

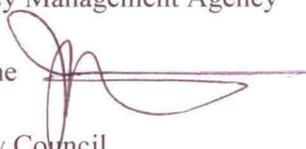


FEMA

National Advisory Council

December 14, 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR: Craig Fugate
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency

FROM: James Featherstone 
Chairman
National Advisory Council

SUBJECT: Recommendations from October 18, 2012 Meeting

The purpose of this memorandum is to forward the National Advisory Council's (NAC) recommendations from the October 18, 2012 meeting in Washington, DC for your consideration.

The Council met in a public session to review the progress of its four subcommittees since its meeting in July 2012 and deliberate potential recommendations set forth by the subcommittees. The NAC members appreciated the opportunity to engage one-on-one with you during the public session. Additionally, thank you for swearing-in and welcoming the new members.

Through discussions and deliberations, the NAC concurred to forward seven recommendations on the following issues: National Flood Mapping Program, FEMA's Youth Preparedness Council, FEMA's Private Sector Division, Emergency Management Institute, and International Urban Search and Rescue Teams. The recommendations are as follows:

FEDERAL INSURANCE AND MITIGATION ADMINISTRATION

National Flood Mapping Program

1. The NAC recommends that FEMA recognize the importance of accurate flood maps to develop viable mitigation and flood insurance programs. Further, the NAC supports the full funding of the National Flood Mapping Program as it is vital to the effective implementation of mitigation and flood insurance reform.

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS DIRECTORATE

Youth Preparedness Council

2. The NAC recommends that FEMA seek input from GenXers and Millennials and guidance from the Youth Preparedness Council as to how best to engage their peers. Hearing directly from these groups for best ways to engage youth to foster a culture of preparedness is better than Baby Boomers and Traditionalists guessing. This same concept should authenticate efforts to engage all stakeholders in the Whole Community. The NAC developed a few suggestions that should be validated with the Youth Preparedness Council; they include:
 - a. Create a video game and/or smart device app on preparedness that appeals to youth. FEMA should inventory and promote through social media tailored to youth that is already in the market.
 - b. Create a competition among schools by recognizing well prepared schools and schools with best practices. This could be done through awards and/or a point system.
 - c. Use developmentally appropriate mechanisms to foster a culture of preparedness at all age levels. For example, the use of someone such as Justin Bieber, or other popular youth

- celebrity, could appeal to teenagers in a public awareness campaign to encourage individual and family preparedness.
- d. Collaborate with Odyssey of the Mind to participate in one of its annual Long-Term Problem-Solving competitions on disaster preparedness.
 - e. Establish mentor program to bring together the NAC and Youth Preparedness Council.

OFFICE OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Private Sector Division

3. The NAC recommends that the FEMA Private Sector Division should seek new and different ways and tools to leverage existing public-private relationships. The focus should be on the perspective of the private sector—bottom line impact, benefits of preparedness (e.g. intact work force protected assets, insurance incentives), and win-win, innovative and relevant solutions. Suggestions include:
 - a. Some Fusion Centers have established robust public-private partnerships. The National Fusion Center Work Group should be used to engage the entire domain to shore up information exchange with the less-robust public-private partnerships.
 - b. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Cities Readiness Initiative be promoted.
 - c. Compile best practices and include in a tool kit for private sector and especially small businesses to utilize in establishing and evaluating their own preparedness efforts.

PREPAREDNESS AND PROTECTION

Emergency Management Institute

4. Ensure course content development and revisions reflect functional/accessible needs considerations following current research and best practices. Ensure contractors who are used to develop and update course content have appropriate functional/accessible needs expertise, following current research and best practices.

RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

International Urban Search and Rescue Teams

The NAC was asked to provide guidance on eliminating restrictions on the use of specialized international urban search and rescue teams in the United States following a catastrophic disaster.

5. The NAC recommends that FEMA ensure coordination of efforts with, and break down silos between the multiple working groups that are focused on the liability and insurance obstacles to international mutual aid that may include White House, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Association, U.S. Department of Defense (DoD). FEMA must ensure appropriate levels of coordination, cooperation and information sharing between these groups. The NAC recommends that FEMA evaluate whole community non-government centric solutions through partnerships with private sector and non-governmental organizations.
6. On the licensure issue, the NAC recommends that FEMA:
 - a. Engage with HHS to jointly examine opportunities to work with state medical and emergency medical licensing authorities to either pre-credential members of international teams, or establish protocols to quickly credential members of international teams that are responding into the United States;
 - b. Partner with HHS and National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) to poll states and identify those that already have laws or authorities that permit the Governor (or designee) to either waive state license requirements or recognize international licenses during a local or statewide state of emergency or public health emergency.
 - c. Consider an amendment to the Stafford Act to deal with the licensure issues in a manner similar to how licensure is dealt with in state-to-state mutual aid under Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). The Stafford Act could provide that a state will

- recognize licenses if an international team is dispatched into a state in response to a state request for direct federal assistance.
7. On the liability issue, the NAC recommends that FEMA:
 - a. Partner with NEMA to poll states and identify those that have existing laws or authorities that provide appropriate liability protections for responding international teams;
 - b. Consider an amendment to the Stafford Act to deal with the liability issue in a manner similar to how liability is dealt with in state-to-state mutual aid under EMAC. The Stafford Act could provide that a state assumes the liability risk for an international team that is dispatched into a state in response to a state request for direct federal assistance.
 - c. Consider federal legislation that would permit FEMA to deploy members of international teams as the equivalent of temporary federal workers or FEMA reservists, thus shifting the liability risk to the federal government.

The National Advisory Council is grateful for the opportunity to provide these recommendations to you and FEMA for your consideration and looks forward to the next opportunity in March 2013.