



May 8, 2020



## THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON:

### Great, Now There are Murder Hornets

In a delightful start to the week, reports of the Asian giant hornet (or 'murder hornet') having hitched a ride to the United States and its potential for causing widespread bee depopulation went viral. Of course, as we continue to fill out this year's hazard bingo cards, we're also rapidly approaching the Pacific hurricane season and the Atlantic's is fast on its heels. That means that this week is [Hurricane Preparedness Week](#) – made all the more urgent because of COVID-19. In preparation, CDC has guidance out this week for the public on [hurricane preparedness](#) and [going to a public shelter](#) during the pandemic.

Other developments that continued to move forward this week were the Administration's planning process to wind down the Coronavirus Task Force in favor of advisory groups focused on safety, reopening, and vaccines, while the House of Representatives released the names of all of the representatives chosen for the select committee on the coronavirus ([Roll Call](#)). The committee is tasked with overseeing spending from the \$2 trillion relief package from a few weeks ago (was it only weeks?) to prevent fraud.

Efforts for another coronavirus relief package continue to meander around the House, with limited bipartisan support at this time. As always, we'll keep a weather eye on the process and keep you apprised of any updates.

*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](#)

**GAO: Actions Needed to Address Gaps in Emergency Management Capabilities**

The GAO examined how FEMA has strengthened national preparedness and provided recommendations on how to address the capability gaps that remain.

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**Executive Order Signed on Securing the Bulk-Power System**

The order seeks to mitigate vulnerabilities caused by lowest-contract bidding from malicious actors and prohibits utilizing equipment which poses an unacceptable level of national security risk.

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**EPA Webinars on COVID-19 Research and Wildland Fire Data Tools**

The webinars will provide insight into the research being done in the agency to combat COVID-19 and information on projects that are designed to help federal and SLTT governments prepare and respond to public health impacts from wildland fires.

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**GAO: Examining FEMA's Oversight of the NFIP**

The report evaluates FEMA's oversight of community implementation of NFIP policies and recordkeeping challenges for increased program effectiveness.

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*Other News from DC and Around the Country:*

Axios: [FEMA Braces for COVID-Infected Hurricane Season](#)

IEM: [Hurricane Preparedness: Start Planning Now](#)

GovTech: [Governor Looks Globally and Within Personal Network for Supplies](#)

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