

July 15, 2022



**THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON:  
Looking Back in Time ... Like  
Really Far Back**

Image Credit: NASA, ESA, CSA, STScI

If you needed some existential thoughts this week, NASA provided some fodder. This week NASA released the first images from the James Webb Space Telescope, showing us a look into the early universe and marking a new period of cosmic observation.

Back on Earth, Senate Democrats, with a slim majority thanks to Vice President Kamala Harris's tiebreaker vote, are left with their own existential thoughts on passing legislation before the recess due to some recent health issues within the caucus. Senate Appropriations Chairman Sen. Leahy (D-VT) announced on Tuesday that he will be putting forward 12 appropriation bills without mark-ups nor initial topline agreement with the Minority. This comes as Republicans have aimed to see another continuing resolution through the midterms. These 12 bills are currently being drafted and set to be released at the end of July.

This gridlock is not halting discussion on the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), however, with various policy plans seeking to use this "must-pass" legislation as a way circumvent the traditional track for their initiatives. NEMA staff is in conversation with congressional staff on policy additions within the NDAA and will keep the membership apprised on relevant changes.

**Hearings the Week of July 18, 2022**

[Supporting Underserved Communities in Emergency Management](#)

House Committee on Homeland Security  
Tuesday, July 19, 2022 at 9:00am ET

[Implementing the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](#)

House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
Tuesday, July 19, 2022 at 10:00am ET

[Addressing Weapons of Mass Destruction and Health Security Threats to the Homeland](#)

Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
Tuesday, July 19, 2022 at 10:00am ET

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

**NEMA Releases 2022 Biennial Report**

On Wednesday, NEMA released our 2022 Biennial Report, the most comprehensive, in-depth review of emergency management and homeland security available. Since the first publication in 1996, the NEMA Biennial Report has been used by state emergency management directors to educate, inform and advocate for their programs to governors, state legislators, Congress and federal agencies. The report has been quoted by members of Congress, cited in Congressional testimony, in committee hearings and used by FEMA, DHS and other federal agencies to strengthen emergency management programs in states and communities across the nation.

This flagship report can be found on the [NEMA website](#). Copies are free for NEMA membership and available for purchase as well.

**Administrator Criswell Delivers Remarks on Climate Change, Community Resilience**

On Monday, FEMA Administrator Criswell addressed the 2022 Environmental Systems Research Institute (Esri) User Conference in San Diego, California. She discussed how geospatial and predictive forecasting tools help to make communities more resilient in the face of climate change and support FEMA's readiness to respond to disasters.

A full video of the Administrator's remarks can be found [here](#).

**CBO Releases Wildfire Costs and Effects Report**

Over the weekend, the Congressional Budget Office released a report on wildfires. The report analyzes trends in wildfire activity; considers the effects of wildfires on the federal budget, the environment, people's health, and the economy; and reviews forest-management practices meant to reduce the likelihood and seriousness of fire-related disasters.

The report included major findings include a fire was five times larger on federal land compared to nonfederal land, fire suppression cost over \$2.5 billion over the last 5 years, wildfires have adverse secondary effects on the environment and climates, and managing forests can be an effective solution to reduce costs and effects of these wildfires.

The full report can be found on the [CBO website](#).

**FEMA Seeks Technical Mapping Advisory Council Members**

FEMA seeks qualified individuals to serve on the Technical Mapping Advisory Council. The council is a federal advisory committee established to review and make recommendations to FEMA on matters related to the national flood mapping program authorized under the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012. In addition, the council submits an annual report to the FEMA Administrator that contains:

- A description of the activities of the council.
- An evaluation of the status and performance of Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and mapping activities to revise and update FIRMs.
- A summary of recommendations made by the council to the FEMA Administrator.

The council is comprised of representatives from federal, state, local and private sector organizations. Members will be appointed based on their demonstrated knowledge and competence in areas such as surveying, cartography, remote sensing, geospatial information systems or the technical aspects of preparing and using flood insurance rate maps.

Applicants will be considered for a 3-year appointment for four council vacancies for the summer/fall 2022 term. Applications will be accepted until August 8. To submit an application, send an email to [FEMA-TMAC@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-TMAC@fema.dhs.gov).

**OIG Release Report on Address Threats of Domestic Terrorism**

Last week, the Office of the Inspector General released a report, [DHS Could Do More to Address the Threats of Domestic Terrorism](#), on how DHS could better address the threat of domestic terrorism. In the report, OIG finds that DHS could improve how it identifies domestic terrorism threats, tracks trends for future risk-based planning, and informs partners and the public about domestic terrorism. Specifically, the Department has limited access to the sources of information it needs to identify domestic terrorism threats. DHS could do more to compile, maintain, and track domestic terrorism information for future planning. Finally, the advisories DHS issues to inform partners and the public may not be timely to help them take steps to protect themselves from threats. Without a cohesive long-term approach to countering domestic terrorism, DHS may not be able to proactively prevent and protect the Nation from this evolving threat.

OIG found and recommended six suggestions based on this report, and DHS has concurred with all of them. More information can be found in the full report.

*Other News from DC and Around the Country:*

- HSToday: [A City's Journey to Smart Solutions: Eyes in the Sky](#)  
 Politico: [Online Platforms Now Have an Hour to Remove Terrorist Content in the EU](#)  
 Governing: [How Much Cyber Insurance Governments Need Depends on Risk](#)  
 Route Fifty: [A State Turns to Its National Guard to Provide Cybersecurity Training to Local Governments](#)

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