



April 29, 2022



THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON: Big Week for Disaster Policy

This week, the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure advanced several important FEMA bills out of a mark-up hearing on Thursday. The bills included [H.R. 7242](#), *Community Disaster Resilience Zone Act of 2022*, which requires the President to develop and maintain products that show the risk of natural hazards across the United States, and for other purposes; [H.R. 2020](#), *Post-Disaster Online Accountability Act*, to provide for an online repository for certain reporting requirements for recipients of Federal disaster assistance, and for other purposes; [H.R. 5703](#), *Post-Disaster Mental Health Response Act*, which amends Stafford to authorize the President to provide professional counseling services to victims of emergencies declared under such Act, and for other purposes; and [H.R. 7211](#), *Small State and Rural Rescue Act*, which amends Stafford, review a final rule of FEMA, and for other purposes. For more information, see the House T&I Committee [hearing page](#).

NEMA joined a coalition of other resilience-minded organizations to support H.R. 7242 and has been a long-time supporter of H.R. 2020. Robust technical assistance was provided on the other two bills with NEMA choosing to focus on implementation within FEMA if eventually passed.

On Thursday, the President asked Congress for \$33 billion to fund both humanitarian and military aid to Ukraine through September as the country continues to fight back against the Russian invasion. Debate continues on how this will proceed as some on the Hill believe it should be tied to another domestic COVID package to ensure success for both.

Hearings the Week of May 2, 2022

[Resources and Authorities Needed to Protect and Secure the Homeland](#)

Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs
Wednesday, May 5, 2022 at 2:30pm ET

[Securing and Ensuring Order on the Southwest Border](#)

Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs
Thursday, May 6, 2022 at 10:15am ET

More News from the Nation's Capital...

FEMA Awards \$150M to Emergency Food and Shelter Program

On April 13, FEMA awarded \$150 million in humanitarian funding to the National Board for the Emergency Food and Shelter Program. The National Board will award these funds to eligible local nonprofit and governmental organizations, and state governmental facilities that have aided, or will aid, individuals and families encountered by the Department of Homeland Security at the southern U.S. border.

Local nonprofit and governmental entities that have provided, or will provide, humanitarian relief to individuals and families at the southern border with shelter, food and supportive services are eligible to apply. These entities must complete and submit applications to program local boards. The National Board will make the final award determinations. State government facilities that provided eligible direct services may apply through their program State Set-Aside Committee.

GAO Releases 10th Report on Recommendations for Federal COVID-19 Response

On Wednesday, GAO released a report outlining recommendations to various agencies, including FEMA, on ongoing COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. The CARES Act includes a provision for GAO to report on its ongoing monitoring and oversight efforts related to the COVID-19 pandemic. This report—GAO's 10th comprehensive report—examines the federal government's continued efforts to respond to, and recover from, the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, GAO's March 17, 2022 testimony included 10 new legislative suggestions to enhance the transparency and accountability of federal spending, which we reiterate here. GAO reviewed federal data and documents and interviewed federal and state officials and other stakeholders.

To read a highlight of the report and recommendations, click [here](#). The full report can be found [here](#).

Briefing on NOAA Budget Request from President Biden's FY2023 Budget

On Tuesday, May 3, 2022, NOAA Administrator, Dr. Rick Spinrad, and the NOAA Leadership Team will be holding a conversation on the President's Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Request for NOAA and the agency's efforts to develop and deliver climate products and services, contribute to economic development, and integrate equity into operations and service delivery. You may attend the briefing in person or virtually. The event will be held at the National Press Club.

If you are interested in attending, please use the RSVP [form](#) to register.

DOE Announces \$12 Million to Enhance Cybersecurity of America's Energy Systems

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today announced \$12 million for six new research, development, and demonstration (RD&D) projects that will develop innovative cybersecurity technology to help ensure energy delivery systems are designed, installed, operated, and maintained to survive and recover quickly from cyberattacks. Protecting the security and resiliency of America's power grid is crucial to DOE's goal of providing cleaner and cheaper power to Americans while advancing President Biden's goal of a 100% clean electrical grid by 2035 and net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

For more information, check out the DOE's press release [here](#).

Other News from DC and Around the Country:

HSToday: [Ransomware Attacks on Agricultural Cooperatives Potentially Timed to Critical Seasons](#)

Global Village Space: [Why Is There An Increase In Natural Disasters Worldwide?](#)

Route Fifty: [How Cities are Trying to Combat the Nation's Deadliest Weather Risk](#)

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