



FEMA

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN

Week of May 19, 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)

FINAL REMINDER: Funding Opportunity Announcements for FY14 Preparedness Grants

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 PM EDT, May 23, 2014. Funding opportunity announcements for FY 2014 preparedness grants are available at www.grants.gov. For more information, please visit www.fema.gov/grants.

National EMS Week – Dedicated. For Life.

This week, May 18-24, is National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week. National EMS Week is an important opportunity for emergency response agencies to showcase their commitment to protect the health and safety of all Americans. This year's theme for National EMS Week is "EMS: Dedicated. For Life." The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) is committed to providing system- and management-level educational opportunities for the EMS. Fire and EMS departments nationwide have planned events such as open houses, demonstrations, educational presentations and media program to highlight these efforts.

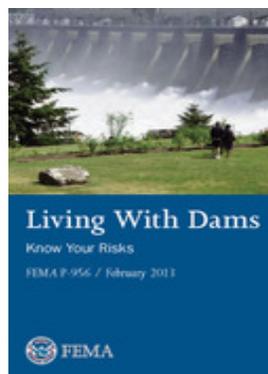
USFA recognizes the critical importance of EMS personnel and is dedicated to meeting their needs, such as by training and research efforts related to EMS operations. It is also important for EMS personnel, as well as firefighters, to make a personal commitment to health and safety, such as by participating in a wellness or fitness program. For more information about National EMS Week, visit www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/ems. For more information about USFA's EMS initiatives, download [USFA's Emergency Medical Services Programs brochure](#).

Living with Dams: Know Your Risks

[Living With Dams: Know Your Risks](#) is a booklet designed to help answer the following questions:

1. Why should I care about dams?
2. What are the risks associated with dams?
3. Could I be affected by a dam? What is the dam failure flood inundation area?
4. Once I determine that my property is in a dam break inundation area, what's next?

For more information, please contact your state office of [dam safety](#).



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
AL, AK, AR, CO, FL, GA, IN,
MD, MS, MT, NC, NM, OK,
OR, SC, TN, 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 recognize 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 comments and feedback 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.

Unified Federal Environmental and Historic Preservation Review Webinar

As part of its on-going Webinar Series, FEMA's Intergovernmental Affairs Division is pleased to present [a webinar](#) on the Unified Federal Environmental and Historic Preservation Review from FEMA's Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration (FIMA).

The Unified Federal Environmental and Historic Preservation Review is a framework for coordinating federal agency review for disaster recovery projects associated with presidentially declared disasters under the Stafford Act. The development of this framework is a requirement under the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013 (SRIA) that directs the establishment of an expedited and unified interagency review process for disaster recovery actions. This effort will improve the efficiency of the Environmental and Historic Preservation review process by unifying and standardizing the current requirements.

[This webinar](#) is intended for state, tribal, county and local mitigation officers and Historic Preservation professionals. Angela Gladwell, Director, FEMA's Office of Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation, will be the guest presenter. It will be held on **Wednesday, May 28 at 2 p.m. EDT**. For more information on this federal interagency effort, please visit www.achp.gov/unified_federal_review.html.

National Building Safety Month: Moore, OK's Building Code Amendments

On April 17, 2014, new homes in one Oklahoma community became safer. The city of Moore, Oklahoma, became the first in the nation to establish building code requirements to make residential buildings able to withstand the forces of an EF2 tornado. The [code amendment](#), including requirements for roof sheathing, hurricane straps and stud spacing, is designed so that the homes can withstand winds up to 135 miles per hour. The garage door, often a weak point in buildings, is also required to be rated for 135-mph winds.

According to the [city council meetings](#) the day the amendment was signed into law, homes built to a similar level of construction in the Wild Flower subdivision in Oklahoma City experienced damage during the May 20, 2013, tornado, and stayed structurally intact through much higher wind than they were initially designed for. The new requirements are intended to reduce the number of damaged homes and reduce the severity of that damage in lower-level tornadoes.

Upcoming: National Hurricane Preparedness Week

[National Hurricane Preparedness Week](#) begins on May 25 and extends through May 31. It highlights the importance of planning ahead to protect families and secure homes and communities in advance of the upcoming Atlantic hurricane season, which lasts from June 1 to November 30.

This hurricane season, FEMA invites families, individuals, communities and businesses to take action to join [America's PrepareAthon!](#), a national community-based campaign for action to increase emergency preparedness and resilience. More than ever, it takes the whole community's participation to build resiliency. FEMA encourages everyone to prepare now and know what to do before, during and after a hurricane makes landfall.

Practicing what to do in an emergency in advance of the event can make a difference in the ability to take immediate and informed action, which, in turn, enables them to recover more quickly. More information about preparing for hurricanes is available at www.ready.gov.

REMINDER: 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. Please visit www.ready.gov/citizen-corps/citizen-corps-awards for more information about the awards and 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.

