



FEMA

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN

WEEK OF MARCH 24, 2014
Important Dates and Deadlines:

[Emergency Management Performance Grant Program](#)
(Applications Due April 9, 2014)

[New Tribal Consultation Policy](#)
(Comments Due March 31, 2014)

[FY 14 Preparedness Grants](#)
(Applications Due May 23, 2014)

Funding Opportunity Announcements for FY14 Preparedness Grants

Last week, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced the release of FY 2014 Funding Opportunity Announcements for six DHS preparedness grant programs totaling over \$1.6 billion. The homeland security grants assist states, urban areas, tribal and territorial governments and nonprofit organizations as well as the private sector to strengthen our nation's ability to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies in support of the National Preparedness Goal (NPG) and the National Preparedness System.

Completed final applications for these six preparedness grants are due no later than **11:59 p.m. Eastern daylight time (EDT), May 23, 2014.**

Earlier this month, DHS/FEMA also released the Funding Opportunity Announcement for the FY 2014 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) program.

The total amount of funds to be distributed under the FY 2014 EMPG program will be \$350,100,000. In FY 2014, the EMPG Program provides \$350,000,000 to assist state, local, territorial and tribal governments in preparing for all hazards. The Federal government, through the EMPG Program, provides necessary assistance, as authorized, to assist state emergency management agencies in obtaining the resources required to support the NPG's associated Mission Areas and Core Capabilities.

Pursuant to Article X of the Federal Programs and Services Agreement of the Compact of Free Association Act (Pub. L. No. 108-188), \$100,000 is available from the Disaster Relief Fund for the Federated States of Micronesia and for the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Completed applications for the EMPG must be submitted no later than 11:59 PM EDT, April 9, 2014.

Funding opportunity announcements for FY 2014 preparedness grants and EMPG are available at www.grants.gov. For more information, please visit www.fema.gov/grants.

NOAA Spring Outlook Released

NOAA has released the annual [Spring Outlook](#), which identifies areas at risk of spring flooding and expectations for temperature, precipitation and drought from April through June.

According to the outlook, rivers in half of the continental United States are at minor or moderate risk of exceeding flooding levels. The highest threat of flooding is in the Great Lakes region due to above-average snowpack and a deep layer of frozen ground. Drought is also expected to continue in California and the Southwest.

For more information about the Spring Outlook please visit NOAA.gov or view the [Spring Outlook 2014 video](#).

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.

FEMA Blog Got 5 Minutes? Get Flood Safety 101

Quick trivia question: what's the most common disaster in the U.S. that impacts the most people year after year? The answer: Flooding.
[Read more.](#)

Open Joint Field Offices

AK, AR, CA, CO, GA, 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](#)

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.

FEMA to Host Virtual Public Meetings on National Flood Insurance Program Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, specifically directs federal agencies to thoroughly assess the environmental consequences of major federal actions that could significantly affect the environment. Because changes to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) are a major federal action, FEMA is undertaking the preparation of a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

In adherence to this law, FEMA is preparing the Impact Statement to evaluate the NFIP as it is currently implemented. The NFIP consists of three primary elements: mapping, floodplain management, and insurance. The modifications included in the Impact Statement may cover some or all of these elements.

Scoping efforts have been ongoing and FEMA is currently soliciting feedback from the public. FEMA will consider these comments, in combination with stakeholder input provided through previous and planned NFIP listening sessions, modifications to the program since the last Impact Statement was completed, and recent legislation changes in the development of the draft Impact Statement. Ultimately, the Impact Statement will chart the course for the Agency's considerations of environmental impacts in future NFIP rulemaking.

FEMA will hold virtual public meetings to provide information and take public comments on the NFIP PEIS. The meetings will be structured, as webinars, and will be held on April 22, 2014, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. EDT; May 13, 2014, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. EDT; and May 20, 2014, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. EDT. Information on the NFIP PEIS and instructions for online webinar registration are available on the [website](#).

Karen Armes Named Acting Regional Administrator of Region IX

Karen Armes has been named the Acting Regional Administrator following the departure of Nancy Ward, who has served FEMA at headquarters and Region IX, located in Oakland, California, over the last thirteen years. Ward was integral to the day-to-day operations and management of the agency during the last Presidential transition.

"Her contributions have been felt across FEMA," Michael Coen, FEMA Chief of Staff, noted. "We thank Ms. Ward for her service to the Agency over the past thirteen years. We wish her the very best in her next endeavors."

Armes has been the Acting FEMA Regional Administrator for Region IX since Sunday, March 9. Armes joined the Region in 1995, and has served as the Deputy Regional Administrator since December 2000.

Countdown to America's PrepareAthon!

The first [America's PrepareAthon!](#) national day of action is fast approaching. On **April 30**, individuals and organizations such as schools, universities, workplaces, houses of worship and community-based organizations will take part in a range of activities to prepare for disasters.

In support of Presidential Policy Directive (PPD-8), National Preparedness, America's PrepareAthon! provides specific action-driven guidance for the public. This spring, the focus for participants will be to learn protective actions, mitigation measures and emergency plans for a: **tornado, hurricane, flood and wildfire**.

Learn about America's PrepareAthon! at www.ready.gov/prepare or on Twitter using the [@PrepareAthon](#) handle. For more information contact PrepareAthon@fema.dhs.gov.

National Tsunami Awareness Week

During National Tsunami Awareness Week, **March 23-29, 2014**, NOAA is highlighting the importance of tsunami preparedness, knowing your tsunami risk and tsunami safety.

Help the National Weather Service and FEMA build a Weather-Ready Nation. For more information please visit [NOAA](#).

The mission of the Office of External Affairs (OEA) is to engage, inform, and educate all of FEMA's stakeholders in support of the Agency's programs and initiatives to achieve its mission. OEA accomplishes its mission by coordinating and maintaining visibility of public and internal communications; advising FEMA program and support offices on decision-making regarding policies, plans, and actions that affect stakeholder, media, and Congressional audiences; and organizing outreach efforts targeted at principal stakeholders to include local, state, territorial, and tribal governments, the private sector, national organizations and associations, and the American public.



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Office of External Affairs