



FEMA

# EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN

Week of December 15, 2014

Important Dates and Deadlines:

[Office of Management and Budget Super Circular Stakeholder Webinar](#)  
(December 18, 2014)

[Continuity of Operations Training Course Registration](#)  
(January 6, 2015)

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

## Emergency Management Institute Offers Continuity of Operations Training Course

FEMA's Emergency Management Institute will hold a three-day training course for government employees who manage Continuity of Operations (COOP) Programs from March 3-5, 2015. The course, known as "E0548 Continuity of Operations Planning Program Manager Train-the-Trainer," is recommended for federal, state, local, tribal and territorial government employees who are responsible for managing COOP programs within their government agencies.

The COOP course is based on the guidance to Federal Executive Branch Departments and agencies for developing COOP Programs, and is designed to refresh experienced practitioners and instructors on the methodology and techniques of COOP. Course objectives include defining COOP, explaining the benefits and elements of developing a viable continuity program, and identifying the processes, resources and tasks necessary to implement and manage a successful program.

Participants must have knowledge of the COOP Programs and Federal Continuity Directives 1 and 2. Participants must also complete IS0547a, "Introduction to Continuity of Operations," prior to attending this course.

The registration deadline for the COOP training course is **January 6, 2015**. For additional information, contact Dan Lubman, the course manager, at (301) 447-1364 or at [Daniel.lubman@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Daniel.lubman@fema.dhs.gov).

## Winter Storm Safety Tips

This season, there have already been winter storms that left homes and businesses without electricity, leaving residents to find alternate ways to heat homes. Whenever alternate heating methods are used, the risk of having a home fire or exposure to dangerous carbon monoxide increases. The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) advises the following tips to stay safe:

### Power and Gas Lines

- After a storm, avoid power lines that have been damaged or downed.
- Do not use gas lines that are leaking until they have been inspected.



### Generators

- Only use generators outdoors. Generator fumes contain carbon dioxide that can quickly overwhelm a person.
- Check to make sure the right size and type of power cords are used.
- Never run cords used for a generator under a carpet or a rug.
- Ensure that a generator is not connected to another power source, such as a wall outlet.
- Keep all chemicals away from the generator for safety purposes.

### Candles

- Use candles with care, as they can be easily knocked over and start a fire quickly.
- Consider using battery operated candles instead, as they are a safer alternative.

Visit [USFA's website](#) for more information on safety measures that will keep people safe during a winter storm.

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](#).

## Open Joint Field Offices (Including Virtual)

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

## Holiday Preparedness Social Media Kit Now Available

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

## Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Super Circular Stakeholder Webinar

FEMA is hosting a stakeholder webinar on **December 18, 2014 at 2 p.m. ET** to discuss the implementation of the new OMB 2 C.F.R. 200 – "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards" rule (OMB Super Circular). Participants can sign in to [Adobe Connect](#) as "Guest."

The Super Circular streamlines all of the federal government's guidance on administrative requirements, cost principles and audit requirements for federal awards. It is a federal government-wide framework for grants management and is intended to reduce administrative burden for non-federal entities receiving federal awards while reducing the risk of waste, fraud and abuse. The reform affects administrative aspects of federal grants such as how grants are awarded, managed, audited and closed out.

The new Super Circular will supersede previous OMB Circulars, administrative requirements and cost principles for all awards made on or after December 26, 2014.

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.

### Resolve to be Ready

This year's "[Resolve to be Ready](#)" campaign focuses on seasonal preparedness. The Ready Campaign encourages families to prepare throughout the year for all weather hazards.



This year, the campaign includes a downloadable [2015 seasonal preparedness messaging calendar](#) to help plan preparedness messaging and activities all year long.

### **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 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](#).

Following the passage of the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013 and the accompanying Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013, Congress directed FEMA to evaluate its simplified procedures thresholds and immediately implement the recommendations. On January 29, 2014, FEMA issued its [report to Congress](#) that recommended several changes to the threshold and outlined FEMA's reasoning. On February 26, 2014, FEMA published a [final rule](#) amending both the minimum and maximum simplified procedures threshold for disasters declared on or after February 26, 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.

