



July 17, 2020



THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON:

Swarms of Flying Ants

No, it's not a Mad Lib - twice this week, swarms of flying ants have been spotted above the United Kingdom – in today's case, so many of them were out and about that they were actually picked up as rain on weather radar systems (gotta feel for the meteorologists explaining that one on television). It seems that in this summer of creepy-crawlies, murder hornets just weren't newsworthy enough on their own.

In less skin-crawling news, the House Appropriations Committee completed its mark-up funding the Department of Homeland Security through FY21 this week. The funding vehicle is good news for emergency managers, with an increase of \$30 million for the Emergency Management Performance Grants to \$385 million. While a good sign, it remains unclear when or if the bill will receive any floor time, and there is still little clarity on when the Senate may mark-up, although that could occur prior to the August Recess.

Regardless, there are precious few legislative days left prior to the election and with other priorities including Coronavirus supplemental, a series of Continuing Resolutions is the most likely scenario through the end of the year.

On Wednesday, we sent out a full summary of the mark-up, which is [available here](#).

More News from the Nation's Capital...

National Homeland Security Consortium Meets Virtually

The meeting focused on identifying key issues the associations have dealt with in the initial months of responding to the pandemic in preparation for an After Action Review later this year.

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Modified THIRA Reporting Requirements Released

This year's THIRA update requirements focus on only 15 of the core capabilities given the ongoing COVID-19 response.

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GAO: FEMA's Role in COVID-19 Response and Related Challenges

This report addresses FEMA's role in managing the COVID-19 pandemic, including efforts to acquire and distribute critical medical supplies and potential challenges for this and other biological incident responses.

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Other News from DC and Around the Country:

[NEMA List of Recently Released Federal Resources](#)

The Economist: [The Area Burned by Wildfire in America has Quadrupled in 40 Years](#)

CPO Magazine: [Cybersecurity Needs its Place in Emergency Management Now](#)

Next Gov: [How Peer-to-Peer Texting Could Play a Role in Disaster and Pandemic Response](#)

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