



FEMA

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN

Week of September 15, 2014

Important Dates and Deadlines:

[IPAWS West Virginia Statewide Test](#)
(September 17, 2014)

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

[State Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning Guidance Key Concepts](#)
(October 17, 2014)

FY14 Pre-Disaster Mitigation and Flood Mitigation Assistance Submission and Grant Selections

FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant programs provide funding to states, tribes, territories and local governments for eligible mitigation activities to strengthen our nation's ability to reduce disaster losses and protect life and property from future disaster damages.

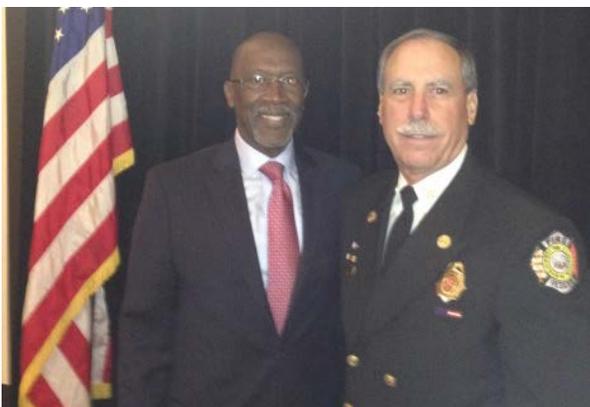
On April 21, 2014, FEMA opened an application period through July 25, 2014 for two HMA grant programs, [Flood Mitigation Assistance \(FMA\)](#) and [Pre-Disaster Mitigation \(PDM\)](#), via the funding opportunity announcement posted on [www.grants.gov](#). FEMA received 325 PDM planning, project and management costs applications from the 76 grant applicants. FEMA also received 216 FMA planning, project, technical assistance and management costs applications from 30 grant applicants.

FEMA completed its initial review of applications submitted for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 grant application cycle to ensure they were eligible, cost-effective, feasible, effective and aligned with the agency's priorities. PDM program priorities included applications to fulfill the statutory set-aside, tribal set aside, mitigation planning and mitigation projects. For the FMA program, priorities included funding for flood mitigation planning, mitigation of severe repetitive loss properties and mitigation of repetitive loss properties.

FY14 selections for the PDM and FMA programs were based on agency priorities identified on the funding opportunity announcement. For FY14, FEMA selected 284 PDM planning, project and management costs applications from 74 applicants for \$63 million and 110 FMA planning, project, technical assistance and management costs applications from 21 applicants for \$90.5 million.

FEMA will *not* send initial notification letters to each applicant regarding their status. Rather, applicants should review the status of each FY14 applications online at [www.fema.gov/pdm-fy14-subapplication-status](#) for PDM and [www.fema.gov/fma-fy14-subapplication-status](#) for FMA. FEMA will work with applicants to conduct programmatic reviews of the selected applications identified for further review before making a final decision. Grant applicants should contact their FEMA Regional Office for additional information. Further information is available at [www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance](#).

Florida Fire Chiefs Association Annual Meeting



U.S. Fire Academy Fire Chief Ernie Mitchell and Seminole Tribe of Florida Fire Chief Don DiPetrillo met at the Florida Fire Chiefs Association Annual Meeting and Executive Development Conference in Ft. Lauderdale on August 3.

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

AS, CA, GU, HI, IA, MN, ND, NE, NY, SD, TN, WA
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National Preparedness Month: Be Disaster Aware, Take Action to Prepare

"I often say that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure – and when it comes to being prepared for natural or manmade disasters, a little extra planning can go a long way. Being prepared can save money and save lives. As the Chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, I work hand in hand with my congressional colleagues to ensure that our government is prepared to respond to disasters and help save lives when the unexpected occurs. But being prepared for disasters cannot fall solely on the government. National Preparedness Month comes as reminder for all Americans to plan for the unexpected and think about how they can protect themselves and their loved ones when a disaster occurs. I encourage everyone to take a few moments this month to sit down with their families and come up with a plan."
Senator Tom Carper (DE), Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs

Engage in National Preparedness Month

- ✓ Download the [NPM Digital Engagement Toolkit](#)
- ✓ Visit [www.ready.gov/september](#) for tips and information about NPM
- ✓ Use the hashtag #NatIPrep to promote National Preparedness Month
- ✓ Register for National PrepareAthon! Day at [www.ready.gov/prepare](#)

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.

FEMA Seeks Comments on State Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning Guidance Key Concepts

FEMA continues to work to update the “State Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning Guidance,” which was last updated in January 2008. This document is the official guidance to help officials ensure that State Mitigation Plans, which are inclusive to the District of Columbia and the five U.S. territories, meet the requirements at Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 201.

As part of the update process, “State Mitigation Plan Review Guide – Highlights of Key Concepts” is [available online](#) at the FEMA Library. The key concepts under consideration result from incorporating lessons learned from stakeholders involved in State Mitigation Planning as well as principles from relevant changes in federal policy. Key concepts include strengthening specific requirements for:

- assessing future risk in light of a changing climate and changes in land use and development. This will ensure that the mitigation strategy addresses risks and takes into consideration possible future conditions in order to identify, prioritize, and implement actions to increase statewide resilience;
- supporting states in fulfilling mitigation commitments, including FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants management performance, throughout the five-year plan approval period. FEMA seeks opportunities to build and maintain mitigation capabilities and advance hazard mitigation proactively during plan implementation, and not solely at plan update and review;
- clarifying that “formally adopted by the state” means plan adoption by the highest elected official to reflect the importance of plan implementation as a means to demonstrate risk reduction as a statewide priority; and
- coordinating and integrating the mitigation planning process with the whole community, including agencies and stakeholders with mitigation capabilities that are responsible for economic development; land use and development; housing; infrastructure; natural and cultural resource management; and health and human services.

Engaging agencies and stakeholders with data and authority early in the planning process facilitates both successful plan development and implementation.

Written comments may be submitted electronically to FEMA by sending an e-mail to FEMA-Mitigation-Planning@fema.dhs.gov no later than **5:00 p.m. EDT on October 17, 2014**. FEMA intends to consider comments that are received by the deadline, as appropriate, and finalize over the next couple of months.

FEMA continues to revise and develop resources to support states in updating State Mitigation Plans as well as building and maintaining statewide mitigation programs. Visit the FEMA Mitigation Planning webpage at www.fema.gov/multi-hazard-mitigation-planning for resources currently available.

REMINDER: FEMA Announces Statewide Test of Multiple Communication Pathways in West Virginia

As part of FEMA’s mission to strengthen preparedness and resiliency, FEMA is conducting testing to access the readiness of systems to deliver life-saving alert and warning information to the public. FEMA is working together with West Virginia emergency managers, the West Virginia Broadcasters Association and others to conduct a test of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) in West Virginia. The test, expected to last approximately two minutes, is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 17, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. EDT**.

The test is a cooperative effort to ensure communication channels are available, working and ready to deliver alerts and warnings when an emergency occurs. Data collected from the statewide test, including information on distribution networks, monitoring assignments, transmission issues-and lessons learned, will be used to finalize plans for a nationwide test of IPAWS sometime in the near future.

For more information on IPAWS, please visit www.fema.gov/ipaws or www.ready.gov/alerts.

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.





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Special Spotlight: National Preparedness Month and America's PrepareAthon!

National PrepareAthon! Day: September 30

Register to participate at www.ready.gov/prepare

September is [National Preparedness Month \(NPM\)](#). All across the country, federal, state, local and tribal governments, community organizations, and members of the private sector have embraced NPM and 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.

Across the Country

In Smyrna, Georgia, congregations in the city's faith based community will be participating in a city wide tornado drill during their church services on **September 28**.

The Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration, along with FEMA, the American Red Cross, and New York City Office of Emergency Management, is hosting a preparedness and response training on **September 30** for community-based organizations that serve the City's Latino population.

On **September 30**, schools in Louisa County, Virginia, will hold an earthquake drill where students will drop, cover, hold and then evacuate. There will also be 30 minute assemblies for all students to talk about preparedness, and both English and science classrooms will incorporate preparedness into their lesson plans. More than 5,600 students and staff are expected to participate as well as members of the local fire and EMS departments.

In the Private Sector

Amtrak's preparedness division will hold a Hurricane Demonstration Preparedness event as part of the Amtrak Employee Day and Preparedness Fair on **September 19**.

AARP and **PetSmart Charities** are hosting [a Facebook Q & A](#) on how to best make a disaster plan for your pet. The event is on **September 23 at 2 p.m. EDT** at www.facebook.com/AARP.

Verizon is hosting a corporate-wide Twitter campaign, which mirrors the weekly NPM campaign themes, and is publishing preparedness-themed blog posts on the company's [public policy blog](#). They also are airing the [Ready Campaign's](#) public service announcements (PSAs) on [FiOS1 News](#) channels in Long Island, New Jersey and the Lower Hudson Valley.

Target is partnering with the New York City Office of Emergency Management at the Staten Island Children's Day event on **September 21 at 12-5 p.m. EDT**, which will feature emergency vehicle displays as well as free museum admission.



Be Disaster Aware, Take Action to Prepare

You can take the lead in planning an activity for [National PrepareAthon! Day](#) in your organization or community. The America's PrepareAthon! website has many resources available to help you plan a successful event. Playbooks are available for [earthquake](#), [flood](#), [hurricane](#), [tornado](#), [wildfire](#), and [winter storm](#).

For an overview of all the resources available to help make your America's PrepareAthon! activity a success, check out the [Resource Catalogue](#).



"I am honored to serve as a Congressional Co-Chair of 13th Annual National Preparedness Month. National Preparedness Month is the ideal time to create or review your emergency plans, re-stock your emergency kits and spread awareness within your communities. I have witnessed first-hand the results of an unpredictable disaster and the resulting devastation when Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast almost ten years ago. Now is the time to be vigilant, collaborate together as families and communities to make certain we are all prepared. Let's be smart, take part and join together so we can stay safe and have peace of mind knowing we can stand strong in the event disaster strikes."

Rep. Bennie Thompson (MS), Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland Security

