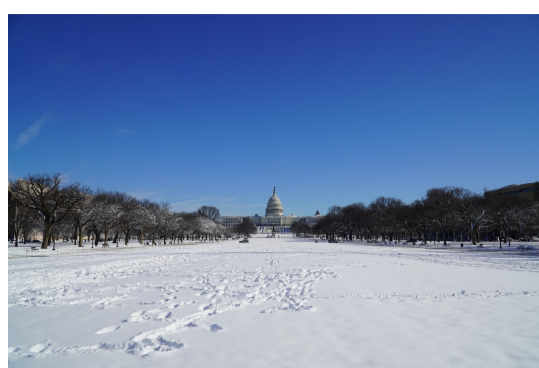




January 7, 2022



## THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON: Snow Storms Blow in the New Year

Happy New Year! The capitol of the nation, along with major portions of the country, started off the new year with heavy winter storms, leaving several inches of snow and shutting down DC for the day and causing some states to issue emergency declarations.

Congress will be back in action after its winter recess next week, when conversations will resume relating to, you guessed it, the President's spending package. This comes as government officials at all levels across the country grapple with the post-holiday spike in COVID-19 cases due to the Omicron variant. Testing shortages and impacts on workforce have sparked a conversation surrounding the CDC's newest recommendations, allowing asymptomatic and fully vaccinated individuals to resume regular activities after a 5-day isolation and with a mask around others.

We also expect to be entering a critical period for any emergency management legislation. At this point, major legislative changes will likely occur through a large package of bills linked together. In preparation for such a possibility, NEMA continues working such priorities as increasing the small projects threshold, allowing for management cost rollover, improvements to the PA process, and others. Unfortunately, time is of the essence at this point. With the mid-term elections looming on the horizon and still no agreement on the President's Build Back Better package or regular appropriations bills, we may very well run out of time before summer returns and all focus turns to reelection.

### Hearings the Week of January 10, 2022

[Cybersecurity for the New Frontier: Reforming the Federal Information Security Modernization Act](#)

House Committee on Oversight and Reform  
Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 10:00 am ET

[Addressing New Variants: A Federal Perspective on the COVID-19 Response](#)

Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions  
Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 10:00 am ET

*More News from the Nation's Capital...*

### Treasury Release Final Ruling on State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Program

On Thursday, the U.S. Department of the Treasury issued the Final Rule for the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) program, enacted as a part of the American Rescue Plan, which delivers \$350 billion to state, local, and Tribal governments to support their response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The final rule – which takes effect on April 1, 2022 – provides state and local governments with increased flexibility to pursue a wider range of uses, as well as greater simplicity so governments can focus on responding to the crisis in their communities and maximizing the impact of their funds.

Click here to find the final ruling [text](#), and the full press release [here](#).

### FEMA Releases 2021 National Preparedness Report

Over the holiday break, FEMA released their updated National Preparedness Report, outlining what their priorities and direction will be in the new year. The Report summarizes progress made, and challenges that remain, in building and sustaining the capabilities needed to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the threats, hazards, and incidents that pose the greatest risk to the nation. This annual report offers all levels of government, tribes, the private and nonprofit sectors, and the public practical insights into preparedness that support decisions about program priorities, resource allocation, and actions that can create more resilient communities.

You can find the full report [here](#).

### DHS OIG Releases Report on National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

On Thursday, DHS Office of the Inspector General released a report, *FEMA Continues to Phase Out Its Use of Alternative Contracting Methods to Administer the National Flood Insurance Program*, providing recommendation at improving the NFIP. In the report, the OIG makes the following three recommendations to FEMA's Deputy Associate Administrator for Insurance and Mitigation:

- Complete the effort to procure NFIP Community Rating System services under a Federal Acquisition Regulation contract.
- Review all existing guidance to ensure that the use of Letters of Credit is not allowed for goods or services that should be procured with a Federal Acquisition Regulation contract.
- Strengthen oversight of the NFIP cash management process to ensure Write Your Own insurance providers' and NFIP Direct and Bureau and Statistical Agent contractors' accounts receivable and accounts payable aging reports and bank reconciliations are reviewed

The full report by DHS OIG can be found [here](#).

### DHS Actions to Combat Domestic Violent Extremism

DHS recently released a statement on how it has enhanced its ability to prevent, detect, and respond to threats related to domestic violent extremism. Over the past year, DHS has strengthened intelligence analysis, improved information sharing and operational coordination, and identified new resources to combat domestic violent extremism, as a component of the Biden Administration's National Strategy for Countering Domestic Terrorism. DHS also has renewed its commitment to ensure that all efforts to combat domestic violent extremism are conducted in ways consistent with privacy protections, civil rights and civil liberties, and all applicable laws.

You can view the fact sheet for this press release [here](#).

### Other News from DC and Around the Country:

The Guardian: ['Urban Fire Storm': Suburban Sprawl Raising Risk of Destructive Wildfires](#)

Popular Science: [Climate Change Disasters Cost the World Over \\$100 Billion This Year](#)

HSToday: [CISA Hosts Cybersecurity Navigators Forum for Election Officials](#)

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