

- **Implement Comprehensive Preparedness Grant Reform to Better Address Risk**

*Last year, NEMA submitted a Proposal for a Comprehensive Preparedness Grants Structure to reform the suite of grants offered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. While the President's National Preparedness Grant Program ultimately looked similar to the NEMA proposal, there remain some differences which could easily be reconciled. An integrated and cost-effective grants system will allow us as a nation to be agile in confronting any threat to the homeland, whether it is natural, technological, or human-caused. The ultimate goal of the effort was to allow grantees more flexibility to adequately address changing threats while also providing added accountability to Congress.*
  
- **Continue Support for Emergency Management Performance Grants**

*For three years, NEMA has worked tirelessly to demonstrate the return on the federal investment in the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) through the EMPG Return on Investment report. For every \$1 of federal investment, State and local emergency management organizations match at least that much to maintain a robust emergency management capability. NEMA strongly supports sustained funding of \$350 million and will continue to illustrate to Congressional leadership and the Administration the value of this program and how investments in EMPG reduces disaster costs and help protect lives and property.*
  
- **Obtain Budget Line Item Funding for EMAC**

*Mutual aid is a cost savings to the federal government as it can lessen the need for federal assets during a response. The Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) is the first national disaster-relief compact ratified by Congress since the Civil Defense and Disaster Compact of 1950. Since ratification in 1996, 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. Territories have enacted legislation to become EMAC members. Annual line-item funding is critical for building EMAC capabilities and our nation's mutual aid system.*
  
- **Support Emergency Management and Homeland Security Training and Education**

*Programs such as the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) and Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS) provide invaluable training and educational opportunities to emergency management and homeland security professionals. NEMA supports sustained funding for EMI and encourages Congressional leaders to continue supporting CHDS.*
  
- **Coordinate Stafford Act Changes with the Emergency Management Community**

*If Congress considers changes to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, NEMA and partners in the emergency management community should be consulted regarding any changes. NEMA continues to contend the Stafford Act currently has all flexibility to mount an effective national response, but consultation will provide for a comprehensive review of any impact to states and disaster response.*

## Implement Comprehensive Preparedness Grant Reform to Better Address Risk

### Background

Since the inception of the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP), NEMA has maintained support of these grants as critical resources to help state and local governments build and sustain capabilities to address the various threats and hazards they face. During the fiscal year 2012 budget discussions, the NEMA Board of Directors decided on a new approach to the full suite of grants within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Congress had repeatedly expressed the need for answers to lingering questions about the effectiveness and performance of the suite of FEMA grant programs. Therefore, NEMA decided the time had come to develop an innovative approach to grants that goes beyond simply requesting additional funding.

The eight month long process conducted by NEMA produced a four page document addressing the full suite of preparedness grants. Key principles and values include supporting PPD-8; building a culture of collaboration; the ability to be agile and adaptive to confront changing hazards; building and sustaining capabilities; encouraging innovation; providing full visibility to all stakeholders; and recognizing the interdependencies of our national systems. The importance of these principles and values highlight a critical point in any retrospective on homeland security grants. Regardless of our country's fiscal situation, physical security and economic security are not mutually exclusive and can be achieved with a more streamlined grant structure.

### Talking Points

There are four key components of the NEMA grants proposal:

1. **The THIRA.** The THIRA process is necessary to assess the risks of threats and hazards, but will have limited effectiveness if implemented in the current grant system due to shortcomings in the planning process.
2. **Comprehensive Planning.** Current planning efforts are fiscally-centric and focus on capabilities based on expected funding which limits our ability to measure progress and capabilities. A comprehensive preparedness plan should be developed to examine the full range of needs, capabilities, and requirements to help buy-down risk. As funding is allocated against long-range priorities, the delta between “need” and “capability” will become measurable over time.
3. **Skilled Cadre.** NEMA proposes utilizing and mirroring the existing EMPG structure by adding a homeland security cadre grant. These grants will support efforts to maintain all-hazard planning efforts, remain current with appropriate levels of training and exercises, support national priorities as outlined in PPD-8, and conduct public education, and grants management.
4. **Investment Grants.** A majority of the funding through this new system would go toward investment grants still made through a single allocation to states. These applications are reviewed by a multi-disciplinary and multi-jurisdictional advisory committee, and the SAA makes awards as appropriate.

### Requested Actions

- Congress should address the need for a comprehensive preparedness grants structure. This reform should harness lessons of the past ten years and allow participation from the full range of stakeholders.
- The new system must be flexible, adaptable, and transparent. By offering flexibility to grantees, Congress and the Administration can expect added accountability.

## Continue Support for Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG)

### Background

Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG) allows State, tribal, and local governments to make key investments to build capacity and enhance the capability of states and localities to respond to disasters.

EMPG is the *only* source of federal funding directed to state and local governments for planning, training, exercises, and key professional expertise for all-hazards emergency preparedness. The money is often used to support emergency operations centers which are the coordination hubs for all disaster response, and conduct risk and hazard assessments. The program also provides public education and outreach, enhanced interoperable communications capabilities, and the ability to manage statewide alerts and warnings.

Few federal programs boast EMPG's 50-50 matching commitment from the state and local level. EMPG stands as the beacon of Congressional commitment to ensuring communities and states are more ready to prepare, mitigate, respond, and recover from any number of emergencies and disasters. EMPG does far more, however, than provide funds for planning, training, exercises, and communications. EMPG must continue to be strengthened and maintained through shared investments.

### Talking Points

- Only federal source of funding to assist state and local government with planning and preparedness activities associated with natural disasters.
- Primarily for maintaining emergency management programs and building capacity at the state and local levels.
- NEMA intends to continue focusing heavily on building metrics to measure outcomes of the program and continues to support the matching requirement in exchange for flexibility.
- The program was funded at \$350 million in fiscal year 2012. NEMA supports the President's proposed funding level of \$350 million for fiscal year 2013 and sustained funding for 2014.
- For the third year, NEMA has produced the report *EMPG; Providing Returns on a Nation's Investment* which highlights the effectiveness of EMPG.

### Requested Action

- Congress should continue to make strong investments in EMPG and ensure adequate support for preparedness at the state and local levels. Congress should approve sustained funding of EMPG at \$350 million.
- EMPG must be maintained as a flexible and all-hazards program and not stray from the Congressional intent of authorizing legislation including the Stafford Act. Program funds should not be tied to specific percentages, or "carve outs," for specific tasks, and improvements to emergency operations centers should continue as an allowable cost.

## Obtain Budget Line Item Funding for EMAC

### Background

EMAC was the first national disaster-relief compact ratified by Congress since the Civil Defense and Disaster Compact of 1950. Since ratification in 1996, every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands have enacted legislation to become EMAC members. Annual line-item funding is critical for response to disasters (natural and man-made) in support of our nation's mutual aid system.

Specific funding for investment into EMAC is needed to support national mutual aid capabilities. For example, in the winter storms earlier this year 165 personnel were deployed through EMAC to Connecticut and Massachusetts with snow clearing equipment and operators to help those states reopen businesses and allow citizens to return to work. During Hurricane Sandy, 35 states sent over 2,600 personnel to assist with the response and recovery efforts through EMAC. Prior to Hurricane Sandy, states responded under EMAC to the Colorado Wildfires, Hurricane Isaac which impacted Mississippi, Florida, and Louisiana. In 2011, states deployed over 1,100 personnel in response to Hurricanes Irene and Lee which impacted Vermont, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, Maryland, Virginia, New Jersey.

EMAC has grown considerably over the past decade. States sent 26 emergency management personnel responded to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Conversely, over 66,000 personnel from a variety of disciplines deployed through the EMAC to the Gulf Coast in response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and 12,279 personnel to Texas and Louisiana during Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. The 2009 Spring Flooding in North Dakota and Minnesota resulted in States deploying equipment, sandbags, and 1,029 personnel to North Dakota. In all, 727 National Guard personnel and 302 civilians were sent to assist. In 2011, over 600 personnel were deployed in response to the floods and tornados in Missouri, North Dakota, Nebraska, South Dakota, Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee.

### Talking Points

- All 50 states, DC, and 3 territories have enacted legislation to become EMAC members.
- The Post Katrina FEMA Reform Act authorized \$4 million annually for EMAC.
- Line item funding for EMAC is *not* an earmark. The funds are for a nationwide mutual aid system and not for a specific state, jurisdiction, or project.
- Investment into EMAC leverages federal grant dollars— such as those from the Hazard Grant Mitigation Program and the Emergency Management Performance Grant – that have already been invested in state and local emergency management capabilities.

### Requested Action

- Provide budget line item for EMAC to the full authorized amount of \$2 million.
- Include an annual budget line item in FEMA to assist in training and education, operations support, resource typing requirements in the 2006 Post Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act and Fiscal Year 2007 DHS appropriations, credentialing, and information and resource management.

## **Support Emergency Management and Homeland Security Training and Education**

### **Background**

Training and education opportunities stand as one of the most effective ways to ensure the continued professionalization of emergency management and homeland security personnel as well as to increase their abilities to best protect our nation and communities. The two federal government programs representing the pedigree of these efforts are the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) and the Naval Postgraduate School's Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS). Not only do these two institutions provide the "gold standards" within their respective professional education realms, they also provide leadership and share resources to support a collaborative effort among training and education efforts throughout the country.

EMI directly supports the professional core competencies of emergency managers at the federal, State, local, tribal, public and private sectors. The Institute trains more than 2 million students annually with residential on-site programs, off-site programs in partnership with State and local emergency managers, and computer based E-learning. EMI has recently partnered with NEMA and the International Association of Emergency Managers to develop the National Emergency Management Academy. The Academy consists of five courses and provides a structured and progressive approach to acquire skills, knowledge, and abilities to meet career challenges in emergency management

CHDS Programs include a fully accredited Master's Degree program; executive education seminars for Governors, locally elected officials, and their senior department leaders; an Executive Leaders Program; a Fusion Center Leaders Program; a peer reviewed online academic journal; a university and agency partnership effort; and the world's largest online homeland security library. These endeavors by CHDS significantly advance the strategic and critical thinking abilities of emergency management and homeland security personnel in their daily responsibilities, policy deliberations, and relationships with senior leadership within their jurisdictions.

### **Talking Points**

- EMI supports emergency management training at all levels of government including the private sector.
- By working with NEMA and IAEM, EMI is able to customize courses to meet specific needs while remaining flexible to changing dynamics in the emergency management community.
- Since 2003, CHDS has provided over 830 Master's degrees and executive leaders certificates, over 230 executive education seminars reaching more than 7,200 state and local officials, and partnered with over 260 universities, colleges, and agencies.
- CHDS provides fully sponsored opportunities to help emergency managers with professional development, graduate education, and enhanced relationships with their elected leaders.

### **Requested Action**

- Congress should support continued funding of \$17.8 million for EMI.
- Congress should include language in Appropriation bills supporting the full funding of CHDS by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

## Coordinate Stafford Act Changes with the Emergency Management Community

### Background

The *Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act* (Stafford Act) authorizes the President to issue a major disaster declaration to speed a wide range of federal aid to states determined to be overwhelmed by hurricanes or other catastrophes. Financing for the aid is appropriated to the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) and administered by DHS and FEMA. Funds appropriated to the DRF remain available until expended which makes it a “no year account.” The Stafford Act authorizes temporary housing, grants for immediate needs of families and individuals, repair of public infrastructure, emergency communications systems, and other forms of assistance.

In regard to recent changes to the Stafford Act, NEMA has extended offers to work closely with FEMA as policies and regulations are put in place under the *Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013*. The broad sweeping changes to the Stafford Act under this legislation will forever change the way recovery is managed at all levels of government and state emergency managers must be consulted as changes are implemented.

Since the Stafford Act provides the President with permanent authority to direct federal aid to stricken states, Congress need not enact new legislation to meet immediate needs, but will occasionally address program reauthorization within the Stafford Act.

### Talking Points

- NEMA continues to engage Congressional committees as they explore potential changes to the Stafford Act.
  - Supported provisions in a recent bill by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management to reauthorize FEMA.
  - NEMA collaborated with partner associations and Senator Landrieu’s staff during the early development stages of her Disaster Recovery Act which is yet to be introduced in this new Congress. After review by the entire NEMA membership, the association generally supported the entire bill, but addressed some specific concerns involving overall cost and increased bureaucracies.
- The Stafford Act Coalition, of which NEMA is a member, remains available to Congressional staff to discuss issues impacting the Stafford Act.

### Requested Action

- Should more broad changes to the Stafford Act be considered, NEMA should be utilized as a resource for consultation as the bills are being considered.
- NEMA stands ready to work with Congress on any efforts to explore changes to the Stafford Act.