

FEMA National Advisory Council Recommendation Briefing

Annual Business Meeting | September, 2024



FEMA

Climate Subcommittee

NAC Leadership Briefing| September 2024

Climate Subcommittee Draft Recommendations

Recommendation 2024-01(C): FEMA should develop an operational framework and policy for appropriate uses of large datasets, particularly when these datasets are used for funding, cost-sharing, technical assistance and grant/loan determinations or eligibility.



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Climate Subcommittee Draft Recommendations

Recommendation 2024-02(C): FEMA should develop Resilience Standards to serve as designations for communities that are developing and/or have implemented resilient green or gray infrastructure in order to lower property losses and better adapt to the impacts of climate change.



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Federal Emergency Management Agency

Climate Subcommittee Draft Recommendations

Recommendation 2024-03(C): FEMA should take steps to increase the utilization of pre-event emergency declarations under the Stafford Act for climate driven and other emergencies.



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Climate Subcommittee Draft Recommendations

Recommendation 2024-04(C): FEMA should increase community resilience by establishing better relationships, improving collaboration, and creating tools that enhance local capacity.



Climate Subcommittee Draft Recommendations

Recommendation 2024-05(C): FEMA should strengthen and streamline its Public Assistance process so that local governments can access immediate post-disaster response funding and timely reimbursement for subsequent expenses.



Climate Subcommittee Draft Recommendations

Recommendation 2024-06(C): FEMA should partner with SLTTs and other partners to engage homeowners and renters regarding the importance of carrying adequate insurance in ways that increase the rate of insurance uptake nationwide.



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Federal Emergency Management Agency

Readiness/Workforce Subcommittee

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Readiness/Workforce Draft Recommendations

Recommendation 2024-07(RW): FEMA should create a Higher Education Subcommittee comprised of a representative sample of both industry professionals and the higher education community. The Subcommittee could be situated under the FEMA National Advisory Council or within EMI (the future NDEMU) with a primary mission to carry out a detailed gap and congruence analysis with the goal of identifying pathways for emergency management higher education and stakeholders to expand the workforce. A primary focus of the Subcommittee analysis should be concentrated on recognizing programmatic competencies that are supported by both the industry and academic research.



Readiness/Workforce Draft Recommendations

Recommendation 2024-08(RW): FEMA should make evaluating and leveraging advanced technology a priority for the next FEMA Strategic Plan. To achieve this, FEMA should consider establishing a work group to examine how artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, mis/disinformation campaigns, privacy and data integrity, and other rapidly evolving advanced technology concepts affect the agency's ability to execute its mission.

Readiness/Workforce Draft Recommendations

Recommendation 2024-09(RW): FEMA should partner with a non-profit organization to convene a grocery summit in 2025. In preparation for this summit the non-profit will collaborate with grocery-sector stakeholders, FEMA, and others to craft a whole-of-nation policy/strategy framework for food flows in catastrophic contexts. Working with the non-profit, private sector stakeholders will develop the first draft of this framework. Consistent with the whole-of-nation policy/strategy framework, FEMA should explore funding regular consultations with 1) a policy/strategy "steering committee" of grocery-sector stakeholders and 2) an operational/tactical group of grocery-sector supply chain/emergency management professionals. If this effort is successful, it could be applied to other supply chain sectors.



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Readiness/Workforce Draft Recommendations

Recommendation 2024-10(RW): FEMA should consider standardizing the Ready, Set, Go! preparedness messaging, and develop a national standard for evacuation terminology, using plain language, that accompanies the “Go” component of the program. Ready, Set, Go! and the evacuation terminology should be applied to all hazards and training should be provided for the emergency management community on its application.



Gender Based Violence Subcommittee

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Gender Based Violence Draft Recommendations

Recommendation 2024-11(GBV): FEMA should develop victim-centered trauma-informed training for emergency managers and FEMA staff so plans and operations are inclusive of all people in all communities.



Gender Based Violence Draft Recommendations

Recommendation 2024-12(GBV): FEMA should develop guidance for SLTT emergency managers on how to plan for the specialized and contextual needs of those at high-risk of experiencing gender-based violence during and after an emergency.



Gender Based Violence Draft Recommendations

Recommendation 2024-13(GBV): FEMA should review its policies and procedures to determine which expenses related to those experiencing or are at risk of experiencing gender-based violence are currently eligible for reimbursement under the Public Assistance and Individual Assistance programs and develop specific guidance and training for FEMA field staff on which costs are eligible.



Gender Based Violence Draft Recommendations

Recommendation 2024-14(GBV): FEMA should ensure that its post-disaster processes take into account the stress levels and emotional well-being of recent disaster survivors, particularly those with known mental health issues or who are vulnerable to additional harm such as gender-based violence or human trafficking.



Preliminary Damage Assessment

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Preliminary Damage Assessment Draft Recommendations

Recommendation 2024-15(PDA): FEMA should design a tiered model preliminary damage assessment training to focus on realistic simulation of local, state, non-governmental interagency coordination. This should include providing training on tools and technology to assist in data collection.



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Preliminary Damage Assessment Draft Recommendations

Recommendation 2024-16(PDA): FEMA should expand their current training model to reduce barriers and improve accessibility by developing and enhancing Train-the-Trainer courses, webinars, virtual options, Just-in-Time training, YouTube videos, and more for the PDA process.



Preliminary Damage Assessment Draft Recommendations

Recommendation 2024-17(PDA): FEMA should ensure all regions can ingest large amounts of SLTT damage assessment data through a common file sharing tool (e.g., Google, Dropbox). Additionally, FEMA should provide minimum system requirements and configuration guidance to ensure compatibility between SLTT damage assessment platforms and FEMA's file sharing tool.



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Preliminary Damage Assessment Draft Recommendations

Recommendation 2024-18(PDA): FEMA should establish minimum system and data requirements that any jurisdiction can use to collect and transfer damage information without creating or mandating one common platform that all jurisdictions must purchase or access.



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Preliminary Damage Assessment Draft Recommendations

Recommendation 2024-19(PDA): FEMA should develop a mechanism to include soft costs in the damage assessment process to more accurately reflect the impact to the jurisdiction before determining if damage thresholds have been met through a standard calculation.



Preliminary Damage Assessment Draft Recommendations

Recommendation 2024-20(PDA): FEMA should consider beginning a rulemaking process to modify 44 CFR § 206.36 (a) Requests for major disaster declarations, to modify the timeline for a request for assistance from 30 days of the occurrence of the incident to 60 days of the end of the incident period, in order to allow for a thorough joint preliminary damage assessment to be completed.



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Preliminary Damage Assessment Draft Recommendations

Recommendation 2024-21(PDA): FEMA should streamline the process, reduce the number of steps required, and avoid project scoping during damage assessments. The information FEMA collects should be limited to what is needed to validate damage assessments.



Preliminary Damage Assessment Draft Recommendations

Recommendation 2024-22(PDA): FEMA should improve internal training, standards, and expectations in order to create consistency within the PDA process across regions to ultimately reduce the number of RFIs and improve timelines.



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Preliminary Damage Assessment Draft Recommendations

Recommendation 2024-23(PDA): FEMA should examine workforce requirements and policies to explore which positions and functions can complete PDAs remotely through technology advancements, remote training, or other tools to decrease the fiscal impact, while maintaining the ability to provide technical assistance with field personnel.



FEMA

Preliminary Damage Assessment Draft Recommendations

Recommendation 2024-24(PDA): FEMA should enhance their technical assistance to SLTT partners by developing quick guides and checklists specific to SLTT areas for Preliminary Damage Assessments.



The FEMA National Advisory Council



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