



May 6, 2022



THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON: Another Half-Percent Hike

Not surprisingly, activities at the Supreme Court this week consumed most of the headlines in D.C. Fortunately, many regularly scheduled activities continued on including a hearing with DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas on the department's FY23 budget request. The hot topic of that hearing revolved around the reduced request on for ICE and immigration programs. The Committee had a litany of questions for Secretary Mayorkas about how the agency plans to handle the influx on people across our border, especially after Title 42 from the CDC is lifted. Additional conversation in the hearing had to deal with increasing efficiency of visa programs for seasonal workers that U.S. companies rely on. With all the focus on the borders in this conversation, there was no real discussion on any of DHS's cyber programs and initiatives.

Among other things happening in the Capitol this week, the Federal Reserve increased interest rates by another half percent this week. This is the second interest rate raise this year as the federal government tries to tamper down the increasing inflation.

Hearings the Week of May 9, 2022

[Securing The Digital Commons: Open-Source Software Cybersecurity](#)

House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 10:00am ET

More News from the Nation's Capital...

New Legislation to Address Federal Disaster Response Inequities Introduced

On Thursday, House Homeland Security Committee Chair Bennie Thompson, along with Senator Elizabeth Warren, introduced the *Federal Emergency Management Advancement of Equity Act* (or FEMA Equity Act) to address systemic inequities in the Federal government's response to disasters and how it distributes assistance. This is policy that was discussed with Hill staff during the NEMA Legislative Committee at NEMA's Mid-Year Forum. The FEMA Equity Act would:

- Improve FEMA's data collection systems to better identify inequities within its programs, including barriers to access and disparate outcomes.
- Direct FEMA to ensure equity is integrated into its programs.
- Empower local governments impacted by natural disasters to request an emergency or major disaster declaration in certain circumstances when requests are not submitted by the State.
- Authorize in law FEMA's Equity Enterprise Steering Group and the Equity Advisor position, both established by the Biden Administration, to bolster equity reforms within FEMA.
- Direct the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to examine the impact on underserved communities of FEMA's requirements for authorizing Federal assistance.

You can view the full text [here](#), and a legislative fact sheet [here](#). This legislation will be referred to the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee where we will work closely with committee staff in ensuring the integrity of the declarations process.

FEMA Hosts HURREVAC Webinar Series

From June 6-10, FEMA's National Hurricane Program will host a five-day HURREVAC training for emergency managers. Each day, sessions will start at 2 p.m. ET and run 60–90 minutes. The webinars will cover a specific theme introduced by guest speakers from FEMA, NOAA National Hurricane Center or U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. Webinar topics include:

Introduction to HURREVAC and Overview of the National Hurricane Program: June 6

Wind Forecast Features: June 7

Evacuation Timing Features: June 8

Storm Surge and Other Water Hazards: June 9

Exercise Tools and Applying HURREVAC: June 10

Interested emergency managers can [register now](#) for this annual HURREVAC webinar series. Learning how to use HURREVAC can help emergency managers prepare for and execute tough evacuation decisions when a hurricane threatens. In addition to operational decision-making, HURREVAC can be used for training, exercises and hurricane preparedness and planning efforts.

Administrator Criswell Visits European Crisis Management Community in Brussels

On Wednesday, FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell discussed the importance of disaster resilient communities with European crisis management leaders in Brussels last week.

Partnerships with the international disaster community provide vital learning opportunities. By sharing lessons learned, all parties are better able to posture themselves for future events, thereby protecting their citizens and infrastructure. Resilience techniques are particularly important points of collaboration since their real-world efficacy can be compared, tested and reinforced.

To demonstrate this commitment to international collaboration, Criswell signed a Protocol of Cooperation with the Belgian National Crisis Centre. The protocol formalizes bilateral crisis management cooperation between FEMA and the Centre.

More information on the Administrator's trip can be found [here](#).

Council on Strategic Risks Releases DoD Budget Breakdown

On Thursday, the Council on Strategic Risks released a palatable overview of the \$3.1 billion Department of Defense proposed budget. Included in this summary of the budget, labeled as a "climate investment", were broken into four categories:

- Installation Resiliency and Adaptation (\$2 billion);
- Science and Technology (\$807 million);
- Operational Energy and Buying Power (\$247 million); and
- Contingency Preparedness (\$28 million).

For more information on the overview of this DoD spending, visit the Council on Strategic Risks [website](#).

GAO Report on Opportunities for Resilience, Research, and Risk Identification

On Wednesday, GAO released a report, titled *Opportunities Exist to Further Assess Risk, Build Resilience, and Communicate Research*, which outlines work by and makes recommendations for the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP). This report examines, among other things, NEHRP's progress in identifying gaps and strengthening resilience to earthquakes, and its activities to identify and communicate about research priorities. GAO reviewed NEHRP's strategic plans, agency guidance, and external communications; compared procedures to leading practices for interagency collaboration; and interviewed federal and state officials, among others.

In the report, GAO recommends, among other things, that NEHRP agencies conduct a national assessment to identify progress and remaining gaps in earthquake resilience; develop strategies to better communicate research priorities; and follow leading practices to identify and leverage resources. All involved agencies, including FEMA, have concurred with the findings.

Highlights from this report can be found [here](#), and the full report can be found [here](#).

Other News from DC and Around the Country:

ABC: [For Two Minutes, California Ran Almost Entirely on Solar and Wind Energy](#)

Governing: [Why Your City Probably Needs a Local Privacy Commission](#)

Route Fifty: [Forest Service Rushes to Hire Enough Firefighters Ahead of Wildfire Season](#)

Dept. of Commerce: [NIST, NSF Award More Than \\$7.6 Million to Support Disaster Resilience Research](#)

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