



March 18, 2022



## THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON: Extra Daylight Here to Stay?

On Tuesday, President Biden signed into law the federal budget that was passed by Congress last week, funding the government through the balance of FY22 (September 30, 2022). In addition to the aid provided in that budget, Biden requested an additional \$800 million in aid to Ukraine after President Zelensky got a standing ovation from his address in Congress.

On Wednesday, the Federal Reserve announced its first of what is expected to be multiple baseline interest rate range increases. This action is intended to begin to tame what is becoming unprecedented inflation growth.

In a rare moment of unity in the Senate, we witnessed the unanimous passing of a bill that would officially make the country's daylight savings practice permanent – because no one likes losing an hour of sleep! All eyes are now on the House as to how the measure will progress.

Today will be your last chance to [register](#) and attend NEMA's Mid-Year Emergency Management Policy and Leadership Forum! Don't miss out on what is expected to be our record-breaking attendance in Alexandria, Virginia at the end of the month!

### Hearings the Week of March 21, 2022

[Promoting American Energy Security by Facilitating Investments and Innovation in Climate Solutions](#)

Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works  
Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at 10:00am ET

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

### CHDS Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program Application Open

The Center for Homeland Defense and Security is currently accepting applications for their Early Career Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) program. The REP Early Career Education Program is conducted at the Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS) on the campus of the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. This program offers a unique opportunity for REP professionals who are in the early stage of their career. The program provides an educational forum and innovation lab for participants to explore emerging trends in the world around us in technology, society, and terrorism. Participants will discuss both the challenges associated with these complex trends as well as the opportunities to rethink how we protect our communities and the nation. In addition, program sessions will assist participants in emerging strategies for implementing innovative ideas, being a leader, and for a successful REP career. This is a five-day in-residence session and participants must commit to attending all days of this session. All costs associated with participating – tuition, books and travel – are covered by CHDS through its sponsor, the FEMA Technological Hazards Division.

The deadline to [apply](#) is March 31, 2022, for more information at the program visit the [CHDS website](#).

### NOAA issued its U.S. Spring Outlook

On Thursday, for the second year in a row, NOAA issued its U.S. Spring Outlook where forecasters predict prolonged, persistent drought in the West where below-average precipitation is most likely. NOAA's Climate Prediction Center — part of the National Weather Service — is also forecasting above-average temperatures for most of the U.S. from the Desert Southwest to the East Coast and north through the Midwest to the Canadian border from April to June.

NOAA produces seasonal outlooks to help communities prepare for weather and environmental conditions that are likely during the coming months to minimize impacts on lives and livelihoods.

For more details on predictions around the country, see the [NOAA press release](#).

### GAO Release Report on EPA Involvement After Disasters

On Thursday, GAO released a report exploring the role the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) could be adopting formal post-disaster "lessons learned" policy. In 2018 and 2020, California experienced record-setting fire seasons, resulting in the damage to or destruction of over 20,000 structures. EPA plays a significant role in responding to some wildfires and coordinates federal efforts to assist with the removal of household hazardous waste. Following a fire, EPA recommends special handling and disposal for these products, particularly if their containers are compromised. GAO found that EPA does not track corrective actions in a formal, centralized way, and EPA has not implemented all of the needed corrective actions. After the 2018 wildfires, for example, EPA found that it needed to develop a proposal to increase the number of EPA On-Scene Coordinators responsible for overseeing disaster responses, but the agency did not do so.

GAO is making one recommendation for EPA to develop a formal lessons learned process with written guidelines for its disaster response that incorporates key practices, which the EPA has agreed with.

For the full report, click [here](#). A highlighted version can be found [here](#).

### FEMA Wildland Fire Mitigation & Management Commission Accepting Applications

FEMA, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Interior are now accepting applications for members to the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law authorized establishment of this commission, which was announced in December 2021. It will play a key role in recommending federal policies and strategies to more effectively prevent, mitigate, suppress and manage wildland fires including the rehabilitation of affected lands. The commission is seeking volunteer members from diverse backgrounds, with a specific focus on members who represent non-federal interests as required by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Members will commit to serve for the life of the commission, which is estimated to be a year and a half with the first meeting targeted for late spring 2022.

Read the full press release [here](#). For more information, visit the [commission website](#) or email [wildlandfirecommission@usda.gov](mailto:wildlandfirecommission@usda.gov).

### FEMA Exercise Support Deadline is April 1

FEMA is accepting applications for the next round of exercise assistance through its [National Exercise Program](#). To be considered for the Spring 2022 round exercise assistance, submissions are due by April 1. Instructions for how to submit a request for support are on [FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov). For jurisdictions not ready to submit a request at this time, the National Exercise Program will hold additional exercise support rounds in fall 2022 and spring 2023. The National Exercise Program is a two-year cycle of exercises across the nation that examine and validate capabilities in all preparedness mission areas. The National Exercise Program offers state, local, tribal and territorial jurisdictions no-cost assistance for exercise design, development, conduct and evaluation to validate capabilities across all mission areas.

For questions, contact the [FEMA's National Exercise Division](#).

### DHS Releases Report on Internal Review of Domestic Violent Extremism

Last Friday, DHS released a [report](#) on how it can best prevent, detect, and respond to potential threats related to domestic violent extremism within the Department. This report is the product of a comprehensive high-level internal review that Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas directed, and it highlights the steps that DHS should take to improve our ability to adequately identify and address related threats. These recommendations will also better enable the Department to continue executing its critical mission and ensure its employees are safe and secure at work.

Among the key recommendations, which the Department is working to implement with urgency, the report highlights the need for clear guidance as to what constitutes violent extremist activity and how to address it, improved workforce training for how to identify and report this activity, and the development of a centralized, DHS-wide investigative case management system and information sharing mechanism for investigating related allegations. Secretary Mayorkas has directed DHS to swiftly implement the report's recommendations.

### Secretary Mayorkas Announces New Homeland Security Advisory Council Members

Thursday, DHS Secretary Mayorkas announced the appointment of 33 new members to the Homeland Security Advisory Council, in advance of the Council's first meeting on March 21, 2022. For the past several months, Secretary Mayorkas has been working to build an HSAC to help meet the Department's strategic vision, strengthen the Department to better meet the increasingly dynamic and rapidly evolving threat landscape, and harness technology and innovation to modernize the programs it administers.

The full list of appointments can be found in the [DHS press release](#).

*Other News from DC and Around the Country:*

IISD: [Wildfires Worsen Climate Change and Will Increase Because of It](#)

Route Fifty: [States Must Expand Data Sources for Strategic Flood Resilience](#)

Reuters: [Climate-Driven Water Woes Spark Colorado Rush To Conserve 'Liquid Gold'](#)

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