



FEMA

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN

Week of May 5, 2014
Important Dates and Deadlines:

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

[National Preparedness Grants](#)
(May 23, 2014)

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

FEMA Appoints National Tribal Affairs Advisor

Mr. Milo Booth was appointed as the National Tribal Affairs Advisor (NTAA) in FEMA's Office of External Affairs. As the NTAA, Mr. Booth will lead the new Tribal Affairs Branch in Intergovernmental Affairs and serve as a key advisor on tribal affairs to senior FEMA leadership as the agency implements the tribal provision of the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act and works collaboratively with tribes to strengthen government-to-government relations. Mr. Booth joins FEMA on May 22.

Mr. Booth will work closely with FEMA programs to ensure visibility of tribal concerns and will be a direct partner with national associations that represent tribal interests. As the NTAA, he will assist FEMA's internal Tribal Integration Group to assess, coordinate and advise the impact of current and proposed policies or actions on tribes. He will also help to continue to ensure real and meaningful engagement takes place with tribes and assist FEMA programs with implementation of the proposed Tribal Consultation Policy.

An Alaska Native and a member of the Metlakatla Indian Community, Mr. Booth served his community as Director of Forestry and Land Resources for 16 years. He has more than 18 years of experience working with tribal, state and federal agencies on land management and energy resource development issues. He joins FEMA after serving as a specialist for the U.S. Forest Service's Lands and Realty Management program. Mr. Booth's relationship and experiences with tribes, his skills in tribal consultation and his work strengthening relationships among tribal, federal, state and local partners are key skills that the Office of External Affairs and the Agency look forward to engaging.

America's PrepareAthon!: Thank You for Your Support

Thank you for your support of America's PrepareAthon! National Day of Action that was held on April 30. Citizens, organizations, schools and communities came together on this first National Day of Action to take steps that would help prepare them for emergencies that could happen in our hometowns.

This far reaching campaign had more than five million participants across the country; by informing them about the hazards they could experience while also helping them understand what to do should disaster strike. This is important because less than half of Americans say that they have a plan for what to do in an emergency. America's PrepareAthon! is focused on getting participants to take action to increase their preparedness. Practicing what to do in an emergency in advance of the event can make a difference.

Your role in America's PrepareAthon! is a big part of changing the culture of preparedness for the better. By working with your employees, members, volunteers, customers and others who cross your path daily, you helped to increase emergency preparedness and build a stronger, more resilient nation. Whether it was by conducting hazard-specific drills, holding group discussions or handing out information that would help keep people safe, you have helped make our country better prepared.

The next National Day of Action, September 30, will be the culminating event of National Preparedness Month. Step by step, working together, we can raise the level of preparedness in all of America's communities. Thank you again for your dedication, vision, and commitment to supporting America's PrepareAthon!.

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, CO, GA, MD, NC, NM,
OK, OR, SC, VT, WA, WV

[Learn more.](#)

America's PrepareAthon!: Save the Date

The next National Day of Action will be
September 30 during National
Preparedness Month.

[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 initiated 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. More information about this consultation, including upcoming dates, is available at www.fema.gov/tribal. Together, we can support Indian Country in their efforts to build more resilient and better prepared communities.

Questions can be directed to FEMA's Intergovernmental Affairs Division at (202) 646-3444 or FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov.

This bulletin 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 does not endorse any non-government organizations, entities or services.

FEMA Participates in America's PrepareAthon!

FEMA participated in the America's PrepareAthon! National Day of Action on April 30. Some examples include:

- **Region II** publicized the Urban Assembly School for Emergency Management's event on [@FemaRegion2](#). Students surveyed more than 500 New Yorkers on storm preparedness and provided participants with preparedness materials. The students were joined by FEMA Corps members who answered the public's questions. The survey results will be published on the school's website for students to develop PSAs to address some of the gaps identified in the results.
- **Regions III, V and VI** conducted tornado drills as part of the pledge to prepare. They sheltered in place, briefed out on tornado safety and developed an evacuation plan.
- **Region IX** live-tweeted with Amtrak on two of their trains to share preparedness tips with commuters and participated in the USDA Forest Service Twitter chat on wildfire preparedness. Region IX also directed representatives from the French Consulate to use the State Department as their primary point of contact in the event of a disaster. Additionally, the Administrator was in Hawaii earlier in the week to discuss typhoon preparedness.

Wireless Emergency Alerts Save Lives in Severe Weather

As the central United States begins the recovery process from last week's severe weather, several media reports stated that the death toll could have been worse if TV and radio forecasts, cellphone alerts or warning sirens had not alerted residents to take shelter. Due to these alerts, residents were able to seek shelter such as go into underground storm shelters and fortified safe rooms during the severe weather.

FEMA's Integrated and Public Alert Warning System (IPAWS) gives alerting authorities options to send the same alert message to a variety of different sources at the same time, including radio and TV Emergency Alert Systems, Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), roadside or overhead signs and other sources. WEA capable cell phones use a unique tone and vibration designed to grab attention when an imminent threat is in the area. WEAs are sent from cell towers in a warning area and resemble text messages. However, WEAs use one-way cell broadcast technology that ensures the alerts will not get backlogged during times of emergency when networks are highly congested.

As demonstrated last week, WEAs can save lives, as severe weather can happen anywhere and at any time. WEAs are sent by alerting authorities from participating wireless carriers through FEMA's IPAWS system to cell towers. Awareness of severe weather conditions in the area is an essential component of knowing how to prepare for the unexpected. When severe weather occurs, imminent threat weather alerts can be sent directly to cellular devices and can give users a critical window of time to find safety.

For more information about WEA alerts, go to www.ready.gov. States and counties interested in information about becoming an alerting authority in IPAWS should visit www.fema.gov/emergency/ipaws.

Severe Weather Warning Alerts

The National Weather Service (NWS) uses Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs) to issue warnings for seven types of severe weather:

- **Tsunami Warning** – Tsunami danger on the coast. Go to high ground or move inland. Listen to local news.
- **Tornado Warning** – Tornado Warning in the area until [time, time zone]. Take shelter now. Check local media.
- **Extreme Wind Warning** – Extreme Wind Warning in the area till [time, time zone, day of week]. Take shelter.
- **Hurricane Warning** – Hurricane Warning in this area till [time, time zone, day of week]. Check local media and authorities.
- **Typhoon Warning** – Typhoon Warning in this area till [time, time zone, day of week]. Check local media and authorities.
- **Flash Flood Warning** – Flash Flood Warning in this area till [time, time zone]. Avoid flooded areas. Check local media.
- **Dust Storm Warning** – Dust storm warning in this area till [time, time zone]. Avoid travel. Check local media.

Other types of alerts that NWS issues for severe weather are posted to NWS websites and broadcast on NOAA Weather Radio and may also be broadcast by local radio and TV or other local news and weather information sources. These include:

- **Severe Thunderstorm Watch** – Indicates when severe thunderstorms are likely to occur.
- **Severe Thunderstorm Warning** – Issued when severe weather has been reported by spotters or indicated by radar. Warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property to those in path of storm. Gather family members and pets and take shelter immediately. Have emergency supply kit ready.
- **Tornado Watch** – Tornadoes are possible. Remain alert for approaching storms.
- **Flood Watch** – Flooding is possible.
- **Flash Flood Watch** – Flash flooding is possible. Be prepared to move to higher ground.
- **Flood Warning** – Flooding is occurring or will occur soon; if advised to evacuate, do so immediately.

Individuals who receive a WEA should monitor local news or NOAA weather broadcasts for more information. Everyone should make time to prepare themselves before severe weather strikes by signing up for local weather emergency alerts, understanding NWS warnings and developing an emergency action plan. For valuable tips on how to prepare for severe weather, visit www.ready.gov/severe-weather.

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National Building Safety Month

May is [National Building Safety Month](#). During this month, Americans celebrate the dedicated professionals who keep buildings secure and recommit to maintaining resilient, energy-efficient infrastructure. National Building Safety Month encourages building structures to be kept sound and up to code. Doing so will help conserve energy, protect the environment and help communities withstand the impacts of natural disasters and climate change.

Through partnerships between the public and private sectors, new guidance and tools for increasing disaster-resistance and meeting building standards are continually being developed. Citizens, government agencies, businesses, nonprofits and other interested groups are encouraged to join in activities that raise awareness about building safety and to learn more about how they can contribute to building safety at home and in communities.

For more information and resources explaining the steps people can take to better prepare homes or businesses for a disaster, visit www.fema.gov/building-science and www.ready.gov.

FINAL Reminder: Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Public 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 \(HMGP\)](#). The HMGP provides grants to state, local, tribal, and territorial governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration.

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.

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

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 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 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.

For more information, visit www.fema.gov/grants.

Reminder: 2014 FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Awards Application Period Still Open

FEMA has 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.

Please visit www.ready.gov/citizen-corps/citizen-corps-awards for more information about the awards and to download instructions for submitting an application.

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.

