



February 21, 2020



THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON:

Draining the Pool

Photo: [jmilb / Flickr](#)

While Congress may not be in session, the other federal work that takes place across Washington continues its regular ebb and flow. Earlier this week, the National Park Service began draining the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool for its regular cleaning and maintenance. The four million gallons of water that fill the pool is flowing out over several days into the D.C. water system and the pool will remain empty for about a month. Luckily, the time schedule means that we expect the pool to be re-filled just before you all arrive for the NEMA Mid-Year Forum, if you're looking to add any after-hours touring to the jam-packed agenda!

In the meantime, FEMA leadership has spent the past two weeks presenting their Fiscal Year 2021 budget request to Congressional staff. When Congress returns to session next week, they are expected to take up these and many other budgeting issues, with the Senate holding its first meeting of the year on the Department of Homeland Security request, and the House holding several emergency management-related budget hearings, which are linked below.

Hearings the Week of February 24, 2020

[Department of Homeland Security Budget Request](#)

House Committee on Appropriations

Wednesday, February 26, 10:30 am EST

[The Fiscal Year 2021 HHS Budget and Oversight of the Coronavirus Outbreak](#)

House Committee on Energy and Commerce

Wednesday, February 26, 1:30 pm EST

[Strengthening Communications Networks to Help Americans in Crisis](#)

House Committee on Energy and Commerce

Thursday, February 27, 10:30 am EST

[An Examination of Federal Flood Maps in a Changing Climate](#)

House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

Thursday, February 27, 2:00 pm EST

More News from the Nation's Capital...

Coast Guard Admiral Appointed as Recovery Czar in Puerto Rico

Admiral Peter Brown will oversee national-level efforts for response and recovery in Puerto Rico and coordinate with senior officials on the Island and in Congress.

[Read More](#)

GAO Recommends Additional Efforts to Implement the National Biodefense Strategy

GAO evaluated the Strategy and recommends additional interagency work to document biodefense activities and develop processes, roles, and responsibilities for enterprise-wide decision-making.

[Read More](#)

NOAA Releases Strategies for Key Science and Technology Focus Areas

The strategies focus on advancement in the following key areas: Unmanned Systems; Artificial Intelligence; Cloud Computing; and 'Omics.

[Read More](#)

Other News from DC and Around the Country:

GovTech: [Puerto Rico Recovery Czar Says Trump is Committed to the Island](#)

Tampa Bay Times: [Florida's Private Insurance Market is Growing](#)

EDM Digest: [Hundreds of Dams Lack Emergency Plans in Rain-Soaked South](#)

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