



FEMA

# EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN

Week of June 23, 2014  
Important Dates and Deadlines:

[Lightning Awareness Week](#)  
(June 22-28, 2014)

[Continuing Training Grants](#)  
(July 16, 2014)

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

## Monthly Flood Mapping Update Report Available Online

This month, FEMA is introducing the "Notice to Congress: Monthly Update on Flood Mapping" (Notice) that will serve as a recurring update to Congress on FEMA mapping milestones in accordance with recent legislation. Every flood map update includes an extensive community-centric due process period where FEMA publishes preliminary maps, seeks comments and challenges, publishes notifications of the changes in local newspapers, and works with the communities to publicize and communicate the changes in other ways. This Notice provides an online resource that enables U.S. Congressional Members and staff as well as state, tribal, and local governments and communities to stay more informed of FEMA flood mapping actions within their areas.

Through its Flood Hazard Mapping Program, FEMA identifies flood hazards, assesses flood risks and partners with states, tribes and communities to provide accurate flood hazard and risk data to guide them to mitigation actions. Flood Hazard Mapping is an important part of the [National Flood Insurance Program](#) (NFIP), as it is the basis of the NFIP regulations and flood insurance requirements. The process for developing and updating flood maps allows FEMA to work with state, tribal, and local governments and communities and property owners at all steps of the process to incorporate the best available data into each community's flood maps.

Upon issuance of a proposed map update, an opportunity to appeal, or an action taken with respect to a proposed map, the Notice will include the summary of Actions Taken during the previous month, which includes the specific dates for the issuance of preliminary and revised preliminary flood maps; initiation of an appeal period; issuance of a Letter of Final Determination for a flood map update; and issuance of a flood map as effective.

Identifying flood hazards using maps provides citizens with their flood risk and enables communities to make informed, smart development decisions. With this information, communities are able to adopt and enforce minimum floodplain management regulations that reduce loss of life and property. These proactive efforts minimize the financial impact of flooding on individuals and businesses, and mitigate the effects of flooding on new and improved structures. FEMA's Mapping Update can be found at [www.fema.gov/risk-mapping-assessment-planning](http://www.fema.gov/risk-mapping-assessment-planning).

## National Lightning Awareness Week

During National Lightning Awareness Week, June 22-28, NOAA and Ready are highlighting the importance of lightning and thunderstorm safety.

Each year, hundreds of people are severely injured or even killed by lightning strikes. Lightning is unpredictable, which greatly increases the risk to the general public. It is important to remember that lightning can strike ten miles away from a thunderstorm even if it is not raining or the thunder sounds far away. When a thunderstorm is in the area, there is nowhere safe outside. Just remember, "When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors."

For tips on how to prepare for a thunderstorm, visit [NOAA](#) and [Ready.gov](#) and follow Ready on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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, AL, AR, CO, GA, FL, IN, MD, MS, NC, NE, SC, TN, VT, WA, WV  
[Learn more.](#)

## Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) Program Webinar

[Join a refresher webinar](#) on the FMAG program, which provides matching federal funds to assist the nation's firefighters in controlling and extinguishing fires that threaten such destruction as would constitute a major disaster. The webinar will be held **June 26, 2:30 p.m. (EDT)**. For more information, contact FEMA Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 646-3444 or [FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov).

## 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](mailto:tribalconsultation@fema.dhs.gov). More information about this consultation, including upcoming dates, is available at [www.fema.gov/tribal](http://www.fema.gov/tribal). Questions can be directed to FEMA's Intergovernmental Affairs Division at (202) 646-3444 or [FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov](mailto: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 Attends National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Mid-Year Conference**

NCAI convenes national meetings to discuss and plan the future of American Indian and Alaska Native policy. NCAI's conferences are key moments where Indian Country comes together to advance the most important discussions regarding policy and programs. At the June 2014 mid-year conference, one of the topics discussed in a pre-conference session was tribal emergency management.

The tribal emergency management discussion encompassed a broad range of current tribal homeland security and emergency management issues impacting Indian Country. Some of the topics included a follow up to the comments on FEMA's draft Tribal Consultation Policy and FEMA's draft Stafford Act Tribal Declarations Pilot Guidance. Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin Washington and Deputy Assistant Secretary Larry Roberts attended the event and voiced support of tribal emergency management. Additional topics included U.S. Coast Guard tribal outreach, emergency preparedness and homeland security funding status, the WHTI Enhanced Tribal Card and border crossing concerns.

After engaging in conversation with both tribal leaders and nongovernmental organizations, NCAI leadership will continue to support FEMA's outreach efforts.

## **New IPAWS Online Training Course Available**

A new online training course was released through FEMA's Emergency Management Institute, [IS-251 "Integrated Public Alert and Warning System \(IPAWS\) for Alerting Authorities."](#) The IPAWS Program Management Office (PMO) designed this course to provide alerting authorities with an increased awareness about Collaborative Operating Groups (COGs). IS-251 reviews how COGs are issued, the structure, capabilities and responsibilities, and skills needed to draft more appropriate, effective and accessible warning messages using best alerting practices. The course examines the characteristics of effective alert messages, how templates can be used for effective alert messaging, system capabilities and limitations, best practices for public education for alerts and warning, and criteria for issuing warnings. IS-251 focuses on agency coordination, bordering alerting authorities, specialized communities, and private sector alert disseminators, and the consequences of unclear, incorrect, and false-alarm messages.

IS-251 training follows [IS-247a "Integrated Public Alert and Warning System,"](#) a required course for IPAWS alerting authorities. Another available course is [IS-248 "IPAWS for the American People,"](#) a 15 minute course that provides an introduction to IPAWS, highlights key features and benefits, outlines the authorities responsible for sending alert and warning messages and the actions the public can take before and during an emergency.

IPAWS is an effective, resilient and cost-effective tool for information sharing with state, tribal, territorial and local public safety officials with a reliable, integrated, flexible and comprehensive system to alert and warn the American people during natural and man-made disasters and other threats to public health and safety. IPAWS is the only way to send Wireless Emergency Alerts, a free, non-subscription based broadcast technology that can be geo-targeted and not affected by the wireless network congestion during of emergency.

To get assistance in adopting and implementing IPAWS, contact IPAWS PMO at [ipaws@dhs.gov](mailto:ipaws@dhs.gov). The IPAWS toolkit for alerting authorities and other resources are available at [www.fema.gov/informational-materials](http://www.fema.gov/informational-materials).

## **REMINDER: Continuing Training Grants**

Continuing Training Grants help strengthen national preparedness and provides specialized training to assist first responders, homeland security/emergency management officials and citizens to prepare for all types of disasters. The Fiscal Year 2014 program grants will be awarded to state and local (including rural) communities, tribes, nonprofit national associations and organizations, and nonprofit higher education institutions.

Applications for the FY 2014 CTG program are found at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). Applications must be completed and submitted through FEMA's Non-Disaster (ND) grants system at <https://portal.fema.gov> by **July 16, 2014**.

## **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 during 2013.

Candidates may be nominated until **July 17, 2014, 11:59 p.m. EDT**. All nominations must be submitted by email to [rescorlaaward@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:rescorlaaward@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.

