



FEMA

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN

Week of October 5, 2014
Important Dates and Deadlines:

[The Great ShakeOut](#)
(October 16, 2014)

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

Fire Prevention Week:

Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives, Test Yours Every Month

October 5-11 is Fire Prevention Week. Each year, fire departments respond to more than 350,000 home fires. These fires cause nearly 2,500 deaths and billions of dollars in damages. Almost three out of five of these deaths happen in homes with no working smoke alarm. The United States Fire Administration (USFA) recommends everyone should have a comprehensive home fire protection plan that includes smoke alarms and fire sprinklers, and practicing a fire escape plan.

The place with the highest risk of dying in a fire is the home. Each individual has an estimated three minutes to get out of the house if there is fire before the air is too toxic to survive. A smoke alarm provides early warning of smoke in the home by alerting families to get out of the home as fast as possible. A working smoke alarm cuts the risk of dying in a home fire in half.

During Fire Prevention Week, take the time to test smoke alarms. Make sure there is an alarm on every level of the home, inside and outside each sleeping area and in the basement. Sit down together with everyone that lives at home and discuss a home fire escape plan. Once a home fire escape plan has been developed, practice it. The only way to know if everyone can get out safely is by putting the plan into action.

More information about [smoke alarms](#), [escape plans](#), [home fire sprinklers](#) and a [home safety checklist](#) as well as other fire safety topics are available online at www.usfa.fema.gov.

FEMA and Operation Hope Partner to Support Financial Preparedness and Release Revised Emergency Financial First Aid Kit

FEMA and Operation Hope released an updated tool to support emergency preparedness. The Emergency Financial First Aid Kit (EFFAK) is a flexible tool to help individuals and families at all income levels collect and secure for themselves critical documents and information. With recommendations for household information, financial and legal documentation, medical information, and household contacts, the EFFAK provides a structured approach for safeguarding the documentation needed to start the recovery process. The EFFAK includes a fillable form for families to track their documentation on-line.

When survivors of Hurricane Sandy were asked what they wished they had known, what possessions they had, or what actions they should have taken before the storm, one of the top five items mentioned was collecting and safely storing important personal documents. A FEMA survey conducted in 2011 showed that less than 35 percent of Americans report having copies of their vital records stored as part of their preparedness kit.

The revised EFFAK is available at www.ready.gov/financialpreparedness and at www.operationhope.org. Support materials are also available for organizations to use in promoting financial preparedness with their constituents as part of the America's PrepareAthon! campaign at www.ready.gov/prepare.

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](#).

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America's PrepareAthon! Thank You

Thank you for your support of National PrepareAthon! Day on September 30. Citizens, organizations, schools, communities, and others came together to take steps that would prepare them for potential emergencies in the future.

By taking part in National PrepareAthon! Day, you have helped make our country better prepared. If you haven't participated yet, there is still time to participate in the Great ShakeOut.

The Great ShakeOut

We all, should know how to protect ourselves in an earthquake. Even if earthquakes are rare where you live, they may happen where you or your family travel. [Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills](#) are an annual opportunity for people in homes, schools, and organizations to practice what to do during earthquakes, and to improve preparedness.

ShakeOut Drills are scheduled for **10:16 a.m. local time on October 16, 2014**. However, organizations may hold a ShakeOut drill on another date within two weeks at a convenient time.

Anyone can participate, from a single individual at his or her home to a major company at the office. Talk to your coworkers, neighbors and friends about the ShakeOut and encourage their participation. Sign up for free at www.shakeout.org/register to be counted in the ShakeOut Drill, get email updates, and more.

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 Publishes Amendments for the Public Assistance and Individual Assistance Program for Fiscal Year 2015

FEMA published Federal Register Notices amending several important indicators for the Public Assistance and Individual Assistance program for Fiscal Year 2015. Under the Individual Assistance program the maximum grant award was amended to \$32,900. Under the Public Assistance program, the Statewide per capita indicator was amended to \$1.41 and the countywide per capita indicator was amended to \$3.56. The minimum amount to process a project worksheet was amended to \$3,040, and the maximum dollar amount for a project to be considered a small project was amended to \$121,600. Projects over \$121,600 will be processed as a large project. These changes are effective for disasters declared on or after October 1, 2014.

FEMA Participates in the National Zoo's ZooFiesta

As part of September's National Preparedness Month activities, FEMA hosted a booth at the National Zoo's ZooFiesta event, held in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month.

FEMA staff talked with visitors about how people can prepare themselves and their families and placed a special emphasis on how families can care for their pets in an emergency. They also handed out [Ready's](#) preparedness brochures in English and Spanish and encouraged visitors to download the [FEMA](#) app, which is available in English and Spanish on iPhone and Android.



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 of 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 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.

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.

