

December 10, 2021



## THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON: Race Against the Deadline, Again.

After months of back and forth on various spending bills, Congress is finally settling into a groove and passing the major pieces of legislation before it. On Tuesday, the House passed the National Defense Authorization Act, authorizing \$768 billion in funding for our military. This conference report version of the NDAA comes without the cybersecurity incident reporting language that was previously passed by the House in September, which would have required the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) to establish requirements and procedures for covered critical infrastructure owners and operators to report covered cybersecurity incidents to a new Cyber Incident Review Office.

Later that day, the House also passed legislation providing an easier pathway for a debt ceiling increase to pass. This action comes as we continue to creep up on the December 15 deadline, which is when the Treasury said that the Federal Government would default on its obligations if no debt cap change is made.

### Hearings the Week of December 13, 2021

[Hearings to examine disaster recovery assistance, focusing on authorization of the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery Program](#)

Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at 10:00 am ET

*Note: NEMA Past President Mike Sprayberry will be testifying on behalf of Hagerty Consulting*

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

### FEMA Releases New Strategic Plan

On Thursday, FEMA released the agency's "[2022-2026 FEMA Strategic Plan](#)," which outlines a bold vision and three ambitious goals designed to address key challenges the agency faces during a pivotal moment in the field of emergency management. The goals are to instill equity as a foundation of emergency management, lead the whole of community in climate resilience, and promote and sustain a ready FEMA and prepared nation. These goals position FEMA to address the increasing range and complexity of disasters, support the diversity of communities we serve, and complement the nation's growing expectations of the emergency management community. Discussions are being scheduled between NEMA and FEMA leadership to determine the best path forward on how NEMA can support the implementation of these priorities.

The press release for the new Strategic Plan, along with a one-pager of their agency's goals, can be found [here](#).

### New NOAA Tool Pinpoints Natural Disaster Risk Down to County Level

On Thursday, NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) released an [innovative mapping tool](#) that provides county-level information on natural disaster hazards across the United States. This new feature provides significant enhancements to the state-level data on NOAA's Billion-Dollar Disasters website.

Developed by NCEI with data from NOAA, FEMA and academic institutions, this interactive NOAA mapping tool provides detailed information on a location's susceptibility to weather and climate hazards that can lead to billion-dollar disasters—such as wildfires, floods, drought and heat waves, tornado outbreaks, and hurricanes. The tool expands upon FEMA's National Risk Index to provide a view of a location's risk for, and vulnerability to, single or multiple combinations of weather and climate hazards for every county.

For additional information, please check out the NOAA [press release](#).

### FEMA Releases "FEMA Resources for Climate Resilience"

On Monday, FEMA released the "[FEMA Resources for Climate Resilience](#)," a document to assist state, local, tribal and territorial partners in navigating FEMA resources. These resources will support communities in building resilience and adapting to the impacts of climate change and funding for community adaptation strategies.

The document outlines relevant FEMA resources, including those that can help communities: identify and assess climate change risks, consider climate change during hazard mitigation planning, fund mitigation and climate adaptation strategies, and build community capacity to address climate risks.

The document also includes information on how to fund mitigation and climate adaptation strategies, how a community can build capacity to address climate change and how emergency managers and officials can include climate change in their hazard mitigation planning. Stakeholders will also be able to use the quick glance overview of all FEMA funding sources to help their planning efforts.

### DHS Announces Deadline Extension for National Climate Resilience Prize Competition

On Tuesday, DHS announced the deadline for submissions for the DHS Cooling Solutions Challenge has been extended to February 24, 2022.

The cooling challenge is being led by DHS's Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The challenge incentivizes American innovators to find new ways to protect people at risk of heat-related illness or death during extreme heat events or in connection with other disasters. Extreme heat is the Nation's leading cause of weather-related deaths, and as extreme heat disproportionately harms underserved communities, developing new and better ways to protect people on the hottest days will advance equity in disaster preparedness and response efforts.

To see the full press release, click [here](#).

*Other News from DC and Around the Country:*

HSToday: [Emergency Managers Must Leverage Opportunities in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill](#)

Governing: [Democrats Want to Shift Wildfire Focus to Prevention](#)

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