



FEMA

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN

Week of November 3, 2014

Important Dates and Deadlines:

[Unified Federal Review Applicant Guidance](#)
(November 28, 2014)

[Assistance to Firefighters Grants](#)
(December 5, 2014)

[Proposed Public Assistance Policy on Insurance](#)
(December 8, 2014)

Application Period for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) Open until December 5

FEMA announced the opening of the FY 2014 Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) application period, which will close on **Friday, December 5, at 5 p.m. ET**. All eligible applicants for AFG must be registered and active in the System for Award Management (SAM) before submitting an application. Per 2 CFR § 25.205, FEMA may not make an award to an entity until the entity has complied with the requirements to provide a valid Dun & Bradstreet (D-U-N-S Number) and maintain an active SAM registration with current information. To register, or to validate information, please visit the [SAM website](#).

For questions about the AFG Program, please contact a fire program specialist in one of the [10 federal regional centers](#) or the AFG Program Help Desk at 1-866-274-0960 or firegrants@dhs.gov.

FEMA Announces Training Classes for EMI's Basic Academy and Master Trainer Program in Emergency Management

FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI), located on the campus of the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland, continues to support the Department of Homeland Security's and FEMA's goals by training emergency management officials at all levels of government to prepare for disasters and other emergencies. EMI's [National Emergency Management Basic Academy](#) (Basic Academy) is the entry point for individuals pursuing a career in emergency management. Similar to basic academies operated by the fire and law enforcement communities, the Basic Academy will provide a foundational education in emergency management.

The goal of the Basic Academy is to support the early careers of emergency managers through a training experience combining knowledge of all fundamental systems, concepts and practices of cutting-edge emergency management. The Basic Academy provides an opportunity for students to gain a common understanding of the roles, responsibilities and legal boundaries for emergency management; build an emergency management community of practice; and establish professional contacts. For people new to the field or transferring from another profession into emergency management, the Basic Academy provides the opportunity to get a standard and comprehensive grounding in all key aspects of the field.

EMI will continue to offer its [Master Trainer Program \(MTP\)](#) in 2015. At the heart of any comprehensive training program are the trainers who design, teach, and evaluate the many training programs that provide basic entry level skills and advanced technical skill specializations. MTP is designed to develop a cadre of training professionals capable of performing all training functions from analyzing training needs to the design, development, delivery, evaluation and management of training activities with the goal of achieving excellence through training. Developing professional and competent emergency personnel requires a community-wide commitment to ensure that all individuals involved in emergency response and support activities have the skills they need to perform under stressful conditions.

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](#).

Open Joint Field Offices

AS, CA, HI, IA, KY, MI, MN, MO, MT, ND, NE, NM, NY, SD, TN, WA
[Learn more.](#)

Infectious Diseases Fact Sheet

The [Infectious Diseases Fact Sheet](#) describes the scope of assistance that may be provided under a Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended (Stafford Act) in response to a potential infectious disease declaration. Any action taken by DHS, including FEMA, in response to an infectious disease event will be in coordination with other agencies that have a primary role in these incidents, including the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and its Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience Month

November is [Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience Month](#). Just like the day-to-day efforts to secure and protect infrastructure, building awareness and understanding of the importance of critical infrastructure requires a nationwide effort, with partners across federal, state, local, territorial and tribal governments and private sector owners and operators working together.

An important part of Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience Month is the continued work on implementing the [National Infrastructure Protection Plan \(NIPP\)](#). The NIPP's focus is to safeguard both cyber and physical systems through collaborative public-private partnerships at all levels of government and industry from local, regional, national, and international perspectives.

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 National Tribal Affairs Advisor (NTAA) Meets with Village Council in Old Harbor, Alaska

In October, Milo Booth, FEMA NTAA, met with the Village Council of Old Harbor, Alaska, which is located on the southern end of Kodiak Island, an archipelago 300 miles south of Anchorage. Ramona VanCleve, Alaska Area Office Tribal Liaison, was also in attendance. Fifty years ago, the 9.2 Magnitude Good Friday Earthquake, which occurred 78 miles east of Anchorage, caused a tsunami that destroyed the village of Old Harbor. The residents rebuilt the village in the same location.

Topics discussed at the meeting included the challenges faced by Old Harbor regarding the community's inaccessibility from mainland Alaska, FEMA training courses, potential funding opportunities, and the establishment of an Emergency Management Program. As part of FEMA's tribal outreach, the Office of External Affairs released "[FEMA and Tribal Nations: A Pocket Guide](#)", a resource that provides information for tribal partners about FEMA's policies related to tribal engagement, key FEMA programs in relation to federally recognized tribes and contact information for tribal liaisons.



*Village Council of Old Harbor,
Mr. Booth and Ms. VanCleve.*

Heating Fire Safety Tips

As the weather becomes cooler, people begin heating their homes. No matter if it's a space heater, fireplace or wood stove, it is important to remember [heating fire safety](#). Each year there are approximately 53,600 home fires due to heat sources. These fires are responsible for 400 civilian deaths, 1,520 civilian injuries and \$893 million in property damage. Space heaters are responsible for one-third of home heating fires and four out of five home heating fire deaths. To keep families and homes safe from fire, follow these fire safety tips:

- Keep anything that can burn a minimum of three feet away from heating equipment, such as the furnace, fireplace, wood stove or portable heater.
- Never use an oven for heating.
- Turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- If a fireplace is used, make sure it has a sturdy screen to prevent sparks from flying into the room.
- For wood burning stoves, install chimney connectors and chimneys following manufacturer's instructions or have a professional do the installation.
- Make sure all fuel-burning heaters are vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.
- Install CO alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning.

As always, ensure there is a [smoke alarm](#) and [CO alarm](#) on every level of the home, inside and outside sleeping areas. Test smoke alarms every month. Have a [home fire escape plan](#) and test the plan at least twice a year to ensure everyone knows how to escape the home if there was a fire.

REMINDER: Unified Federal Review Applicant Guidance Open for Comment

FEMA, in conjunction with its interagency Steering Group, announced the public review period for the Draft Environmental and Historic Preservation Guidance for Federal Disaster Recovery Assistance Applicants. The Draft Applicant Guidance is an important step in the implementation of the [Unified Federal Environmental and Historic Preservation Review Process](#).

To access the Draft Applicant Guidance and for further instructions on submitting comments, please visit the [Unified Federal Review webpage](#).
Comments can be submitted through November 28, 2014.

REMINDER: Proposed Public Assistance Policy on Insurance Open for Comment

FEMA seeks public comments from state, local, tribal and territorial 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**.

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.