



April 17, 2020



THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON:

We Could All Use Some Good News, Right?

Credits: NASA/GCTC/Andrey Shelepin

Today is the fiftieth anniversary of the crewmembers of Apollo 13 landing safely on Earth, southeast of American Samoa. While their mission did not go as planned (a concept familiar to many of you, I'm sure) the crew persevered and worked as a team to return safely. A tale of triumph over adversity that continues to be relevant today.

In what was likely a nod to that mission, [NASA astronauts Jessica Meir and Andrew Morgan returned to Earth today](#), along with Soyuz Commander Oleg Skripochka of the Russian space agency Roscosmos. Notably, Meir was among the astronauts who completed the first all-women spacewalk last year.

Earthside, discussions around a new round of COVID-19 relief measures are expected to continue through early next week. The White House and congressional Republicans want to boost the initial funding round for the Paycheck Protection Program from \$349 billion to \$600 billion. Democrats are insisting on changes to that program that would direct more funds to communities where traditional banking services may be scarce, while also wanting the bill to double funds in last month's \$1.8 trillion aid package to help hospitals and state and local governments respond.

Even as the negotiations for COVID-19 relief bills take center stage, Hill staff are beginning discussions for the FY2021 appropriations process. While the process is only just beginning, NEMA staff are optimistic that the impressive work conducted by state emergency management agencies will stand them in good stead when it comes to funding for next year.

Finally, with the many sources of emergency funding available, instances of fraud can occur. If you suspect fraud, waste, or misuse of federal funds, you can report it through the below avenues:

- GAO's online reporting [portal](#)
- Via email at Fraud@gao.gov
- Or by calling the GAO hotline at 1-800-424-5454.

More News from the Nation's Capital...

Guidelines to Opening Up America Again Released

This week the White House released guidelines for states to consider when planning the process of lifting current restrictions due to COVID-19.

[Read More](#)

White House Partners with schema.org for COVID-19 Information Coordination

Standardized tags for websites will be available for state and local websites containing information on testing sites and other aspects of public health to make them easier to find in web search results.

[Read More](#)

FEMA Issues Disaster Financial Management Guide

The guide identifies capabilities and activities necessary to prepare and implement strong disaster financial management while maintaining fiscal responsibility throughout response and recovery operations.

[Read More](#)

NIJ Finds Tip Lines Effective for School Safety

Principals surveyed considered tip lines to be an effective school safety strategy; 50 percent reported they had prevented violent incidents thanks to the use of tip lines.

[Read More](#)

GAO Blog: The Military and its Support of Civil Authorities

It provides an overview of how the military has been used previously for health emergencies and the potential impacts of a pandemic on its workforce and ability to support civilian missions.

[Read More](#)

Other News from DC and Around the Country:

The Hill: [A 'Whole of America' Response](#)

GovTech: [Coronavirus Era is Not a Time for Prescribed Burns](#)

NRDC: [To Avoid the Next Disaster, "This Mistake Must Not Reoccur"](#)

nemaweb.org



Copyright NEMA 2019. All rights reserved.