



FEMA

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN

Week of August 11, 2014

Important Dates and Deadlines:

[National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Funding Opportunity](#)

(August 15, 2014)

[Tribal Declarations Pilot Guidance](#)

(August 31, 2014)

[Flood Risk Mapping Guidelines and Standards](#)

(September 3, 2014)

2014 National Preparedness Report Released

FEMA and its partners released the [2014 National Preparedness Report \(NPR\)](#). The NPR is an annual status report on the Nation's progress toward reaching the National Preparedness Goal of a secure and resilient nation. Overall, the NPR found the nation continues to make progress building preparedness in key areas and identifies several areas of sustainment. The report also identified areas for national improvement in building resilience and reducing long-term vulnerability.

The NPR was developed to meet the requirements of "Presidential Policy Directive 8/PPD-8: National Preparedness." PPD-8 is aimed at strengthening the security and resilience of the United States through systematic preparation for the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk to the security of the nation, including acts of terrorism, cyber-attacks, pandemics and catastrophic natural disasters. The NPR also addresses several reporting requirements from the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (PKEMRA), including components of the Federal Preparedness Report and State Preparedness Report.

The NPR identifies areas of sustainment and progress made across 31 core capabilities towards building a secure and resilient nation while identifying opportunities for improvement. Key overarching findings from the report include:

- Major events, such as Hurricane Sandy and the severe 2012-2013 drought, have served as catalysts for change in national preparedness programs, drawing clearer links between post-disaster recovery and pre-disaster mitigation activities.
- Continued progress has resulted in several relatively mature capabilities across multiple mission areas that require ongoing sustainment to meet expected future needs.
- Cybersecurity, infrastructure systems, health and social services and housing remained national areas for improvement. Long-term vulnerability reduction is a newly identified national area for improvement.
- New national policy and planning initiatives are focusing efforts to address areas for improvement in preparedness.
- Budget uncertainties have created challenges for preparedness initiatives at state and local levels of government, resulting in increased emphasis on preparedness innovations and whole community engagement.
- States and territories assessed their capabilities at similar levels as 2012, with the highest self-assessment scores in the common core capabilities and the Response mission area. States and territories also reported the most annual progress in the operational coordination, planning and intelligence and information sharing core capabilities.
- The nation is integrating tribal partners more systematically into preparedness. However, opportunities remain for federal agencies and tribal nations to increase engagement and expand training opportunities on relevant policies.

FEMA facilitated the development of the NPR in close coordination with leaders of federal departments and agencies, and the report reflects input from state, local, tribal and territorial governments and private and nonprofit sector partners. The report also integrates data from the annual Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment process and State Preparedness Reports from the 56 states and territories. FEMA also conducted research to identify any recent independent evaluations, surveys and other data related to the core capabilities.

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. Previous editions are available at the [FEMA library](#).

Open Joint Field Offices

AK, AL, AR, IA, IN, MN,
NE, NY, SD, VT, WA

[Learn more.](#)

National PrepareAthon! Day: September 30

[Participate](#) in America's PrepareAthon! by joining a National PrepareAthon! Day event on September 30. Learn more about America's PrepareAthon! and register for the National PrepareAthon! Day at www.ready.gov/prepare or on Twitter at [@PrepareAthon](https://twitter.com/PrepareAthon).

For more information, please contact PrepareAthon@fema.dhs.gov.

FY14 National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Funding Opportunity

In accordance with the National Earthquake Hazard Reductions Program (NEHRP) Act (42 U.S.C. 7704), FEMA proposes to award cooperative agreements with Northeast States Emergency Consortium, Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium, Western States Seismic Policy Council, Cascadia Region Earthquake Group, Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, Southern California Earthquake Center and Federal Alliance for Safe Homes to support critical earthquake risk reduction activities and other related hazards. These will include support to earthquake education, building code adoption and enforcement, seismic mitigation and emergency management planning, stakeholder engagement and partnership, local earthquake policy development, etc.

[This funding opportunity is open until August 15, 2014.](#)

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.

National Preparedness Month is Approaching

This September marks the 11th annual National Preparedness Month. This year's theme is "Be Disaster Aware, Take Action to Prepare" to support coordination with America's PrepareAthon! The Ready Campaign has partnered with Citizen Corps and the Ad Council to encourage individuals, families, communities and businesses to plan ahead of natural disasters and emergency situations.

National Preparedness Month's mission is to help individuals, families and communities stay informed, make a plan and get involved locally to ensure that they are resilient in the face of disaster. In preparation for National Preparedness Month, individuals and organizations should visit www.ready.gov to find emergency preparedness resources such as a family emergency plan and a guide on building emergency kits. America's PrepareAthon! is a national campaign for action to increase individual and community preparedness and resilience. National Preparedness Month culminates on September 30 with National PrepareAthon! Day, and a national call to action for individuals and organizations to join with others in the country to take important steps to prepare for local hazards.

Each week of September will have a specific emergency preparedness theme that focuses on the steps in disaster planning. Information is also available at www.ready.gov/september. To learn more, visit www.ready.gov/prepare.

Wireless Emergency Alerts Save Lives in Severe Weather

FEMA's Integrated and Public Alert Warning System (IPAWS) gives alerting authorities options to send the same alert message to a variety of different sources at the same time, including radio and TV Emergency Alert Systems, Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), roadside or overhead signs and other sources. WEA capable cell phones use a unique tone and vibration designed to grab attention when an imminent threat is in the area. WEAs are sent from cell towers in a warning area and resemble text messages. However, WEAs use one-way cell broadcast technology that ensures the alerts will not get backlogged during times of emergency when networks are highly congested.

WEAs can save lives, as severe weather can happen anywhere and at any time. WEAs are sent by alerting authorities from participating wireless carriers through FEMA's IPAWS system to cell towers. Awareness of severe weather conditions in the area is an essential component of knowing how to prepare for the unexpected. When severe weather occurs, imminent threat weather alerts can be sent directly to cellular devices and can give users a critical window of time to find safety.

For more information about WEA alerts, go to www.ready.gov. States and counties interested in information about becoming an alerting authority in IPAWS should visit www.fema.gov/emergency/ipaws.

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

In January 2013, the SRIA provided federally recognized Indian tribal governments the option to request a Presidential emergency or major disaster declaration independently of a state. FEMA initiated tribal consultation on the first draft of the Tribal Declaration Pilot Guidance in April 2014 and traveled around the country to meet face-to-face with tribal leaders or their designees to discuss the proposed guidance and ways to improve the draft.

FEMA is extending the tribal consultation period for the first draft of the Tribal Declaration Pilot Guidance. **Tribal governments may now submit comments through August 31, 2014.** Comments on the working draft of the [Tribal Declarations Pilot Guidance](#) can be sent to tribalconsultation@fema.dhs.gov.

REMINDER: Flood Risk Mapping Guidelines and Standards

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](#) 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@riskmapcdfs.com. Comments received prior to **September 3, 2014**, will be reviewed and addressed as appropriate before the standards are finalized.

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.





Special Spotlight: Hurricane Preparedness Terms

www.ready.gov/hurricanes

Hurricane Preparedness: Know the Terms

History has shown that a lack of hurricane awareness and preparations are common threads among all major hurricane disasters. By knowing what actions to take, individuals and communities can reduce the effects of a hurricane disaster. [Hurricane hazards](#) come in many forms and it is important to know the terms that the [National Weather Service uses for watches and warnings](#). For more information, visit www.ready.gov/hurricanes and follow Ready on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

Hurricane Seasons

- **Atlantic** – June 1 to November 30
- **East Pacific** – May 15 to November 30
- **Central Pacific (Hawaii)** – June 1 to November 30

Hurricanes, Cyclones and Storms

- **Tropical Cyclone:** A warm-core non-frontal synoptic-scale cyclone, originating over tropical or subtropical waters, with organized deep convection and a closed surface wind circulation about a well-defined center.
- **Tropical Depression:** A tropical cyclone in which the maximum sustained surface wind speed (using the U.S. 1-minute average) is 38 mph (33 knot) or less.
- **Tropical Storm:** A tropical cyclone in which the maximum sustained surface wind speed (using the U.S. 1-minute average) ranges from 39 mph (34 knots) to 73 mph (63 knots).
- **Hurricane:** A tropical cyclone in which the maximum sustained surface wind (using the U.S. 1-minute average) is 74 mph (64 knots) or more.



Watches vs. Warnings

- **Hurricane Watch:** An announcement that hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are possible within the specified area. Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the hurricane watch is issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds.
- **Hurricane Warning:** An announcement that hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are expected somewhere within the specified area. Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the hurricane warning is issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds.
- **Tropical Storm Watch:** An announcement that tropical storm conditions (sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph) are possible within the specified area within 48 hours.
- **Tropical Storm Warning:** An announcement that tropical storm conditions (sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph) are expected somewhere within the specified area within 36 hours.

Know the Hurricane Hazards

- **Storm Surge:** Storm Surge is the greatest potential for large loss of life associated with a hurricane. Storm surge is the water rise generated by a storm, over and above the predicted astronomical tides. Storm tide is the combination of storm surge and the astronomical tide. Storm tide can cause extreme flooding in coastal areas particularly when storm surge coincides with normal high tide, resulting in storm tides reaching up to 20 feet or more in some cases.
- **Heavy Rainfall and Inland Flooding:** Tropical cyclones often produce widespread, torrential rains, which may result in deadly and destructive floods. In fact, flooding is the major threat from tropical cyclones for people living inland.
- **High Winds:** Hurricane-force winds, 74 mph or more, can destroy buildings and mobile homes. Debris, such as signs, roofing material, siding and small items left outside can become flying missiles during hurricanes and tropical storms. Winds can stay above hurricane strength well inland.
- **Tornadoes:** Hurricanes and tropical storms can produce tornadoes. These tornadoes most often occur in thunderstorms embedded in rain bands well away from the center of the hurricane.
- **Rip Currents:** The strong winds of a tropical cyclone can cause dangerous waves that pose a significant hazard to mariners and coastal residents and visitors. When the waves break along the coast, they can produce deadly rip currents - even at large distances from the storm.