



FEMA

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN

Week of July 7, 2014
Important Dates and Deadlines:

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

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

State Mitigation Planning Guidance Update Information Bulletin Published

FEMA's Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration (FIMA) published an Information Bulletin announcing that the process of updating the *State Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning Guidance* has begun. This document is the official guidance to help federal officials ensure State Mitigation Plans meet the planning requirements in Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 201. The guidance document, which was last updated in January 2008, helps FEMA staff assess State Mitigation Plans in a fair and consistent manner and helps state officials understand how federal officials interpret the regulations. The term "state" is inclusive of the District of Columbia and the five U.S. territories.

FEMA is assessing ways to incorporate lessons learned and federal policy changes, and is clarifying interpretations of the regulatory requirements. This will result in continued alignment with the regulatory requirements through an updated State Mitigation Plan "Guide" for review and approval of plans; improved non-regulatory guidance, resources and tools to help state mitigation planners, and the coordination and delivery of mitigation planning training and technical assistance.

This summer, FEMA plans to collect feedback from stakeholders in order to finalize the updated guidance by the end of the year.

For more information, visit the FEMA Mitigation Planning website at: www.fema.gov/multi-hazard-mitigation-planning. Also, FEMA's Tribal Multi-hazard Mitigation Planning Guidance published in 2010 is [available online](#). This guidance will be reviewed and updated in the next year. Questions or comments can be submitted to FEMA-Mitigation-Planning@bah.com.

Are You Prepared?

Hurricane season and other severe weather reminds federal, state, tribal and local governments to review and update their continuity plans in case of an emergency. It is also extremely important to take the necessary steps to test and exercise those continuity plans to ensure agency services remain available to citizens.

It is the policy of the United States to maintain a comprehensive and effective continuity capability to ensure the preservation of our Constitutional form of government at all times.

Improve your continuity readiness by taking continuity training classes. Learn to identify and prioritize your agency's essential operating functions; establish a clear line of succession in the absence of leadership, review and update contact information and verify that communications systems are effective and operational. This ensures organizational resiliency and allows your agency to provide the essential functions and services needed in day-to-day operations.

FEMA's National Continuity Programs has online resources and training courses to help continuity planners improve their programs. Visit our website at <http://www.fema.gov/continuity-operations>.

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, FL, IN, MS,
NC, NE, SC, VT, WA, WV
[Learn more.](#)

Wireless Emergency Alerts

The National Weather Service Forecast Offices send imminent threat weather 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](#) (WEAs) 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.

Be Prepared for Extreme Heat

With higher than normal summer temperatures expected, individuals should be prepared to cope with extreme heat. Heat kills by pushing the human body beyond its limits. In extreme heat and high humidity, evaporation is slowed and the body must work extra hard to maintain a normal temperature.

Most heat disorders occur because the victim was overexposed to heat or over-exercised for his or her age and physical condition. Older adults, young children, and those who are sick or overweight are more likely to succumb to extreme heat.

Conditions that can induce heat-related illnesses include stagnant atmospheric conditions and poor air quality. Consequently, people living in urban areas may be at greater risk from the effects of a prolonged heat wave than those living in rural areas. Asphalt and concrete store heat longer and gradually release heat at night, which can produce higher nighttime temperatures known as the “urban heat island effect.” For more resources about extreme heat awareness, visit www.ready.gov/heat and follow Ready.gov on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program Digest Available Now

FEMA offers three Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant programs – the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HGMP), the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program, and the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program. These grant programs help states, territories, tribal governments, local communities, private non-profits, and businesses implement cost-effective, long-term mitigation measures for all natural hazards. Mitigation is most effective when all stakeholders share in a mutual understanding of program purpose, concepts, terminology and procedures.

As part of this effort, FEMA produced a digest of HMA program operational terms and references. The HMA Program Digest is intended to be an easy-to-read, easy-to use, brief summary of the basic HMA program elements. While the HMA Program Digest is primarily intended for those unfamiliar with the HMA programs, it also may serve as a reference for employees, applicants, and other stakeholders with many years of experience with the programs. Because the digest is not exhaustive, either in topics or in detail, information should be verified with the FEMA HMA Unified Program Guidance and FEMA HMA program officials before becoming the basis for decision making. A copy of the digest is [available online](#).

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 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.

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.

