



April 2, 2021



THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON:

Infrastructure Year

This week the Biden administration began the process of rolling out its two-part infrastructure plan. Part 1, the American Jobs Plan, is focused on traditional infrastructure, including highways, bridges, and transit systems. It also emphasizes making infrastructure more resilient, particularly in vulnerable communities, through investments made in the BRIC program, HUD's CDBG program, and new initiatives at the Department of Transportation. It also seeks to modernize the electric grid. [See the fact sheet here.](#)

Notably absent from the plan were funds targeted to cybersecurity related to critical infrastructure. Separately, President Biden is expected to release an executive order in the coming weeks with actions focused on prevention and response to cyber incidents.

Given the size of the expected legislation and vote-wrangling that will be required, this will likely take up a significant chunk of the legislative year. Many a joke was made during the last administration about "Infrastructure Week". 2021 may be more of an infrastructure year, instead.

Stay tuned.

More News from the Nation's Capital...

FEMA Announces Risk Rating 2.0 Changes

FEMA released updates to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) pricing methodology with the goal of more clearly communicating flood risk. To more equitably distribute cost according to risk, FEMA will now be able to include more flood risk variables, including flood frequency, multiple flood types, distance to a water source, and property characteristics including elevation and the cost to rebuild.

FEMA will split the cost changes into two phases. In Phase I, beginning October 1, 2021, new policies will be subject to the new rating system and existing policyholders eligible for renewal will also be able to switch to the new system. In Phase II, all remaining policies renewing on or after April 1, 2022 will be subject to the new rating methodology.

[More information is available here.](#)

FEMA Releases Updated Core Capability Sheets

FEMA released 48 updated core capability sheets, including revised suggested training for each core capability. The goal of the sheets is to provide SLTT jurisdictions with suggestions for how to improve their core capabilities and close capability gaps identified through THIRA, SPR, and other analyses.

Each core capability sheets includes the core capability definition and tasks, relevant trainings, example capability targets, typed resources, critical planning partners, validation techniques, and additional organizations that support the development of that specific capability.

[The core capability sheets are available here.](#)

DOE Releases Updated State and Regional Energy Risk Profiles

The Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER) released an updated set of their state and regional energy risk profiles. The profiles examine the relative magnitude of risks at a regional and state level highlighting energy infrastructure trends and impacts, and include both man-made and natural hazards. The profiles are available for every state, D.C., and each of the ten FEMA regions.

CESER has also released a [resource library](#) to host its full suite of SLTT partner tools, trainings, guides, and other resources.

[The state and regional risk profiles are available here.](#)

NWS Running #SafePlaceSelfie Campaign

The National Weather Service (NWS) is asking emergency managers, agencies, and all partners to participate in a social media awareness campaign on April 7 called #SafePlaceSelfie. Individuals and organizations alike are asked to post selfies of themselves/their staff in their safe places from extreme weather and urging their audiences to do the same. The goal is to motivate people to identify their safe place from weather hazards in their area and demonstrate their preparedness. Last year's campaign generated 98 million impressions on Twitter alone.

The NWS has a webpage with more [information and tips](#), and urges participants to use hashtag #SafePlaceSelfie, tag @NWS and link to www.weather.gov/safety.

FirstNet Webinar on Situational Awareness from the Field to the EOC During Wildfires

The FirstNet Authority is hosting a series of webinars related to emergency management in 2021. The first will take place **April 8 at 1:00pm ET**, which will focus on how public safety has utilized the FirstNet Network to support wildfire response operations. Topics will include how emergency managers can benefit from using FirstNet during response, deployable asset usage during response, communication in remote areas, and the use of advance technology and partnerships.

Speakers include:

- Don Patterson, Berthoud, Colorado Fire Protection District
- Christopher Markle, Wildland Fire and Information Technology Program Management Office
- Erik Torres-Jacquez, Division of Fire and Aviation Management, National Park Service
- Brad Schmidt, Colorado Department of Public Safety, Center of Excellence for Advanced Technology Aerial Firefighting

[Register here.](#)

Other News from DC and Around the Country:

New York Times: [Biden's Climate Plan Means Tough Choices: Which Homes Get Saved?](#)

Pew Charitable Trusts: [Is Government Property Sufficiently Insured Against Disasters?](#)

World Health Organization: [COVID-19 Shows Why United Action is Needed for More Robust International Health Architecture](#)

Environmental Research Letters: [Global Warming and Population Change Both Heighten Future Risk of Human Displacement Due to River Floods](#)

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