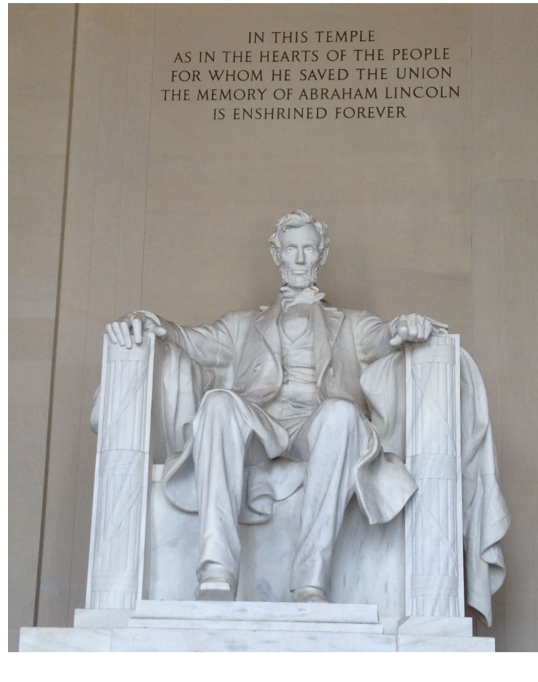




January 9, 2021



THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON:

A Chaotic Start to the Year

In the couple of weeks since *Ready Nation: Policy* last hit your inbox, we've had a challenging start to the year, both in Washington and other parts of the nation. There is no avoiding or beating around the bush regarding the rioters who stormed into and briefly occupied the U.S. Capitol following the November 2020 general election. In the aftermath of Wednesday's events, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (and expected incoming Senate Majority Leader) called for the President's removal from office via impeachment or the invocation of the 25th Amendment. Following the certification of the electoral results both the House and Senate now stand recessed until after the inauguration on January 20.

NEMA staff are in communication with Senate and House colleagues and are thinking of their safety and security in this stressful time. Fortunately, despite the events of the week, conversations continue in earnest about how the 117th Congress will begin looking at emergency management in the coming years. There's significant talk about another DRRRA-style package of reforms and hope for a return to some Appropriations normalcy.

More News from the Nation's Capital...

Changes on the Horizon for SHSP and UASI

On Wednesday, FEMA announced some upcoming changes for the FY21 allocations for SHSP and UASI. Changes will impact both the programs and risk methodology process. These changes are meant to reflect the changing terrorist threat and shift from focusing on large population centers. Changes for the risk methodology include:

1. Threat, vulnerability, and consequence is currently weighted at 25, 25, and 50 percent respectively. Each will now be weighted at 33.33 percent.
2. The definition of "threat" will be expanded to include transnational criminal organizations.
3. The "isolation" component of vulnerability will be enhanced to account for challenges faced by isolated populations such as territories.
4. The population cap will be adjusted from considering the 99th percentile to the 97th percentile. This is intended to balance against the adjustment to the threat, vulnerability, and consequence calculation above.

Programmatic changes include:

1. Last year FEMA introduced the four focus areas of cybersecurity, soft targets, intelligence and information, and emerging threats. Grantees were directed to apply five percent of their grant award to each of these focus areas. For FY21, that amount will be increased to 7.5 percent.
2. All SHSP grantees will receive their statutory minimum amount. All funding above those minimums (approximately 40 percent of the total) will be competitively awarded and based on the quality/effectiveness of the projects combined with the risk score.
3. The population cap adjustment mentioned above will allow for the list of UASI cities to expand to its largest reach yet of potentially 77 cities. Allocations will be based on project effectiveness and cities will compete against peers in groups of those cities traditionally receiving funding every year, those who have in the past but not in the past five years, and those having never received funding. Each group will be eligible for funding based on the total percentage of risk of eligible cities.

FEMA is anticipating releasing additional information on all these changes in the coming weeks and the NOFO being available mid- to late-February. Of course, with the coming Presidential transition, any number of these changes could be amended prior to release of the NOFO. FEMA was obligated by statute, however, to proceed with getting this information to stakeholders. NEMA will distribute additional information as it becomes available.

FEMA Releases 2020 National Preparedness Report

Late last month FEMA released its annual National Preparedness Report (NPR) analyzing the risks faced by communities nationwide, how vulnerabilities faced by a community impact its risks, and information on methods to manage those risks. The report focuses on risks via classification: catastrophic risks that stress national resources; systemic risks that affect interconnected systems; and emerging risks. It also includes information on capabilities to address the nation's risks and goals to engender further preparedness nationwide. Information for the NPR is gathered via the National Risk and Capability Assessment (NRCA), Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA), and Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR). The 2020 report is based on data available as of December 31, 2019, so the 2021 report may have significantly different vulnerability information based on changes wrought by COVID-19.

Read the [executive summary](#) and the [full report](#).

FEMA Completes 2021 Placement of Reinsurance for NFIP

FEMA completed its 2021 placement of reinsurance to continue the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) work to enhance resilience and protect against flood losses. To do so, FEMA has placed \$1.153 billion of its financial risk to the private reinsurance market through 2021.

As part of this placement, 32 reinsurer companies agreed to pay FEMA for flood losses from flood events or a named storm. FEMA only receives qualifying payments if a named storm event is large enough to trigger both traditional and capital market reinsurance placements.

More information on the NFIP reinsurance program is [available here](#).

CISA Releases Cybersecurity and Physical Security Convergence Guide

DHS' Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) released the Cybersecurity and Physical Security Convergence Guide, focused on converging cybersecurity and physical security functions to better mitigate cyber-physical threats. The guidance provides information on challenges in the complex environment, the benefits of convergence practices, and a framework for aligning security functions.

View [the guidance here](#).

Other News from DC and Around the Country:

NRDC: [Outdated Federal Flood Standards Put People at Risk](#)
Pew Trusts: [Is Government Property Sufficiently Insured Against Disasters?](#)
The Hill: [\(Opinion\) Mayorkas Would Prioritize FEMA When the Nation Needs it Most](#)

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