



FEMA

# EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN

Week of April 14, 2014  
Important Dates and Deadlines:

[PrepareAthon! National Day of Action](#)  
(April 30, 2014)

[Hazard Mitigation Grant Program](#)  
(Due May 12, 2014)

[FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Awards](#)  
(Due May 30, 2014)

## White House Hosts America's PrepareAthon! Google+ Hangout: Registration Period Opens

On Monday, April 7, 2014, Administrator Fugate joined The Weather Channel, the American Association of Retired Persons and emergency management professionals from across the country in a [Google+ Hangout](#) at the White House to discuss the importance of participating in or hosting your own community event for America's PrepareAthon!'s April 30<sup>th</sup> National Day of Action. Viewers submitted questions through Twitter and received answers from the participating panelists.

All of the speakers discussed the empowering opportunity that the National Day of Action presents for families and communities to come together to build kits and practice their plans for natural hazards such as; tornados, wildfires, hurricanes and flooding.



FEMA Administrator W. Craig Fugate and White House Adviser Paulette Aniskoff answer questions during the America's PrepareAthon! Google+ Hangout.

Describing why he believes every community should participate in preparedness events during the National Day of Action, a local emergency manager explained that "Preparedness is not an event...it's a process. America's PrepareAthon! gives...tools to...encourage action. Having information, being aware, is great. Having a plan is better, but putting a plan into practice...really is the process that we need."

There is still time to host or organize an event for the National Day of Action, which takes place on April 30. Looking for ideas on what to host? Visit the event calendar and see what other communities already are planning. Once you have decided on an event, register it so that other members of your community can find it and other communities can be inspired. [How are you going to participate?](#)

## 2014 FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Awards Application Period Now Open

FEMA announced that the application period for the 2014 Individual and Community Preparedness Awards is now open. The awards highlight innovative local practices and achievements by recognizing individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions toward making their communities safer, stronger, better prepared, and more resilient.

To be considered for this year's awards, all submissions must be received by **May 30, 2014 at 11:59 p.m. EDT**, and must feature program activities taking place between January 1, 2013 and May 30, 2014. Winners will be announced in Fall 2014, and will be FEMA's honored guests at a community preparedness roundtable event. The winner of the "Preparing the Whole Community" category will receive the John D. Solomon Whole Community Preparedness Award.

Please visit [www.ready.gov/citizen-corps/citizen-corps-awards](http://www.ready.gov/citizen-corps/citizen-corps-awards) for more information about the awards and instructions for submitting an application.

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](mailto:fema-ea-bulletin@fema.dhs.gov).

**Open Joint Field Offices**  
AK, CO, GA, NC, NM, OK, SC, VT  
[Learn more.](#)

## Empower Your Community Through America's PrepareAthon!

**Participant Spotlight**  
*Be Ready Sunday* encourages faith based organizations from across the United States to develop and test a Fire Evacuation Plan for their house of worship.

[How are you going to participate?](#)

## Seeking Input on Tribal Declarations Pilot Guidance

In January 2013, the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act (SRIA) provided federally recognized Indian tribal governments (tribal governments) the option to request a Presidential emergency or major disaster declaration independently of a state. To implement this historic provision, FEMA is initiating a second round of consultation on the working draft of the Tribal Declarations Pilot Guidance with tribal governments, conducting working meetings across the country to collect thoughts and comments from tribal governments.

Comments on the working draft of the [Tribal Declarations Pilot Guidance](#) can be sent to [tribalconsultation@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:tribalconsultation@fema.dhs.gov). More information about this consultation is available at [www.fema.gov/tribal](http://www.fema.gov/tribal).

Together, we can support Indian Country in their efforts to build more resilient and better prepared communities.

If you have any questions, contact FEMA's Intergovernmental Affairs Division at (202) 646-3444 or [FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov).

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.

### **iTEMA Brings Tribal Emergency Managers Together**

The national [Tribal Emergency Management Association](#) (iTEMA) held its Annual Conference in El Cajon, California, from March 19-21, 2014. The conference brought together over 100 tribal leaders, emergency managers, public safety officials and tribal, state and federal partners from across the country. Attendees learned about the latest developments, trends, and efforts in emergency management and preparedness in Indian country.

FEMA-specific sessions included a discussion by FEMA Region IX Regional Tribal Liaison Heather Duschell and Emergency Management Specialist Al Ball on FEMA programs available to assist tribes before, during and after a disaster, and training opportunities for tribes. In addition, Intergovernmental Affairs Acting Director Bob Nadeau and Special Advisor for National Tribal Affairs Richard Flores listened to tribal comments about the [proposed tribal consultation policy](#). David Myers, Senior Advisor to the Administrator and Director of DHS's Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, spoke about Administrator Fugate's commitment to regular and meaningful [engagement with tribes](#).

FEMA representatives discussed tribal issues and concerns with iTEMA President Jake Heflin of Osage Nation. They met with many tribal leaders and emergency management officials to hear their ideas as they seek to build a stronger and better prepared Indian country and strengthen their government to government relationship with FEMA and other federal partners.

### **FEMA 101: National Fire Academy**

FEMA's U.S. Fire Administration National Fire Academy (NFA) is the nation's premier training entity for America's first responders. Located at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland, the NFA works closely with national fire and emergency medical services stakeholders as well as numerous federal and state partners to ensure a dynamic and responsive curriculum of study. The NFA and its state training partners has for four decades delivered executive level leadership and technical training at no cost to first responders. Last year, NFA and its state- and local partner agencies trained more than 104,000 students nationwide.

Recently, NFA announced the addition of a new training curriculum called "Managing Officer Program" that will enhance first responder adaptive leadership and technical skills in accordance with NFA's Congressional mandate to "improve the professionalism of America's fire service." The program targets 800 in-residence students per year who will leverage their NFA training and education at the state and local level to reach and influence a significant portion to the national estimated 1.1 million first responders.

One of NFA's mission goals is to increase all-hazard community risk reduction efforts at the local level. Numerous courses address the emerging trend of fire and emergency medical services providing proactive risk reduction strategies rather than simply respond to emergencies. Thousands of the nation's estimated 32,000 fire departments are expanding their roles in disaster-related emergency management to include child car safety seat inspections, fall prevention programs for the elderly and functional needs populations, and non-emergent medical treatment. NFA training programs support those efforts and help local agencies succeed.

For additional information and a course catalog, please visit the U.S. Fire Administration website at [www.usfa.dhs.gov](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov)

### **Reminder: National Preparedness Grant Application Period Still Open**

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 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 and the National Preparedness System.

**Completed final applications for these six preparedness grants are due no later than 11:59 p.m. EDT, May 23, 2014.** Funding opportunity announcements for FY 2014 preparedness grants are available at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). For more information, please visit [www.fema.gov/grants](http://www.fema.gov/grants).

### **Reminder: Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Open Comment Period Still Open**

FEMA has 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 \(HMGP\)](#).

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.](#)**

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