



FEMA

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN

Week of October 13, 2014

Important Dates and Deadlines:

[Great ShakeOut](#)
(October 16, 10:16 a.m. local)

[State Multi-Hazard Mitigation
Planning Comments](#)
(October, 17, 2014)

[Effective Coordination of
Recovery Resources](#)
(October 22, 2014)

Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills

Everyone, everywhere, should know how to protect themselves 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 at home, in schools, and at office or meeting places to practice what to do during earthquakes, and to improve preparedness.

Most ShakeOut Drills are scheduled for **10:16 a.m. local time on October 16, 2014**. You or your organization, however, may hold your ShakeOut drill on another date within two weeks before or after that you find most convenient. There are many ways for individuals, businesses, schools, faith-based organizations, community groups, government agencies, and others to participate in the ShakeOut, to get prepared for earthquakes, and to share what you're doing with others so they can do the same. Basic instructions on how to plan your drill and get prepared are available at www.shakeout.org/howtoparticipate.

Anyone can participate in a ShakeOut Drill, from a single individual at their 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.



FEMA Seeks Comments on its Proposed Public Assistance Policy on Insurance

FEMA seeks public comments from state, tribal and local governments, private non-profit organizations and interested members of the public regarding its proposed Public Assistance policy on insurance. Comments must be submitted through the process outlined in the [Federal Register Notice](#) and are due on **December 8, 2014**.

Following a federal disaster declaration and the activation of the Public Assistance program, FEMA may provide grants to state, territorial, local, and federally recognized tribal governments and certain private non-profit entities to assist them with the response to and recovery from disasters. As a condition of receiving these federal funds applicants must insure that facility against future loss.

This proposed policy makes several changes including clarifying key terms, the scope of insurance needed, and the difference between flood and non-flood events. The policy also proposes options to self-insure, modify the insurance requirement and sets standards for State Insurance Commissioner certification.

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-ebulletin@fema.dhs.gov. Previous editions are available at the [FEMA library](#).

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Great ShakeOut: How to Participate

- The day of the drill, [Drop, Cover, and Hold On](#):
 - **Drop** to the ground,
 - Take **Cover** under a table or desk, and
 - **Hold On** to it as if a major earthquake were happening (stay down for at least 60 seconds).
- People who have mobility disabilities and cannot drop should still cover and hold on. Stay put and do not try to transfer during the shaking. People who use wheelchairs should lock the wheels.
- Everyone who is staying put should cover your head and neck with your arms or a pillow until the shaking stops.
- During the drill, look around and imagine what could happen in a major earthquake.
 - What could fall on you or others?
 - What could be damaged?
 - What would life be like after?
 - *What will you do before the actual earthquake happens to reduce losses and quickly recover?*
- Finally, practice what the community will do [after](#) shaking stops.

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.

Hazardous Materials Technician for CBRNE Incidents Course Available at CDP

The Hazardous Materials Technician (HT) for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives (CBRNE) Incidents course at FEMA's Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) allows emergency response personnel to share a dynamic training experience. The course conveys complex concepts using hands-on learning models offering realistic scenario-based exercises.

In late 2012, HT was expanded from three to five days, which made the improved curriculum even more beneficial to HAZMAT techs. Students now have more opportunities to operate equipment and exercise their ability to respond to an all-hazards event. In addition to more advanced response tools, the course also includes training venues that expanded CDP's ability to offer students an even more realistic training experience.

HT challenges hazardous materials technicians with an extensive hands-on training experience and provides them with an overview of both international and domestic threats, with a spotlight on identification and decontamination of biological, chemical, radiological and explosive hazards. To learn more about CDP or register for the course, visit [Hazardous Materials Technician for CBRNE Incidents](#) or call 1-866-213-9553.

Fire Prevention Tips

A working smoke alarm is one of the most important tools in your home. Working smoke alarms cut your risk of dying in a fire in half. Take time each month to test your smoke alarms. Make sure you have an alarm on every level of your home, inside and outside each sleeping area and in the basement. Sit down with everyone in your home and discuss your home fire escape plan. As you make this plan, consider the following questions:

- Does everyone know two ways out of each room, in case one is blocked by fire?
- Does anyone in your home need assistance getting out of the home quickly?
- If so, who will be in charge of helping that person?

Once you have developed a home fire escape plan, practice your plan to ensure that everyone will be able to get out.

The United States Fire Administration recommends everyone have working smoke alarms, practice a home fire escape plan and consider installing home fire sprinklers in their home. 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 Seeks Comments on Effective Coordination of Recovery Resources for State, Tribal, Territorial and Local Incidents

FEMA is currently seeking comments on the *Effective Coordination of Recovery Resources for State, Tribal, Territorial and Local Incidents* document until **October 22, 2014**.

Comments from any organization or interested party are welcome and will help to inform the final document prior to its publication. For a copy of the document, email FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov.

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," last published in January 2008. This document is the 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 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.

