



2014 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES MID-YEAR FORUM MARCH 2014

➤ **Continue Support for Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG)**

For four years, NEMA has worked tirelessly to demonstrate the return on the federal investment in emergency preparedness 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.

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

For three years, NEMA continues support reform to the suite of homeland security 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 terrorist-related. The ultimate goal of these grants should be to allow grantees more flexibility to adequately address changing threats while also providing added accountability to Congress.

➤ **Ensure Cybersecurity Policies and Legislation Considers Physical Consequences**

Cybersecurity represents one of the paramount threats currently facing our nation. Many of the consequences from a cyber-attack could manifest themselves in the form of physical events similar to those of a natural disaster. When considering cybersecurity legislation or changes to federal policy, Congress and the Administration must address how these consequences will be managed during the response to and recovery from a major cyber-attack.

➤ **Encourage Development of the National Strategy for Reducing Future Disaster Costs**

The Sandy Recovery Improvement Act (SRIA) directed FEMA to develop a framework for a strategy to reduce disaster costs to the nation. While FEMA fulfilled the requirement to Congress, NEMA believes the work has just begun and a full strategy should be developed. With the frequency and cost of disasters on the rise, only through coordination and an honest assessment of existing policies can we effect change in the fiscal commitment required by the nation.

➤ **Secure Funding for the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC)**

Mutual aid is a cost savings to the federal government as it can lessen the need for federal assets during a response. 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. Consultation will provide for a comprehensive review of any impact to states and disaster response.