



May 1, 2020



THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON:

Unidentified Flying Objects

Early this week the U.S. Department of Defense unclassified and officially released three Navy videos showing unidentified flying objects and including audio of startled pilots. The videos themselves originally appeared online a few years ago, but the Pentagon releasing the videos for download confirms that the videos themselves are real. [See the release and videos here.](#)

As exciting as that may be for enthusiasts of the phenomenon – the rest of the world seems to collectively have agreed that maybe now isn't the time, and we'll just have to talk about that later. Others who appear to be channeling that same course of action are members of the U.S. Congress, as the House of Representatives has announced that they are not going to return from recess until the next coronavirus relief bill is ready for a vote. The Senate is set to return on May 4, but at this time details of another relief bill are murky, with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) suggesting that funding for state and local governments would be conditional on the inclusion of liability protections for companies and health care workers as they reopen amid the pandemic ([National Review](#)).

Plans for reverting to a response posture with HHS as the federal lead for COVID-19 are in the works so as to allow FEMA to concentrate on the upcoming hurricane, wildfire, and tornado season (oh my!) while still providing logistical support at the federal level. As these stories continue to develop, we'll continue to keep you apprised of the situation.

Finally, earlier this week NEMA partnered with the Center for Homeland Defense and Security at NPS and the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) on a webinar focusing on what resilience efforts may look like for individuals, communities, and organizations as we move past the current global pandemic. [View the webinar online here.](#)

More News from the Nation's Capital...

Selection of Recently Released Federal COVID-19 Resources

Understanding that it is a challenge to quickly review all the available grant programs for COVID-19, we are creating and updating a list of links for information on programs from FEMA, HHS, CDC, HUD, and others. While it is not comprehensive, it can be quickly consulted for resources on topics that have recently been of interest across the federal interagency (e.g. childcare for essential personnel).

This is updated weekly.

[Read More](#)

2020 NEMA Biennial Report Released

NEMA's flagship publication provides comprehensive information about emergency management funding and structures. It is available to members at no cost.

[Read More](#)

House Homeland Security Committee Virtual Forum on FEMA's Role in Pandemic Response

Reps. Payne and Demings hosted the forum and former FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate participated. They discussed the COVID-19 response and next steps for Congress.

[Read More](#)

GAO WatchBlog on CARES Act Homeowner Relief

GAO compares current options for homeowners impacted by COVID-19 to previous federal actions during the last financial crisis.

[Read More](#)

Other News from DC and Around the Country:

GovTech: [Boston Constructs Telehealth-Capable Facility in Seven Days](#)

Homeland Security News Wire: [Controlling an Influenza Outbreak without a Specific Vaccine](#)

Morning Consult: [Emergency Managers Hope Pandemic Lessons will Apply to Climate Preparedness](#)

nemaweb.org



Copyright NEMA 2019. All rights reserved.