



FEMA

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN

Week of June 9, 2014
Important Dates and Deadlines:

[Lightning Awareness Week](#)
(June 23-28, 2014)

[Rick Rescorla National
Award for Resilience](#)
(July 17, 2014)

Marcie Roth Presents at the United Nations on Inclusive Emergency Management Practices in the United States

Marcie Roth, FEMA Director of the Office of Disability Integration and Coordination will present on June 12 at the United Nations 7th session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. One of several contributing authors of the book, *Crises, Conflict and Disability: Ensuring Equality*, Roth will explain the role of disability-inclusive emergency management practices in the United States.

Recently published in May 2014, the book focuses on how natural and man-made disasters and crises affect people with disabilities worldwide. It addresses in detail national laws, policies and regulations; emergency preparedness; risk during emergencies, rights; consideration in resettlement and rebuilding; and the impact of disasters and conflicts on women and children with disabilities and people with intellectual disabilities.

In Chapter 14, *GETTING REAL: Promising practices in disability inclusive emergency management for the whole community: a case study of the United States*, Roth addresses changes following the September 11 terrorist attacks and Hurricane Katrina. She “highlights the sweeping changes in all aspects of emergency management, the renewed commitment to the civil rights of people with disabilities as a community imperative, and the shift from treating people with disabilities as liabilities in a disaster to engaging them as potential assets and identifying steps that can be taken to engage the whole community as ‘force multipliers’ in building and sustaining resilient communities.” *Note: text in quotation marks is included in the published book.*

The purpose of the United Nations event is to address emergency relief efforts worldwide regarding disability-inclusive preparedness, response, recovery and rebuilding and the implications at the policy, program and personal levels.

Public Participation Welcome at U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Meeting

The NRC [is holding a public meeting](#) to discuss preliminary draft changes to NUREG 0654/FEMA-REP-1, “Criteria for Preparation and Evaluation of Radiological Emergency Response Plans and Preparedness in Support of Nuclear Power Plants.” This document integrates nearly 35 years of lessons learned within the Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program (REPP). It consolidates and clarifies previous guidance and is consistent with NRC and FEMA regulations. The meeting discussion will focus on stakeholder feedback for Section I. A general overview and discussion of changes to Section II based on previous stakeholder feedback will also be conducted.

The meeting will be held at the NRC’s office in Rockville, Maryland, on **June 25 from 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. EDT**. Members of NRC’s Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response, FEMA staff, other organizational participants and representatives from external stakeholder groups will be in attendance. Public participation is strongly encouraged, as this meeting will be specifically tailored for the public to comment and ask questions. Interested members of the public who are unable to attend the meeting may participate remotely. Please email emergencypreparedness.resource@nrc.gov by **June 18** to RSVP or for web conference or teleconference registration and instructions.

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.

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Wireless Emergency Alerts
The National Weather Service Forecast Offices send imminent threat alerts for severe weather warnings for tornadoes, flash floods, extreme wind, tsunami, hurricane, typhoon and dust storms. Local public safety officials may also send [Wireless Emergency Alerts](#) to mobile phones for a wide range of emergency warnings.
[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.

FEMA 101: Flood Mapping

Flood maps inform communities about the local flood risk and help set minimum floodplain standards for communities to build safely. They determine the cost of flood insurance, which helps property owners to financially protect themselves against flooding. The lower the degree of risk, the lower the flood insurance premium will be. Flood maps are also the basis for flood insurance rates through the [National Flood Insurance Program](#). By law, some may be required to get flood insurance if they live in the highest risk areas. However, flooding can happen anywhere; about twenty percent of all the flood claims come from areas with lower risk.

The process for developing and updating flood maps allows FEMA to work with communities and property owners at all steps of the process to incorporate the best available data into each community's flood maps. Flood mapping projects typically take from three to five years to complete. Through the [Risk Mapping Assessment Planning \(MAP\)](#) program, flood maps are developed using the best available science developed by engineering experts. The mapping standards are published, vetted, peer revised and updated continuously to ensure they are up to date with current best practices. Through this collaborative process, a community can review, appeal and contribute to the development of a flood map before it is adopted by the community.

[There is an infographic available](#) that gives an overview of all that goes into the flood map development process and the key engagement points with community officials. [A full text version of the infographic](#) is also available. More information about flood mapping can be found on www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program-flood-hazard-mapping.

Emergency Management Courses Available to Prepare for Hurricane Season

Emergency managers, volunteers, and the general public can take free online courses to help them prepare for the hurricane season that began June 1. Some of the courses available through FEMA's [Emergency Management Institute training site](#) include:

[IS 22 – Are Your Ready? An In-depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness](#)

This course is designed to help the citizens learn how to protect themselves and their families against all types of hazards and can be used as a reference source or as a step-by-step manual. The focus of the content is on how to develop, practice and maintain emergency plans that reflect what must be done before, during and after a disaster to protect people and their property. Also included is information on how to assemble disaster supplies that include food, water and other supplies in sufficient quantity for individuals and their families to survive.

[IS 394.a – Protecting Your Home or Small Business in Disaster](#)

This course describes different types of natural disasters, describes hazards that pose a risk to their home or small business, explains how protective measures can reduce or eliminate long-term risks to their home and personal property from hazards and their effects and describes how protective measures for small businesses secure people, business property and building structures and prevent business loss from a natural disaster.

REMINDER: The Rick Rescorla National Award for Resilience: Call for Applications

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is seeking nominations for the 2014 [Rick Rescorla National Award for Resilience](#) to recognize leadership in fostering resilience over the course of 2013.

The Rick Rescorla National Award for Resilience is DHS's national resilience award for superior leadership and innovation by a private sector individual or organization who exemplifies the qualities and achievements of Rick Rescorla. Resilience is the ability to adapt to changing conditions and withstand and rapidly recover from disruption due to emergencies. In 2014, there will be two separate awards for "for-profit" and for "non-for-profit" organizations.

Candidates may be nominated for the Rick Rescorla National Award for Resilience until **July 17, 2014, 11:59 p.m. EDT**. All nominations must be submitted by email to rescorlaaward@hq.dhs.gov. For further information, including the nomination form, please visit the web page at www.dhs.gov/rick-rescorla-national-award-resilience. **Questions concerning the award may be sent to bradley.garner@hq.dhs.gov.**

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.





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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN

Special Spotlight: Wildfire Mitigation

[Protecting Communities against Wildfires](#)
[Wildfire Mitigation and Preparedness Resources](#)

Protecting Communities against Wildfires

June not only kicks off the beginning of the hurricane season but also brings with it the continuing threat of wildfires across the country. According to this month's [Wildland Fire Potential Outlook](#), the National Interagency Fire Center predicts above normal fire potential across parts of the Northwest and Southwest.

Many residents in the United States live in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), areas where human development is close to the natural terrain and flammable vegetation. With the continued expansion of residential construction into previously undeveloped forests and wildlands, a rising number of homes are at risk from wildfires every year.

Each member of a community, from local officials to developers and homeowners, plays a key role in reducing a community's risk of being impacted by wildfires. Mitigation techniques include the use of fire-resistant building materials on structures; developing a defensible space around homes; reduction of fuel sources; and strengthened building codes in the WUI.

Wildfire Mitigation and Preparedness Resources

For Homeowners and Builders:

- FEMA: [A Home Builder's Guide to Construction in Wildfire Zones](#)
- FEMA: [Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Handbook for Public Facilities](#)
- FEMA: [Rebuilding after a Wildfire](#)
- FireWise: [Wildfire Preparedness Materials](#)
- FloodSmart: [Flood after Fire Risks](#)
- Ready.gov: [Wildfire Preparedness](#)
- U.S. Fire Administration: [Wildfire: Are You Prepared?](#)

For Businesses:

- America's PrepareAthon!: [Wildfire Safety Prepare Your Organization Guides](#)
- U.S. Small Business Association: [Wildfire Preparedness Checklist](#)
- Ready.gov: [Small Business Tools and Resources](#)

For the Fire Management Community:

- FEMA: [At Home in the Woods-Lessons Learned in the Wildland/Urban Interface](#)
- FEMA: [Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program](#) (FY14 Deadline: 7/25/14)
- Fire Adapted Communities: [Fire Adapted Communities](#)
- Fire Adapted Communities: [Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network](#)
- U.S. Fire Administration: [Your Role in Fire-Adapted Communities](#)
- Ready, Set, Go! Program: [Ready, Set, Go!](#)



Pauma, Calif., November 10, 2007 – A home is destroyed by the Southern California wildfire. The fires burned 92 percent of the La Jolla Reservation land. [Susie Shapira/FEMA](#)