



February 10, 2022

NEMA Position Papers Transmitted to DHS and FEMA

Today, NEMA's Homeland Security and Response & Recovery Committees finalized and transmitted to DHS and FEMA the following position papers:

1. *Coordination of State Homeland Security Grant Program Guidance*. FEMA and the department must develop a more collaborative process, however, to devise, evaluate, and implement proposed changes. Therefore, FEMA should encourage DHS to establish a codified review process for grant guidance that is properly vetted through the appropriate stakeholders.
2. *Interagency Collaboration*. With the continued maturation of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the need for collaboration with FEMA is paramount. Whether addressing cybersecurity threats or critical infrastructure protection activities, FEMA and CISA must work closely in the development of policies and regulations. An Integrated Program Office (IPO) seems the best logical way to ensure such policy is integrated, coordinated, and clarified for those charged with saving life and property in the response to a major event. This would further serve as an opportunity to coordinate policy and avoid negative consequences prior to major events through better integration at the federal level.
3. *Wildfire Policy*. Recent wildfires exposed gaps in assistance and flaws in the interpretation of existing policy. Leveraging federal grants for response or mitigation efforts becomes problematic when they do not have adequate allowances for some of the unique needs of fighting wildfires. In the long-term approach, state and local land managers can be proactive in lessening threats to communities, while federal land managers struggle to implement meaningful fuels reduction projects near communities. In total, there would be great benefit to federal agencies taking a more active role in protecting communities before, during, and after wildland fires originating on federal lands. The paper includes a robust set of recommendations touching nearly every aspect of FEMA response and recovery programs.

Please contact Matt Cowles (mcowles@csg.org) or Jessica Byrski (jbyrski@csg.org) should you have any questions or require additional information about any of these papers.

** If you have any issues accessing the position papers from the above links, please log in to your NEMA account and try clicking the link again.*

This summary is provided courtesy of the NEMA Response & Recovery and Homeland Security Committees. Should you have any questions, please contact:

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