



FEMA

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN

Week of December 1, 2014

Important Dates and Deadlines:

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

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

[Public Assistance Simplified
Procedures Thresholds](#)
(January 20, 2015)

FEMA Announces Policy Updates to Flood Risk Analysis and Mapping Standards

FEMA announced the revision of 18 Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (RiskMAP) standards as part of the semi-annual maintenance process. The revisions included changes in standards implemented relative to levee [Zone AR](#) and [A99](#) designations consistent with Section 19 of the Homeowners Insurance Affordability Act of 2014; updating maps to show a de-accredited levee through the Letter of Map Revision process; depiction of base flood elevations on flood maps; use of digital flood hazard data; and some terminology changes.

FEMA also issued new guidance documents for RiskMAP and updated the related technical reference documents that define specific requirements for flood risk project deliverables. A summary of RiskMAP standards and guidance maintenance is available at www.fema.gov/guidelines-and-standards-maintenance.

RiskMAP has instituted a semi-annual maintenance process for this policy to address ongoing needs for updated standards and to provide regular updates to procedures for mapping. Updates to the mapping standards will typically be issued twice each year. FEMA conducted [a public review of the draft standards](#) earlier this year.

In August 2013, a set of standards for the RiskMAP program was issued as the FEMA policy Standards for Flood Risk Analysis and Mapping. RiskMAP provides high quality flood maps for communities to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program, and information and tools to better assess the risk from flooding. RiskMAP also provides planning and outreach support to communities to help them take action to reduce (or mitigate) flood risk. The purpose of the standards is to enable consistent performance of flood risk projects, processing of letters of map change and related RiskMAP activities.

Winter Weather Social Media Toolkit Now Available

The [Ready Campaign](#) recommends using social media tools as a way to promote emergency preparedness. The [winter weather social media toolkit](#) includes Facebook and Twitter posts, related preparedness graphics and preparedness social media writing tips.



More information about winter storms and extreme cold, as well as how to prepare before, during and after severe winter weather, is available at www.ready.gov/winter-weather.

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
AZ, CA, HI, IA, KY, MI, MN,
MO, NE, NM, NV, NY
[Learn more.](#)

REMINDER: Second Meeting of the Technical Mapping Advisory Council

The second [Technical Mapping Advisory Council \(TMAC\)](#) meeting is scheduled for **December 4 - 5, 2014**. The public meeting will be held at the FEMA South Arlington Office at 1800 South Bell Street, Arlington, Virginia 20598, on December 4 from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. and December 5 from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. ET. During the public meeting, members will continue to discuss current and future possibilities for the flood mapping program to support the development of their recommendations and required reports.

Attendees must contact FEMA and register by today, December 2, 2014.

For more information on facilities, services for individuals with disabilities or to request special assistance at the meeting, email FEMA-TMAC@fema.dhs.gov.

REMINDER: FEMA Seeks Comments to Public Assistance Simplified Procedures Thresholds

FEMA seeks public comments from state, local, tribal and territorial governments, private non-profit organizations, and interested members of the public regarding the agency's recent revision of the Public Assistance program simplified procedures program. FEMA is seeking comments on specific questions to inform any future revisions to the project thresholds that are updated annually based on the Consumer Price Index. Comments are due on **January 20, 2015**, and may be [submitted online](#).

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.

Building an Emergency Kit

As part of the winter weather preparedness campaign, FEMA encourages everyone to [build an emergency kit](#) consisting of basic items that may be needed in the event of a winter storm and/or extreme cold emergency.



FINAL REMINDER: Application Period for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Assistance to Firefighters Grants 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. 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.

FINAL REMINDER: Proposed Public Assistance Policy on Insurance Open for Comment

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

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.

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.