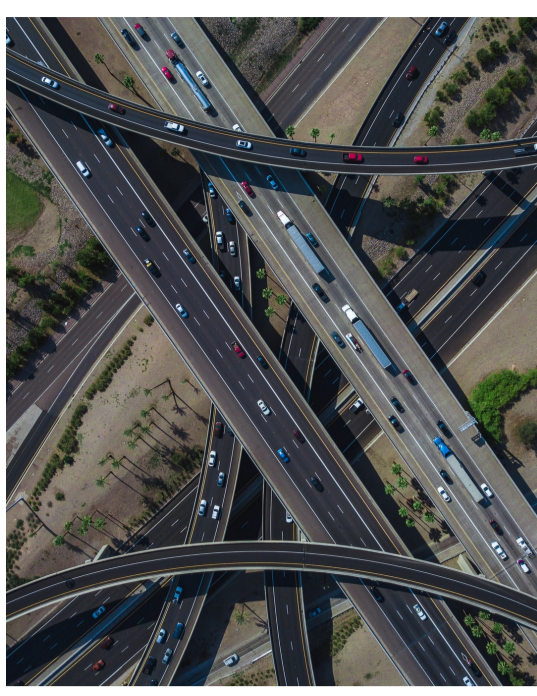




November 12, 2021



THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON: One Down, One to Go

While White House leaders were off discussing the future of the global climate and joining forces to combat the rising temperature, Congress was busy wrangling votes. Late last Friday night, the House voted to pass the \$1.2 billion Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal that had previously passed the Senate. While this is not the hotly contested \$3.5 trillion Build Back Better package, it does include several emergency management and homeland security priorities such as:

- \$1 billion in additional funds for the Building Resilience Infrastructure in Communities (BRIC) program;
- \$733 million in dam safety;
- \$500 million pursuant to the STORM Act to fund state revolving loan funds to support local mitigation projects;
- \$3.5 billion for Flood Mitigation Assistance, and;
- \$1 billion (over five years) for a state and local cybersecurity grant program.

President Biden is expected to sign this bill into law on Monday, marking a victory for his legislative agenda as we approach the reconciliation process and the continued negotiation of the FY22 federal budget.

As NEMA gears up to create the latest version of our flagship publication, the 2022 Biennial Report, State Directors will receive the link to the Biennial Survey Today. Your efforts and responses are greatly appreciated and help NEMA continue to be a leader in the emergency management field!

Hearings the Week of November 15, 2021

[Cracking Down on Ransomware: Strategies for Disrupting Criminal Hackers and Building Resilience Against Cyber Threats](#)

House Committee on Oversight and Reform
Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 10:00am ET

[Markup of the "National Wildland Fire Risk Reduction Program Act", "PRECIP Act", and "NWR Modernization Act of 2021"](#)

House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 10:00 am ET

[A Whole-of-Government Approach to Combatting Ransomware: Examining DHS's Role](#)

House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Intelligence and Counterterrorism
Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 10:00 am ET

[Combating Coronavirus Cons and the Monetization of Misinformation](#)

House Oversight and Reform Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis
Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 2:00 pm ET

[Tribal Voices, Tribal Wisdom: Strategies for the Climate Crisis](#)

House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis
Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 9:30 am ET

[Hearings to examine inclusive disaster management, focusing on improving preparedness, response, and recovery](#)

Senate Special Committee on Aging
Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 9:30 am ET

More News from the Nation's Capital...

DHS to Hold Webinar for Infrastructure & Security Month

On November 16, 2021, at 1pm ET, DHS Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) will partner with the Critical Infrastructure Resilience Institute (CIRI) and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) for a webinar on "Training a Resilient Workforce in Support of Critical Infrastructure." The webinar will have discussions by experts from government, industry, and academia and will speak about the efforts underway at CISA, CIRI, and our public-private partners to address workforce challenges.

If you are interested in attending this webinar you can join at the time of the event [here](#).

DHS Issues National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) Bulletin

On Wednesday, DHS Secretary Mayorkas issued a National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) Bulletin regarding the current heightened threat environment across the United States. This NTAS Bulletin replaces the current Bulletin, which was set to expire on Thursday, and is the fourth bulletin this year. The bulletin states domestic violent extremists (DVEs), including racially or ethnically motivated violent extremists and anti-government/anti-authority violent extremists, will continue to pose a significant threat to our homeland throughout the end of this year and into 2022.

To read to full release by DHS, click [here](#). The full NTAS Bulletin can be found [here](#).

FEMA Seeks Public Feedback on Position Documents

FEMA is seeking public feedback on 24 fire management and suppression documents. This 30-day national engagement period will conclude at 5 p.m. ET on Dec. 3, 2021. These resource typing documents enhance the interoperability and effectiveness of mutual aid by establishing baseline qualifications for fire management and suppression National Incident Management System typed teams, personnel and equipment. This facilitates the sharing of deployable resources at all jurisdictional levels.

To provide comments on the [draft documents](#), complete the [feedback form](#) and submit the form to FEMA-NIMS@fema.dhs.gov no later than 5 p.m. ET on Dec. 3.

FEMA Opens Applications Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program

On Monday, FEMA opened the application period for \$414 million in funding available through the Fiscal Year 2021 Assistance to Firefighters Grant program. The application period will close at 5 p.m. ET on Dec. 17. Assistance to Firefighters Grants focus on enhancing the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire and fire-related hazards. The program provides financial assistance directly to eligible fire departments, nonaffiliated emergency medical service organizations and state fire training academies for critical training and equipment. To support the fire community in the application process, FEMA is offering webinars throughout November, including some specifically for tribal nations. Information on the webinars, including sessions for tribal nations, is available on the [FEMA website](#).

Additional information on the grant program is available [online](#). For questions, contact the Fire Grants Help Desk via email at firegrants@fema.dhs.gov.

DHHS Outlines Requests for School Staff Regarding COVID-19 Vaccine

On Monday, the Secretary of Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Xavier Becerra, and the Secretary of the Department of Education, Miguel A. Cardona, released a letter they wrote to schools on COVID-19 vaccination for children. The Secretaries thanked their colleagues for all that they have done in school clinics for children and families since the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and outlined three requests for them, along with the necessary resources to fulfill them. The three requests are: Host a COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic at Your School(s), Distribute Information About the COVID-19 Vaccine to All Families with Children Ages Five Through Eleven Years Old, Hold Conversations with Your School Communities on the COVID-19 Vaccine.

You can read the full letter [here](#).

Other News from DC and Around the Country:

CQ News: [Small Banks Facing Greater Cyber Risks Urge Congress to Act](#)

AP: [Biden to Continue FEMA Virus Aid for States Until April 1](#)

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