



FEMA

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN

Week of June 30, 2014
Important Dates and Deadlines:

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

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

FEMA Continues Alternative Procedures Debris Pilot

After one year of implementation, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will continue the Public Assistance Alternative Procedures Debris Pilot for another year. FEMA used the alternative procedures pilot to award more than \$66 million in debris removal costs across more than 40 disasters, which represents more than 90 percent of the \$72 million in total debris removal assistance FEMA has provided for disasters declared in the last year.

While FEMA's preliminary review of the data collected during the first six months of the Debris Pilot indicated that several of the provisions are trending towards satisfying the goals outlined in the law, the one-year extension will enable FEMA to collect additional data that will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of each of the alternative procedures before deciding which features to make permanent. Even though this past year saw a higher than average number of declarations, an unusually small number of the disasters declared consisted of large debris removal operations which could fully test the procedures against the goals outlined in the law. For example, the total debris removal costs of \$148 million documented during the period covered by the pilot program is significantly less than the annual average of \$961 million in declared events during the last ten years.

The Public Assistance Alternative Procedures Debris Pilot was authorized by the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act (SRIA), which President Obama signed into law on January 29, 2013. The law outlines four overarching goals that the pilot program is intended to achieve: reducing the cost to the Federal Government; increasing flexibility in the administration of such assistance; expediting the provisions of assistance; and providing financial incentives and disincentives for timely and cost effective completion of projects. The pilot program for debris removal was one of the first provisions to be developed under the authorities of SRIA. The alternative procedures were first offered during the Oklahoma Tornadoes in May of 2013 and were then expanded to include all new declarations with the pilot program on June 28, 2013.

Additional information of the Public Assistance Alternative Procedure Debris Removal Pilot can be found at www.fema.gov/alternative-procedures.

FEMA Participates in Tribal Conferences to Discuss Emergency Services, Management

Throughout June, FEMA engaged in several tribal conferences:

United South and Eastern Tribes' (USET) mid-year conference was held in Bar Harbor, ME, from June 1-4 where discussion of emergency services was one of the agenda items. FEMA Regional Tribal Liaisons (RTLs) from Regions 1, 2 and 4 were in attendance, as well as FEMA's new National Tribal Affairs Advisor (NTAA), Milo Booth, from Headquarters. Some of the topics discussed included the Tribal Consultation Policy; FEMA/U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Grant Process; FEMA Threat Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA); Emergency Communication Process; Using Computer Aided Management of Emergency Operations (CAMEO) for All-Hazards Planning and Response. In addition, the Bureau of Indian Affairs hosted a hurricane tabletop exercise. DHS provided an update while USET hosted a Disaster Declaration "How To" workshop on the last day. *[continued on next page]*

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

Summer Fire Safety

Every year Americans look forward to summer vacations, camping, family reunions, picnics and the Fourth of July. Summertime, however, also brings fires and injuries due to fireworks and outdoor cooking. The best way to protect your family is not to use fireworks at home.

The U.S. Fire Administration recommends attending public fireworks displays and leaving the lighting to the professionals. Knowing a few fire safety tips and following instructions will help everyone have a safe summer.

[Learn more.](#)

Seeking Input on Tribal Declarations Pilot Guidance

In January 2013, the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act (SRIA) provided federally recognized Indian 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 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 Participates in Tribal Conferences to Discuss Emergency Services, Management

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National Congress of American Indians' (NCAI) mid-year conference was held in Anchorage, AK, from June 8-11 where Tribal emergency management was one of seven agenda items for the pre-meeting agenda. FEMA took part in a session entitled, "Enhancing Tribal Sovereignty through Building Tribal Emergency Management Capacity," and discussed the draft Tribal Declarations Consultation Policy and Tribal Liaison issues. Department of Interior Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn, and Larry Roberts, Deputy Assistant Secretary attended and voiced their support for Tribal emergency management. Of particular interest to tribes was the session on the Proposed Rule of Land into Trust. The Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs held a consultation session at the NCAI conference that proposed the authority to take land into trust for over 200 Alaskan tribes.

The Administration for Children & Families (ACF) Tribal Grantees Conference was held in Crystal City, VA, from June 17-18 and focused on tribal aspects of ACF and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). FEMA's Milo Booth, NTAA, was invited to speak on a Tribal Emergency Services panel with Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) that took place on both days. Emergency response and FEMA-based grants were discussed. The number of attendees at the panel discussion was greater in number than the previous engagements with NCAI and USET.

FEMA 101: Safe Rooms

A safe room is a hardened structure specifically designed to meet FEMA's criteria and provide "near-absolute protection" in extreme weather events, including tornadoes and hurricanes. Near-absolute protection means that, based on the current knowledge of tornadoes and hurricanes, the occupants of a safe room built in accordance with FEMA guidance will have a very high probability of being protected from injury or death.

To be considered a FEMA safe room, the structure must be designed and constructed to the guidelines specified in [FEMA P-320](#), "Taking Shelter from the Storm: Building a Safe Room for Your Home or Small Business" and [FEMA P-361](#), "Design and Construction Guidance for Community Safe Rooms." More information about safe rooms is available at www.fema.gov/safe-rooms.

REMINDER: Continuing Training Grants

FEMA released the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Funding Opportunity Announcement for the Continuing Training Grant (CTG) program totaling \$11 million. The CTG helps 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 highly competitive FY 2014 CTG program grants will be awarded to state and local (including rural) communities, tribes, nonprofit national associations and organizations, and nonprofit higher education institutions. The grant awards will be announced by the end of FY 2014.

Applications for the FY 2014 CTG program are found at www.grants.gov. Applications must be completed and submitted through FEMA's Non-Disaster (ND) grants system located 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 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.

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.

