



FEMA

# EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN

Week of September 22, 2014

Important Dates and Deadlines:

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

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

## Joe Nimmich Confirmed as FEMA Deputy Administrator

[Joe Nimmich](#) was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the next FEMA Deputy Administrator. Mr. Nimmich has had a distinguished career of service to the American people, including more than 30 years in the U.S. Coast Guard. Mr. Nimmich also served on the FEMA National Advisory Council from 2012 until his appointment as FEMA Associate Administrator for Response and Recovery. At FEMA, he continues to help to ensure that FEMA supports disaster survivors, first responders and the American people in the most efficient and effective way possible.

## LLIS.gov Shares Research on the Cybersecurity Core Capability

During the past few months, the Lessons Learned Information Sharing (LLIS.gov) team posted several new documents and webinars about ongoing core capability research on cybersecurity. These documents capture information from emergency managers throughout the country to help the emergency management community improve its cyber preparedness.

- [Cybersecurity: California's Annual Cybersecurity Awareness Event](#) discusses the California Information Security Office's annual cybersecurity awareness event and how it can serve as a whole community engagement model for other states to address cyber preparedness gaps.
- [Cybersecurity: Developing Secondary Teams to Increase Cyber Response Capabilities](#) illustrates Rhode Island's efforts to create the Rhode Island cybersecurity secondary team. It also discusses how secondary teams are a way for whole community volunteers to provide technical expertise and surge support during cyber incidents.
- [Cybersecurity: Integrating Information Technology, Emergency Management and Private Sectors into Preparedness and Response Exercises](#) describes the state of Nevada's ongoing efforts to build the state's cybersecurity capabilities.
- [New Hampshire's IT Leader Program: Improving Information Sharing to Enhance Cybersecurity](#) outlines New Hampshire's IT Leader Program. Established in 2003, the program helps develop effective relationships between the state's Department of Information Technology and state agency partners.
- [Cybersecurity: The Michigan Cyber Disruption Response Strategy](#) describes a new framework for addressing cyber threats. This was developed and implemented by a coalition of public and private sector partners in Michigan as a result of the growing threat of cyber attacks.
- [Cybersecurity: The Need for Common Cybersecurity Terminology between Information Technology and Emergency Management](#) examines how implementing common terminology can improve communication and coordination between all entities involved in cybersecurity preparedness and response.
- [Presentation: Cyber Security and Homeland Security: Cyber Security for CIKR \(Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources\) and SLTT \(State, Local, Tribal, Territorial\)](#) presents DHS' cyber responsibilities, applicable assessments, the Cyber Resilience Review and other valuable resources and tools related to cybersecurity.

A summary of all the documents and webinars produced by the LLIS.gov team is available at [www.llis.dhs.gov/topics/cybersecurity](http://www.llis.dhs.gov/topics/cybersecurity).

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](#).

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IA, MN, ND, NE, NY, SD, WA  
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## Strategic Fund Management Information Now Available

The Strategic Funds Management Implementation Guide and Job Aids are now available at [www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance](http://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance).

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

"I'm pleased to once again serve as a Congressional Co-Chair of National Preparedness Month. While we can't prevent all disasters, there are steps we can take to reduce their impact. National Preparedness Month serves as a critical reminder to us all that no one is immune from a potential disaster and that having a plan in place for your family, workplace, and community can make a real difference. Being prepared for emergencies can save lives, and that's reason enough for us all to take stock of our situations and plan for the unforeseen."

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

## Engage in National Preparedness Month

- ✓ Download the [NPM Digital Engagement Toolkit](#)
- ✓ Visit [www.ready.gov/september](http://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](http://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.

## The Interagency Coordinating Council Meets at FEMA Headquarters

On September 11, the [Interagency Coordinating Council \(ICC\) on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities](#) met at FEMA Headquarters to discuss, among other hot topics, its Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15) exercise initiative. The overarching goal of the ICC exercise initiative is to demonstrate and validate that during disaster response and recovery the efforts of the ICC are “survivor centric,” ensuring the effective integration and coordination of federal programs and services that directly impact survivors with disabilities.

Working with FEMA’s National Exercise Division, the Office of Disability Integration and Coordination (ODIC) also discussed its plan to exercise disability inclusion and integration across FEMA. In addition, ODIC reported that it has partnered with a group of fellows with The Partnership for Public Service, in a program called Excellence in Government, to develop specific, measurable, achievable, results-oriented and time-bound (SMART) measures. SMART will allow FEMA to better assess and improve its impact on people with disabilities during or after disasters.

Established by Executive Order 13347, the ICC comprises of more than 25 federal executive departments and agencies that work together to ensure that emergency preparedness plans incorporate the perspective and needs of individuals with disabilities, and eliminate any existing barriers to access. The ICC ensures that the federal government is appropriately supporting the safety and security of individuals with disabilities in situations involving disasters, including earthquakes, tornadoes, fires, floods, hurricanes and acts of terrorism. FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate is the chair of the ICC, and has directed Marcie Roth, Director of ODIC, to lead and coordinate all aspects of Executive Order 13347 and the ICC.

## FEMA NTAA Attends ITEMC Meeting

In early September, the FEMA National Tribal Affairs Advisor (NTAA) Milo Booth met with the Inter-Tribal Emergency Management Coalition (ITEMC) in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Some of the topics discussed at the meeting include the FEMA Tribal Consultation Policy, the Tribal Declarations Pilot Guidance, and training and grant opportunities.

Pictured are (L-R) Tim Zientek, ITEMC Executive Director; Mr. Booth, NTAA; and Bob Tallchief, ITEMC board member.



## REMINDER: 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. 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](mailto: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.

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](http://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](http://www.ready.gov/prepare).

### Across the Country

In Kansas, the Manhattan-Ogden School District has joined America's PrepareAthon! and the city of Manhattan, Kansas, designating the months of September and October as official "America's PrepareAthon! Months" throughout the city. On **September 22-23**, the school district will kick-off a series of America's PrepareAthon! activities by sponsoring a number of Manhattan School Preparedness Workshops in several elementary and middle schools throughout the district.

The Heart of Texas Council of Governments will host their PrepareAthon! Day of Action by conducting a series of drills and exercises on **September 23**. Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) will receive a call-down message that will deploy them into a full-scale exercise, sending them into various locations across the regional area to set up outreach booths promoting preparedness and the PrepareAthon! campaign.

In New York City, there is a call for donated items that will culminate on **September 30**, at which time the donations will be collected. In early October, NYC community emergency response teams will use the donated items to assemble Go-Bags and will distribute them to residents located in high risk flood zone areas on October 27, the two year anniversary of Hurricane Sandy.

### In the Private Sector

Three **Home Depot** stores in Kansas and Missouri are partnering with FEMA Region VII to sponsor the region's first "Partners in Preparedness" expo for store employees and patrons. More than 100 Home Depot and FEMA employees will participate in the expo on **September 25** providing preparedness training, information and emergency supply kit building exercises for an expected reach of more than 4,000 shoppers across the three stores.

**Target** is partnering with the Los Angeles Emergency Management Division to host a preparedness fair in downtown Los Angeles, which will focus on simple steps to be prepared at work and at home on **Friday, September 26 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

### Register Events with America's PrepareAthon!

Visit the [America's PrepareAthon! website](#) and register preparedness events and activities via the [online form](#). By registering and adding your numbers, participants demonstrate how the nation is moving towards becoming more prepared. Registering as an America's PrepareAthon! community member also provides participants access to exclusive resources, communities of practice, regional groups, national forms, and updates from FEMA and emergency management personnel. After registering, plan to check back within two to three days to verify the event has been added and take a moment to see what others community members have planned for National PrepareAthon! Day.

Preparedness activities are important to creating a more resilient Nation and should be counted. Be sure to register for America's PrepareAthon! today.

*"National preparedness should be a top priority for our nation, but achieving our goals can be done only when individuals and communities play an active role. Government officials, community leaders, teachers, students, and families must all be engaged to support a culture of preparedness. Alaskans know firsthand that our country faces a wide range of hazards, both natural and man-made, but the message of preparedness and risk-reduction is universal and resonates from Alaska to Maine and everywhere in between. In my role as chair of the Senate Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Management I will keep working every day to make sure emergency preparedness is a national priority."*  
**Senator Mark Begich, Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Subcommittee on Emergency Management, Intergovernmental Relations, and the District of Columbia**