



June 24, 2022



THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON:

Nothing Says Summer Like Appropriation Mark-Ups!

The House Appropriations Committee held their full committee mark-up today on the DHS appropriations bill. There were 23 amendments proposed to the original language that was released last week. Key victories for the emergency management community include a \$15 million increase for the Emergency Management Performance Grant, the provision of management costs on earmark projects, and language clarifying the role of NQS as it relates to EMAC. Be on the lookout for a full summary early next week once the NEMA staff has completed a proper analysis.

Bills were being signed this week as President Biden enacted two pieces of cybersecurity legislation on Tuesday. [S. 1097](#), the *Federal Rotational Cyber Workforce Program Act of 2021*, and [S. 2520](#), the *State and Local Government Cybersecurity Act of 2021*, will establish a rotational workforce of federal cybersecurity professionals and require greater collaboration between DHS and SLTTs on cyber issues, respectively.

Hearings the Week of June 27, 2022

[Combating Ransomware: From Our Small Towns in Michigan to DC](#)

House Committee on Homeland Security
Tuesday, June 28, 2022 at 10am ET

[More News from the Nation's Capital...](#)

House T&I Committee Hold Roundtable with Stakeholders on Disaster Housing

On Thursday, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee held a roundtable, with NEMA being invited to participate. NEMA's California State Director Mark Ghilarducci represented the association and brought up pressing and important discussions around emergency housing, wildfire responses, and needed Individual Assistance changes. Lengthier conversations and issues that the table flagged had to do with the equity of using hotels as emergency housing, how we can utilize temporary housing to cultivate a community of survivors and easier access to social services, and maintaining affordability for survivors regardless of their situation (homeowners, renters, landlords, etc.). Additionally, there was conversations on the need for ongoing coordination between FEMA and HUD, utilizing both sets of resources in order to provide the best housing with the most cost effectiveness.

At the end of the discussion, Chairwoman Titus (D-NV) summarized the result as needing to focus on equity, mitigation, building back better, expediting assistance, accountability, and transparency when it comes to disaster housing.

Senate HSGAC Holds Hearing on FEMA Strategic Priorities

On Wednesday, the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee held a hearing on FEMA's strategic priorities and disaster preparedness. As the witness, Administrator Deanna Criswell talked through various initiatives and on-going points of focus for FEMA. Some notable discussions included the timeline for the STORM Act Notice of Funding Opportunity, which provides funding for state revolving loan funds, is looking to be moved up to early 2023. Also, the new Wildland Fire Commission appointments are looking to be released soon, with meetings beginning in August. Other topics discussed included the expansion of acceptable documentation for homeownership to increase equity; capacity to care for infants during disasters; FEMA workforce and the CREW Act (affording FEMA reservists the same employment protections as the National Guard); and increased flood insurance costs with Risk Rating 2.0 among others.

The full hearing can be viewed on the [HSGAC website](#), along with written statements.

OIG Releases Report on FEMA Property Acquisition Oversight and Management

On Friday, the Office of the Inspector General release a report titled *FEMA Needs to Improve Oversight and Management of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Property Acquisitions*. In the report, OIG found that FEMA did not oversee and manage Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) property acquisition projects efficiently or effectively, nor can FEMA provide assurance that projects are awarded equitably. It further found that FEMA frequently provided more funds than needed to complete projects, incomplete records for property acquisitions, and founds that FEMA had no way of ensuring equity in these HMGP programs.

The full report can be found [here](#).

Application Guide for the 2022 Sea Level Rise Technical Report Now Available

On Wednesday, NOAA released an application guide to provide assistance to people looking to plan for significant sea level rise over the next few decades. The guide is a response to the [Interagency Sea Level Rise report](#), which projected about a foot of higher waters, on average, along U.S. coastlines by 2050. That is as much sea level rise in 30 years as the country witnessed in the previous century.

For each community, and for each project, there are many factors to consider. The Application Guide for the [2022 Sea Level Rise Technical Report](#) is a first-of-its-kind effort to help individuals and organizations wade through various local considerations to arrive at the best approach for their community.

The application guide includes four sections:

- A description of the content within the technical report
- An in-depth discussion of items to be considered when planning for sea level rise
- Approaches for integrating the 2022 sea level rise scenarios into community planning initiatives; and
- Additional resources to be used as communities explore next steps.

Intended audiences include coastal decision makers and professionals who need to understand, communicate, and apply the best available sea level rise information.

CISA Partners with Forescout to Highlight 56 Operational Technology (OT) Vulnerabilities

On Monday, Forescout Vedere Labs (a cybersecurity provider), in collaboration with CISA's vulnerability disclosure process, is disclosing OT:ICEFALL, a set of 56 vulnerabilities affecting devices from 10 critical operational technology (OT) vendors.

The vulnerabilities in OT:ICEFALL are divided into four main categories: Insecure engineering protocols, weak cryptography or broken authentication schemes, insecure firmware updates, and remote code execution via native functionality.

Forescout also produced a [webinar](#) for OT:ICEFALL and a list of effected devices, found on their [website](#).

FEMA Releases Disaster Recovery Reform Act Video

FEMA developed an introductory video to the Disaster Recovery Reform Act Section 1206 to arm floodplain administrators, emergency managers, elected officials and other stakeholders in the recovery process. The video will supply stakeholders with the information needed for successful reimbursement of these new eligible activities. Viewers will learn key eligibility requirements for communities, work and costs covered under the policy and how to seek reimbursement for these new activities.

To watch the full video, visit [FEMA's YouTube page](#).

Other News from DC and Around the Country:

HSToday: [CISA Cybersecurity Advisory Committee Meets to Discuss Subcommittee Recommendations](#)

Route Fifty: [What Flooding Costs These US Cities](#)

Planetizen: [Toward More Inclusive Emergency Management](#)

[nemaweb.org](#)

