



FEMA

# EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN

Week of September 1, 2014

Important Dates and Deadlines:

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

[Hazard Mitigation Assistance Unified Guidance](#)  
(September 16, 2014)

[National PrepareAthon! Day of Action](#)  
(September 30, 2014)

## National Preparedness Month: *Be Disaster Aware, Take Action to Prepare*

During [National Preparedness Month \(NPM\)](#), September 1-30, we ask you, your family, community, school and workplace to take action by planning a [National PrepareAthon! Day of Action](#) on or around September 30.

America's PrepareAthon! is a national campaign for action to increase individual and community preparedness and resilience. NPM culminates on September 30 with National PrepareAthon! Day, 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.

Here are some ways to get involved in NPM:

- ✓ Download the [NPM Digital Engagement Toolkit](#)
- ✓ Visit [www.ready.gov/september](http://www.ready.gov/september) for tips and information about NPM
- ✓ Visit [www.ready.gov/es/septiembre](http://www.ready.gov/es/septiembre) for information in Spanish
- ✓ Use the hashtag #NatlPrep on social media to promote NPM
- ✓ Register for National PrepareAthon! Day at [www.ready.gov/prepare](http://www.ready.gov/prepare)
- ✓ Follow [@Readygov](#) and [@PrepareAthon](#) on Twitter
- ✓ Like Ready.gov on [Facebook](#)

For more information about NPM events and ways to participate, please see the special insert included at the end of the bulletin.

## FEMA Announces Next National Advisory Council Meeting

FEMA will be holding the next [National Advisory Council \(NAC\)](#) public meeting in Los Angeles, California, from **September 17 – 18, 2014**. The public meeting will be held at the Los Angeles Emergency Operations Center on September 17 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and September 18 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. (PDT) located at 500 E. Temple Street.

The NAC was established to ensure effective and ongoing coordination of federal preparedness, protection, response, recovery, mitigation for natural disasters, acts of terrorism and other man-made disasters. The NAC advises the FEMA Administrator on all aspects of emergency management and incorporates federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, and non-profit and private sector partners' input into the development and revision of FEMA policies and strategies.

During the meeting, the NAC will meet with the FEMA Administrator and leadership to receive program briefings and review the progress and potential recommendations of its three subcommittees: Preparedness and Protection; Response and Recovery; and Federal Insurance and Mitigation. Other topics that will be discussed include [America's PrepareAthon!](#), [FEMA's Strategic Plan](#), Public Health and Medical Integration in Emergency Management, 2015 Special Olympics Preparations, and Emergency Management Coordination on Colleges and Universities.

Directions on how submit public comments can be found on the [Federal Register Notice](#). For those planning to attend in person, inquiring about additional information on facilities, services for individuals with disabilities, or requesting special assistance at the meeting, please contact the Office of the NAC by email at [FEMA-NAC@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-NAC@fema.dhs.gov). For more information on the NAC, please visit [www.fema.gov/national-advisory-council](http://www.fema.gov/national-advisory-council).

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

## Open Joint Field Offices

AK, IA, MN, ND, NE,  
NY, SD, TN, VT, WA  
[Learn more.](#)

## Regional Tribal Liaisons Meet to Discuss Tribal Engagement

The Office of External Affairs hosted a successful meeting and training last week with FEMA Regional Tribal Liaisons (RTLs) at the American Red Cross National Headquarters in Washington, D.C. During the meeting, RTLs had the opportunity to share best practices from engagements with tribes, lessons learned from recent tribal consultations and worked with Milo Booth, National Tribal Affairs Advisor (NTAA), to discuss priorities for the upcoming year. In addition, Mollie Grant, Emergency Management Program Director for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI), shared the tribe's experiences as the first tribe to receive a major Presidential declaration under the new Stafford Act amendments. RTLs had productive discussions on tribal issues with FEMA program leadership, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the American Red Cross. The Emergency Management Institute also provided a train the trainer session for L0583, Emergency Management Overview for Tribal Leaders, qualifying participants to present the course in the field.



Regional Tribal Liaisons and Milo Booth, NTAA.  
Photo courtesy of Gerald Calixte.

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.

## Earthquake Preparedness

The USGS recently updated their [U.S. National Seismic Hazard Maps](#), which reflect the best and most current understanding of where future earthquakes will occur, how often they will occur, and how hard the ground will likely shake as a result. Damage reports from the 6.0 magnitude Napa earthquake show the importance of communities knowing their risks, making a preparation plan to help prevent injury, property damage and post-earthquake hazards, and then taking action to reduce those risks.

There is no season for earthquakes; they can occur at any time and without warning. In light of September's [National Preparedness Month](#) and the upcoming [National PrepareAthon! Day](#) on September 30, individuals, families, communities and business owners are strongly encouraged to take steps to prepare in order to reduce or prevent damage before an earthquake strikes. Some steps that can be done to prepare include:

- Support ceiling fans and light fixtures using bracing wire secured to a screw eye embedded at least an inch into the ceiling joist.
- Install latches on cabinet doors to prevent them from opening and contents spilling.
- Hang mirrors, pictures and plants using closed hooks to prevent from falling.
- Ensure appliances have flexible gas or electrical connections.
- Install a lip or blocking device to prevent items from falling off shelves.
- Secure loose shelving by fastening screws into the cabinet or with museum putty placed at each corner bracket.
- Anchor the tops of bookcases, file cabinets and entertainment centers to one or more studs with flexible fasteners.
- Secure china, collectibles, trophies and other shelf items with museum putty.
- Secure televisions, computers and stereos with buckles and safety straps that also allow easy removal and relocation.
- Cover windows with approved shatter-resistant safety film to protect against broken glass.
- Strap the top and bottom of a water heater using heavy-gauge metal strapping secured to wall studs.
- Locate gas shutoff valve and know how to turn off the gas supply with the use of a specialty wrench.
- Relocate flammable liquids to a garage or outside storage location.

Learn more about [earthquake risks](#); developing a plan for loved ones; checking supplies; knowing to drop, cover and hold on; and taking action to prepare homes and businesses at [www.shakeout.org](http://www.shakeout.org) and [www.ready.gov/earthquakes](http://www.ready.gov/earthquakes).

## FINAL 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](#) provides 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](mailto:FEMA.GS@riskmapcds.com). Comments received prior to **September 3, 2014**, will be reviewed and addressed as appropriate before the standards are finalized.

## REMINDER: Update to the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Unified Guidance

FEMA is updating the current Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Unified Guidance (published July 12, 2013). This guidance document provides an interpretation of general program requirements for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program and Flood Mitigation Assistance Program per applicable statutes and regulations. Additionally, this document provides HMA project specific guidance in its addendum.

Please visit the [FEMA Library](#) to access the current HMA Guidance and the comment tracker. Responses may be submitted to the comment tracker by **September 16, 2014**, at [hmaguidance@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:hmaguidance@fema.dhs.gov) to facilitate the anticipated release of the updated HMA Unified Guidance by the Spring of 2015.

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: National Preparedness Month and America's PrepareAthon!

**National PrepareAthon! Day: September 30**

Register to participate at [www.ready.gov/prepare](http://www.ready.gov/prepare)

September is [National Preparedness Month](#). All across the country, states, local, tribal governments, community organizations and members of the private sector have embraced America's PrepareAthon! by planning events that will help their community to be more prepared in the event of a wildfire, hurricane, tornado, flood, earthquake or winter storm.

There is still time to plan or participate in an event in your area before the **National PrepareAthon! Day on September 30**. Below are some events happening throughout the country in September. For more information, visit [www.ready.gov/prepare](http://www.ready.gov/prepare).

### Across the Country

Fall into Action Family Emergency Preparedness Day in **Dover, Delaware**, will include a flood plain simulator demonstration and determination workshop on **September 20**. Participants will be asked to download preparedness apps.

Colorado fire departments will come together for the **Denver Firefighters Chili Cookoff**. Attendees will be encouraged to sign up for emergency notifications, downloading the FEMA app and filling out family communications plans on **September 26**.

**Cannon Beach, Oregon**, is hosting a 5K/Fun Run that will take place along the tsunami evacuation route on **September 28**.

**Orange County, North Carolina**, is launching a new mass communication and notification system, including a smartphone app, and will be conducting a county-wide test in late September.

**Providence Emergency Management Agency** in Rhode Island will engage all city government employees and schools, public works, local governments and other stakeholders to build emergency preparedness kits on **September 30**.

**ReadyCampus** at universities in Kansas, Nebraska and Missouri will engage students, staff and the surrounding communities about community alerts and warnings, pet preparedness, tornado drills and personal safety exercises throughout September.

The **Denver Office of Emergency Management** will host Denver's PrepareAthon!, which will include an employee preparedness fair and tornado drill and a preparedness workshop for small to mid-sized businesses on **September 30**.

**Los Angeles Emergency Management Department** will conduct a full scale exercise with the Tarzana neighborhood to test parts of their newly created emergency plan, which is specific to the neighborhood and developed using a whole community approach, on **October 11**.

### On the Hill

We appreciate the support of the Members of Congress who are serving as co-sponsors for National Preparedness Month:

#### United States Senate

**Senator Tom Carper**, Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs

**Senator Mark Begich**, Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs, Subcommittee on Emergency Management, Intergovernmental Relations, & the District of Columbia

**Senator Mary Landrieu**, Chair, Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Homeland Security

#### U.S. House of Representatives

**Representative Michael McCaul**, Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security

**Representative Bennie Thompson**, Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland Security

**Representative Nick J. Rahall II**, Ranking Member, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

**Representative Susan Brooks**, Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response and Communications

**Representative Lou Barletta**, Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management

**Representative Donald M. Payne, Jr.**, Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications

**Representative Andre Carson**, Ranking Member, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management

For more information about Congressional support, please contact Todd Sharpe at [todd.sharpe@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:todd.sharpe@fema.dhs.gov) or 202-646-3408.

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

