



FEMA

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN

Week of August 4, 2014

Important Dates and Deadlines:

[Wildfire Mitigation Programmatic Environmental Assessment](#)
(August 18, 2014)

[Tribal Declarations Pilot Guidance](#)
(August 31, 2014)

[Flood Risk Mapping Guidelines and Standards](#)
(September 3, 2014)

FEMA Administrator Appoints National Advisory Council Members

FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate appointed twelve new members and reappointed two current members to FEMA's [National Advisory Council](#) (NAC). The NAC is an advisory committee, consisting of up to 35 members, established by federal law to ensure effective and ongoing coordination of federal emergency management activities. Members represent the whole community and include representatives from a wide array of backgrounds and communities involved or affected by the emergency management profession.

"FEMA is just one part of our nation's emergency management team," FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate said. "The National Advisory Council serves a vital role in guiding our plans and strategies by ensuring we remain informed by diverse viewpoints and experiences from every sector of society. I value the expertise and input of each of these members, and appreciate their dedication and commitment to ensuring effective emergency management."

The NAC provides recommendations to the FEMA Administrator on a variety of issues within emergency management. For example, [the NAC recently made recommendations](#) regarding regional response and recovery capabilities as well as regarding mutual aid agreements among different units of government.

FEMA received over 200 applications for the open positions. All applicants were carefully considered through an intensive review process, which included a recommendation panel of senior government officials. Most appointments are for three-year terms.

The twelve new NAC members include:

Emergency Management

Samantha Phillips, Director of Emergency Management, City of Philadelphia (Philadelphia, PA)

Non-Elected Local Government Officials

W. Scott Field, Director, Denver Mayor's Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (Denver, CO)

Standards Setting and Accrediting

Fritz Wilson, Executive Director, Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (Cumming, GA)

Health Scientists

Gerald Parker, Jr., Vice President of Public Health Preparedness and Response, Texas A&M Health Science Center (Bryan, TX)

Disabilities

Christopher Littlewood, Project Coordinator, Center for Public Safety Innovation, St. Petersburg College (Seminole, FL)

Non-Elected Tribal Government Officials

Jeffrey Hansen, Emergency Manager, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (Durant, OK)

Elected Tribal Government Officials

James Akerelrea, Tribal Council Member, Scammon Bay Traditional Council and Store Manager, Scammon Bay Askinuk Store (Scammon Bay, AK)

Emergency Response Providers

Gerard Dio, Fire Chief, City of Worcester (Worcester, MA)

[continued on page 2]

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, FL, IA, IN, MN, NE, NY, SD, VT, WA

[Learn more.](#)

National Night Out: August 5

Each year, thousands of families are impacted by crime. The National Night Out involves local citizens in their own community's safety. By bringing large groups of citizens together, community members will become more aware of ways to prevent crimes and promote safety.

The hashtag for the event is #NNO and [Ready](#) will be supporting crime prevention messaging on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

Flood Insurance for Business: Impacts of Recent Legislation

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is in the process of implementing reforms required by the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 and the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (Biggert-Waters). The 2014 law repeals or modifies some provisions of Biggert-Waters. However, it maintains the requirement that flood insurance rates for business properties in high-risk areas reflect true risk. This means that the subsidized rates that previously applied to some older business buildings will continue to be phased out.

[A new fact sheet](#) provides an overview of the changes business owners should expect, including a one-time refund for some policyholders.

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.

[Continued from page 1]

Communications

Christopher Smith, Homeland Security Advisor to the Governor and Emergency Management Director, State of Nevada (Sparks, NV)

Infrastructure Protection

Daniel Zarrilli, Director of Resiliency and Acting Director for Long-term Planning and Sustainability, Office of the Mayor, City of New York (New York, NY)

Administrator Selection

Jeanne-Aimee De Marrais, Senior Director for U.S. Emergencies, Save the Children (Westport, CT)

Administrator Selection

Meloyde Batten-Mickens, Executive Director of, Facilities, Gallaudet University (Washington, DC)

The two reappointed members include:

Administrator Selections

Lee Feldman, City Manager, City of Fort Lauderdale (Fort Lauderdale, FL)

Administrator Selection

Felix (Phil) Zarlengo, Chairman, AARP Board of Directors (Jamestown, RI)

In addition, **Jerry Demings**, Sheriff, Orange County Sheriff's Office (Orlando, FL) was appointed on July 1, 2014 to fill a vacancy in the *Elected Local Government Officials* position.

Additional information on the [NAC](#), including a full list of members, is available at www.fema.gov/national-advisory-council.

FEMA Unveils Redesigned Flood Map Service Center

FEMA unveiled a completely redesigned FEMA Flood Map Service Center (MSC). Accessed by thousands of individuals each day, the MSC is the authoritative online public source for flood hazard information produced under the National Flood Insurance Program. This important repository has undergone an extensive enhancement including a streamlined design and interface, significant technical improvements and a set of new user features. These improvements enable the new MSC to serve as both an intuitive and user-friendly source of information for the general public and a powerful flood hazard product portal for those working in flood insurance, hazard mitigation and floodplain management.

The upgraded MSC provides a number of benefits to the public:

- All products and services will now be completely online and free of charge, improving public access to flood risk information to expand awareness, reducing the costs to the public and reducing the costs to FEMA associated with processing payments, shipping physical media and maintaining parallel systems for paying and fee-exempt customers;
- An enhanced map search will enable the public to find and download their flood map, and any revisions or amendments to it, in a matter of seconds;
- An integrated product search will allow users to locate every flood hazard product available for their area of interest in just a few clicks; and
- Free customized email subscriptions will make it possible for floodplain managers, local officials and others to know immediately when new information comes out for their community.

The investment in these upgrades reflects FEMA's commitment to providing the public with timely and accurate risk analysis and hazard information. The MSC is one of the many tools used by FEMA to support partners, communities and individuals as we work together to improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, and mitigate all hazards.

More information about MSC is [available online](#). Questions about the redesign of the FEMA Map Service Center may be sent to the Risk MAP Customer and Data Services Outreach Team at outreach@riskmapcds.com.

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.



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.

Flood Risk Mapping Guidelines and Standards

FEMA maintains guidelines and standards to support the Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (MAP) program. These guidelines and standards define the specific implementation of the statutory and regulatory requirements (NFIP flood risk analysis and mapping, and address the performance of flood risk projects, processing of letters of map change and related Risk MAP activities.

In 2011, FEMA undertook a multi-year project to improve the way guidelines and standards are published, maintained and used. The final product of the initial phase of work was the Policy for Flood Risk Analysis and Mapping, published in August 2013, which comprises the standards for practitioners of the Risk MAP program. This policy outlines FEMA's requirements to produce better overall consistency and more efficient operation of mapping activities.

FEMA established a maintenance plan for the Risk MAP Guidelines and Standards and plans to issue updates on a semi-annual basis. As part of this current update, a [public review announcement](#) is made to provide an opportunity for comment prior to incorporation into the policy. This announcement lists proposed updates to existing standards and drafts of new standards. FEMA intends to publish these standards as a part of the Policy for Flood Risk Analysis and Mapping. Comments may be provided via email to FEMA.GS@riskmapcds.com. Comments received prior to **September 3, 2014**, will be reviewed and addressed as appropriate before the standards are finalized.

National Protection Framework Released

The federal government and its partners released the [National Protection Framework](#), one of the five National Planning Frameworks directed in Presidential Policy Directive 8: National Preparedness. The National Protection Framework covers the capabilities necessary to secure the homeland against acts of terrorism and manmade or natural disasters. It is focused on actions to protect against the greatest risks in a manner that allows American interests, aspirations, and way of life to thrive. The Protection Framework describes the core capabilities; roles and responsibilities; and coordinating structures that facilitate the protection of individuals, communities and the nation.

The National Planning Frameworks document the roles and responsibilities of the whole community in all facets of national preparedness and illustrate how we work together to support one another before, during and after an emergency. The benefit of this unified effort is a more informed, shared understanding of risks, needs, and capabilities across the whole community; and, in the end, a more secure and resilient nation. More information is available at www.fema.gov/national-planning-frameworks.

REMINDER: FEMA Extends Tribal Consultation Period for First Draft of Tribal Declaration Pilot Guidance

In January 2013, 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 tribal consultation on the first draft of the [Tribal Declaration Pilot Guidance](#) in April 2014, and traveled around the country to meet with tribal leaders or their designees to discuss the proposed guidance and ways to improve the draft.

Tribal governments may now submit comments through August 31, 2014. Comments on the working draft can be emailed to tribalconsultation@fema.dhs.gov. More information is available at www.fema.gov/tribal.

FEMA Seeks Comments on How It Should Evaluate the Environmental Impacts of Its Wildfire Mitigation Activities

FEMA has announced the Notice of Intent to prepare a Wildfire Mitigation Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) and a Notice of Public Scoping Period. The PEA will evaluate the environmental impacts of the proposed action, which is to continue to fund eligible wildfire mitigation activities under the HMGP and PDM programs. The PEA will evaluate the potential impacts from eligible wildfire mitigation activities funded under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program.

This Notice of Intent advises stakeholders of FEMA's intent to prepare a PEA and provides an opportunity for the public to submit feedback. [The comment period on the scope of the PEA concludes August 18, 2014.](#)

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.





FEMA

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN

Special Spotlight: RadResponder Network

[What is the RadResponder Network?](#)
[RadResponder Network Demonstrates Interoperability](#)
[Thinking Ahead to Improve RadResponder](#)

On Thursday, July 31, the RadResponder Network successfully supported a nationwide environmental radiation monitoring drill sponsored by the [Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors \(CRCPD\)](#) Data Sharing Task Force. The nationwide drill demonstrated the practical ability for the RadResponder Network to support radiation response teams and leadership across federal, state, local, territorial and tribal jurisdictions.

What Is the RadResponder Network?

The [RadResponder Network](#) is a mobile, cloud-based radiation data collection system that provides federal and state, local, territorial and tribal response teams and leadership with a standardized service for managing, organizing, analyzing and mapping radiation data. The Network is built on the experiences and lessons learned from the Fukushima Daiichi reactor emergency that revealed the need for a coordinated effort across all levels of government when responding to a catastrophic incident. In particular, the Fukushima disaster demonstrated that during a wide area radiological event, no single organization can successfully manage the incident by itself and that integrated data management practices across all levels of response are critical to life-saving and life-sustaining operations. The RadResponder Network provides a robust and redundant system necessary to manage such an emergency.



RadResponder Network Demonstrates Interoperability

Over the past two years, the Chemical, Biological, Nuclear, Radiological and High-Yield Explosives (CBRNE) Office within FEMA's Response Directorate has coordinated and developed the RadResponder Network with the support of its interagency partners within the Department of Energy (DOE)/ National Nuclear Security Agency (NNSA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The system is not only designed for daily environmental monitoring, but it is independently used for exercises by all levels of government.

On July 31, the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD), whose primary membership is comprised of radiation professionals in state and local government that regulate the use of radiation sources, conducted a nationwide environmental monitoring drill. This drill was designed to test the interoperability of the Network during a nationwide radiation emergency impacting numerous jurisdictions across the United States. Throughout the daylong drill, response teams and leadership officials from 37 states and three federal organizations recorded measurements, observations and imagery within the Networks database as well as participated in various technical and brainstorming webinars. In total, 68 organizations participated and 192 RadResponders and sensors collected 21,835 radiation measurements, collected 200 field samples and recorded 132 observations. During the drill, measurements were collected using handheld meters, stationary monitoring systems and soil and water samples. Some responders participating in the drill also included pictures of the area they were measuring (a newly added feature of the Network).



Thinking Ahead to Improve RadResponder

Currently, there are 2,100 users representing close to 560 organizations using RadResponder. While the Network successfully demonstrated its ability to handle a large number of measurements and performed as designed during the drill, FEMA would like to see opportunities to improve the Network to reach its full potential.

For more information regarding the CRCPD Drill or the RadResponder Network, please contact sean.crawford@fema.dhs.gov or email support@radresponder.net.