration.

The HMGP is intended to reduce the loss of life and property resulting from natural disasters and help fund mitigation measures during recovery from a disaster. The new provision directs FEMA to establish criteria to delegate authority to states to administer HMGP. FEMA is seeking input from the public to help inform the development of this new method of program delivery.

Interested persons are invited to participate in this rulemaking by submitting written data, views or arguments on all aspects of the advance notice of proposed rulemaking. FEMA specifically invites comments that relate to the economic, environmental or federalism effects that might result from implementation of any final rule.

[Comments are due on or before May 12, 2014.](#)

FEMA's Office of External Affairs provides this bulletin to highlight recent and upcoming program and policy activities and announcements. Feedback is welcome at

fema-ea-bulletin@fema.dhs.gov.

Open Joint Field Offices

AK, AR, CA, CO, KS, MO, NM, NY, OK, SD, TX

[Learn more.](#)

Preparedness and Mitigation Grants

The latest news on grants that may be available to your community:

[Preparedness](#),
[Assistance to Firefighters](#),
[Hazard Mitigation](#).

FEMA Blog What We're Watching

- With spring just around the corner, there is an increased risk of flooding due to heavier rainfall and melting snow.
- [Read more.](#)

Advisories/Consultations:

New Tribal Consultation Policy

FEMA has developed a proposed Tribal Consultation Policy, which will establish a process to guide FEMA officials on how to engage Indian tribes and Tribal Officials in regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration on actions that have tribal implications. FEMA is currently seeking feedback from all federally recognized tribes on this proposed consultation policy.

[Comments are due on or before March 31, 2014.](#)

This newsletter is not intended to provide a comprehensive list of policies that are open for public comment, nor does it describe all of the instructions or requirements necessary to submit a comment. For a complete list of instructions and deadlines please click the hyperlinks included.

Open For Public Comment: Proposed Flood Hazard Determinations

Comments are requested on proposed flood hazard determinations, which may include additions or modifications of any Base Flood Elevation (BFE), base flood depth, Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) boundary or zone designation, or regulatory floodway on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), and where applicable, in the supporting Flood Insurance Study (FIS) reports.

This notice seeks general information and comment regarding the preliminary FIRM, and where applicable, the FIS report that FEMA has provided to the affected communities.

The FIRM and FIS report are the basis of the floodplain management measures that the community is required either to adopt, or to show evidence of having in effect, in order to qualify or remain qualified for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). In addition, the FIRM and FIS reports will be used by insurance agents and others to calculate appropriate flood insurance premium rates for new buildings and their contents.

[Comments are due on or before March 27, 2014.](#)

National Flood Safety Awareness Week

During National Flood Safety Awareness Week, **March 16-22, 2014**, NOAA and FEMA are highlighting the importance of preparing for a flood before it strikes and teaching the actions you should take when faced with a flooding situation.

This week, we ask that you **Be a Force of Nature** by knowing your risk, taking action and being an example where you live. Following these simple steps year round could help keep you and your loved ones safe when flooding occurs. Keep tabs on the local forecast, create an emergency supplies kit, and alert others via texts and social media when a flood threat or other hazardous weather threat exists.

Each year, many people are injured or worse because they underestimate the risk of driving through a flooded roadway. It's important to remind the public: [Turn Around Don't Drown](#) at flooded roadways. Help the National Weather Service and FEMA build a Weather-Ready Nation, one that is prepared for flooding whenever and wherever it occurs.

For more information on how you can *Be a Force of Nature* please visit [Ready.gov](#) and [NOAA](#).

EMI Hosts New Course on Community Dam Safety, Preparedness and Mitigation

FEMA's National Dam Safety Program is piloting a new course at the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) on May 12-15. The course, "E0291 Community Dam Safety, Preparedness & Mitigation," will focus on how communities can work together to reduce the effects of potential dam failure by increasing preparedness, reducing potential consequences, improving communications and land use planning.

The target audience for this course is Community Land Use Planners, Community Leaders, Transportation Planners, Emergency Management Personnel, Emergency Planners, Emergency Service Providers, Dam Safety Officials, Dam Owners and Dam Operators. Participants will be instructed on how to work together through upfront planning to reduce the risks and mitigate the consequences resulting from a dam failure, and recover more effectively in the event of a failure.

Applications for the course are due by April 12.

Interested participants for the course need to fill out a FEMA Form 119-25-1, General Admissions Application and submit it to the National Emergency Training Center Admissions Office. More information on how to submit an application is available [online](#).

National Alert and Warning System Wins Award for "Greatest Citizen Impact"

FEMA's Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) Program Management Office (PMO) was honored with the "Greatest Citizen Impact Award" for its IPAWS system by the American Council for Technology's (ACT's) Industry Advisory Council (IAC) at their Igniting Innovation Showcase in Washington, D.C. As the winner of the "Greatest Citizen Impact" Award, the IPAWS PMO has been invited to attend an ACT-IAC panel on March 19 to speak about IPAWS to 300 government and industry members.

IPAWS is a National Alert and Warning system for use by state, local, territorial, tribal and federal public alerting authorities to send emergency alerts to citizens. IPAWS receives and authenticates the messages transmitted by the alerting authorities. At the same time, IPAWS routes the messages through a single interface to various systems such as the Emergency Alert System for radio and television, the Wireless Emergency Alerts, or WEAs, sent by participating mobile carriers directly to cell phones, NOAA Weather Radio and other public alerting systems.

More information on the IPAWS system and Wireless Emergency Alerts is available [online](#).

FEMA's Office of External Affairs serves to maintain visibility regarding public and internal communications; coordinate routine and special communications; and ensure accurate, useful, timely, synchronized, targeted communication.

