



a collaborative environment to drive policy, innovate and advance emergency management

July 9, 2021



THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON:

C.R.E.A.M.

In the immortal words of Wu-Tang Clan, "Cash Rules Everything Around Me" (please note this song is not safe for work), and Congress is taking that ethos to heart. The two-track approach for infrastructure legislation via the bipartisan framework and a package that focuses on Administration priorities related to climate change, childcare, and education together would likely be the largest legislative package in the country's history. However, with cash like that up for discussion, everyone has their own opinions about what should or should not be included, and the Democratic majority in both chambers is so slim that even a few key defections based on one policy opinion or other could bring the whole package down. Much has yet to be decided in short order and tensions are already running high.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) has also notified Senators that they may be expected to work into their traditional August Recess to pass legislation, an unwelcome bit of news to everyone in Washington.

In the midst of all of this, the House Appropriations Committee is scheduled to mark-up the FY22 homeland security appropriations bill this coming Tuesday. You can expect a summary from NEMA staff on key emergency management elements of the legislation next week in your inboxes.

Finally, the Biden Administration announced a [series of proposals](#) to better respond to the wildland fire threat in the United States, including raising the minimum wage of firefighters, extending seasonal employees to work additional hours beyond their term, converting a number of seasonal firefighters to full-time to increase capacity for forest management, and including \$30 billion for wildfire management in the FY22 Presidential Budget, among others.

Hearings the Week of July 12, 2021

[MARKUP: FY22 Homeland and Defense Subcommittee Appropriations Bills](#)
House Committee on Appropriations
Tuesday, July 13, 10:00am ET

[Principles for Outbreak Investigation: COVID-19 and Future Infectious Diseases](#)
House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
Wednesday, July 14, 12:00pm ET

[Securing the Homeland: Reforming DHS to Meet Today's Threats](#)
House Committee on Homeland Security
Thursday, July 15, 12:00pm ET

More News from the Nation's Capital...

New Appointees Announced for the Council of Governors

President Biden appointed Delaware Governor John Carney, Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Oregon Governor Kate Brown, Utah Governor Spencer Cox, Vermont Governor Phil Scott, and Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon to the Council of Governors. The President reappointed Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and will co-chair with Minnesota Governor Tim Walz. Tennessee Governor Bill Lee remains on the Council.

The Council is a bipartisan body of 10 governors that work with the Administration on issues affecting national security, homeland defense, cybersecurity, disaster response and recovery, and the National Guard. Over the years, NEMA has worked closely with the National Governors Association and the Council in developing disaster policy, reimbursement strategies for the National Guard, and cybersecurity efforts. Our involvement has continued to strengthen our relationship with NGA and the Council. More information is [available here](#).

CISA Analysis of Risk and Vulnerability Assessment in 2020

DHS CISA released a report and accompanying infographic analyzing 2020 risk and vulnerability assessments as mapped to the MITRE ATT&CK Framework. The report analyzes a sample attack path that a cyber threat actor could take to compromise an organization with weaknesses representative of those CISA observed in the 37 Risk and Vulnerability Assessments (RVAs) it conducted in 2020. The report notes that most successful attacks were common methods used by threat actors, including phishing, and that many of the organizations assessed exhibited the same weaknesses. Links to the report and infographic are [available here](#).

DHS OIG Releases Reports on FEMA Compliance with the Disaster Mitigation Act and Hurricane Harvey Direct Housing Assistance Agreement

The DHS Office of Inspector General (DHS OIG) released reports this week related to FEMA.

The first is *FEMA Has Not Prioritized Compliance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, Hindering its Ability to Reduce Repetitive Damages to Roads and Bridges*. FEMA has instead focused on other tasks related to its mission and has not published regulations and related policies to provide an incentive to reduce repetitive damages to facilities through mitigation as per the DMA 2000. The agency has also not resolved issues with limitations in data collection and tracking and impediments to applicants' mitigation efforts. The OIG recommended FEMA address these issues and publish proposed regulations within one year, establish a process to standardize data entry in FEMA's database systems, work with states to develop a plan to properly train applicants on FEMA disaster-related data systems, and review and resolve hazard mitigation challenges. FEMA concurred with all recommendations. [View the report here](#).

DHS OIG also released the report, *FEMA Initiated the Hurricane Harvey Disaster Housing Assistance Agreement without Necessary Processes and Controls*. They found that the agreement with the Texas General Land Office (TxGLO) was appropriate to ensure direct housing assistance program compliance with applicable laws and regulations but was initiated without developing the controls and processes necessary to administer the program. FEMA did not engage stakeholders in planning and coordination prior to the disaster, which led to delays in response, and did not have guidance and training to help build state capabilities to implement DHA, as well as inefficiencies in housing information systems used. DHS OIG recommended that FEMA strengthen its preparedness planning and operational coordination, ensure guidance and training resources are readily available for SLTTs, and ensure the FEMA direct housing information system provides flexibility and facilitates data sharing. FEMA concurred with all recommendations. [View the report here](#).

Department of Energy CESER SLTT 2020 Year in Review

The Department of Energy's Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER) State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Program supports state energy security and resilience planning, emergency preparedness, and coordination. The program released its 2020 SLTT Year in Review which highlights its key activities related to energy security, cybersecurity, and emergency response, including the Western Petroleum Shortage Response Collaborative that is conducted jointly by NEMA and the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO). The report has a link to a multitude of resources for states and includes information on work done in 2020 that will be released in 2021, such as state and tribal energy emergency preparedness and response primers. This year CESER will add a resource library to its website.

[View the SLTT Year in Review here](#).

Registration Open for ResCon

ResCon, the annual international conference on successful resilience and disaster management practices will take place in-person in New Orleans **September 15-17**. The program will be divided into themes around COVID-19, vulnerable and underserved populations, climate change resilience, and cybersecurity and infrastructure. A preliminary schedule is [available here](#). [Register here](#).

Other News from DC and Around the Country:

The Rapon Advance: [Rep. Graves Offers Bipartisan Bill to Adjust SBA Disaster Loan Limits](#)
Council on Strategic Risks: [BRIEFER: Climate Change in the National Security Strategy](#)
NPR Morning Edition: [More People are Moving to Places Where Wildfires are a Growing Risk](#)

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