



FEMA

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN

Week of May 12, 2014
Important Dates and Deadlines:

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

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

[National Dam Safety Awareness Day](#)
(May 31, 2014)

National Small Business Week

The U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) National Small Business Week 2014 is from **May 12 to 16**. SBA is holding events across the country that are designed to help small businesses find the tools they need to start, grow and succeed. Close to 12,000 small business owners from across the country are expected to take part in the events, which will be held in San Francisco, Kansas City, Boston, and Washington, D.C.

In addition to live streaming the in-person events, SBA is also hosting online events for National Small Business Week. The online events will include educational webinars scheduled throughout the week as well as two live-streamed panels from New York City.

For more information about National Small Business Week, visit www.sba.gov/smallbusinessweek and www.ready.gov/business. Also available online is [a complete list of webinar and online event topics for the week](#).

National Building Safety Month: How One Community Prepared

In 2012, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) created an Ad-Hoc subcommittee and task force to develop two separate appendices to Georgia's 2012 I-Codes-based building codes that would provide for local adoption of optional "code plus" higher standards with respect to floods, hurricanes, and tornados.

These Disaster-Resilient Building Code Appendices ([Appendix N](#) for the building code and [Appendix R](#) for the residential code) became available for local jurisdictions to adopt on January 1, 2013. Each appendix includes a sample ordinance to aid in the process of adopting higher standards, such as elevating buildings one to three feet above the base flood elevation, higher design wind speeds, prescriptive wood-frame construction methods for residential buildings, and the requirement for safe rooms in K-12 schools and emergency facilities.

The appendices do not need to be adopted in their entirety – communities can choose which chapters and sections to adopt. In creating these options, the DCA consulted existing publications, including FEMA best practices guidance.

National Mass Care Strategy Webinar

The National Mass Care Council hosted the third National Mass Care Strategy Webinar series "Children and Disasters: An Integrated Approach to Disaster Planning, Response and Recovery," on **April 28**. Key discussion areas included examples of how whole community partners have worked together; on a national, state, tribal and local level, to better address children's disaster related needs and the resources available to support disaster planning, preparedness, response and recovery efforts. Presenters highlighted the significance of working together hand in hand with key partners and external stakeholders pre-disaster and the positive impact that this approach has had on disaster operations.

To view the presentation and key planning, preparedness, response and recovery resources available, please visit www.nationalmasscarestrategy.org.

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

[Learn more.](#)

National Building Safety Month

Building Safety Month is a month-long celebration of all aspects of building safety that helps families, employers and leaders understand and appreciate the best practices that keep the places where we live, work and play safe.

[Learn more.](#)

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.

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 101: National Flood Insurance Program

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) provides coverage against flood damage and can ensure that a flood doesn't bring financial ruin. Flooding can happen at any time in virtually any location and unlike other natural hazards, flood damage is not covered by a homeowners insurance policy. While certain areas may be more prone to flooding – especially those in coastal areas or riverine environments – history has shown that almost no place is immune. Since standard homeowners insurance does not cover flooding, it is important to have protection from the floods associated with hurricanes, tropical storms, heavy rains and other conditions that impact the United States.

Congress created the NFIP in 1968 to help provide a means for property owners to financially protect themselves. It is a self-supported program that is not funded by tax revenue. The NFIP offers flood insurance to homeowners, renters and business owners if their community participates in the NFIP. Participating communities agree to adopt and enforce ordinances that meet or exceed FEMA requirements to reduce the risk of flooding. Currently, there are more than 5.5 million policy holders and 21,000 participating communities which agree to enforce minimum flood plain standards, flood maps and other ordinances that meet or exceed FEMA requirements to reduce the risk of flooding.

Typically, NFIP policies have a 30-day waiting period prior to the policy going into effect. Therefore, the policy should not be purchased only if flooding appears imminent but rather it should be viewed as protection against a continuing threat. On average, the flood insurance premium nationwide is about \$700 a year, which is less than \$2 a day for financial protection from what could be devastating effects of a flood to one's home or business.

In March 2014, the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act was signed into law. More information about flood insurance reform can be found at www.fema.gov/flood-insurance-reform. FEMA will continue to provide updates about the changes as they become available.

For more information about flood damage risks and flood insurance, visit www.floodsmart.gov or call 1-800-427-2419 to find an agent in your area.

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.

