



September 17, 2021



## THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON:

### Two Minutes and No Time Outs

Nothing strikes fear into a sports fan more than "two minutes to go and no time outs remaining." Ok, so maybe that doesn't work if you're a golf fan, but you get the gist. With just 12 days remaining in the fiscal year, Congress still needs to complete a continuing resolution (CR) and debt ceiling limit increase. The White House is also growing increasingly antsy about the inability for Congress to push the infrastructure and reconciliation packages over the finish as well.

President Biden spent time this week working over a couple senatorial hold-outs in his own party, and the future looks murky, but at least some small steps continue to occur. The House Transportation and Infrastructure marked-up their version of the reconciliation bill which includes \$500 million to fund resiliency revolving loan funds (via the STORM Act) and \$425 million for EOC construction. The latter priority is one which NEMA has worked closely with the committee. Other House committees continue marking-up aspects of the reconciliation bill as well.

Despite these small steps forward, there's little evidence the President's cajoling helped on the Senate side. Those balking at the overall \$3.5 trillion price tag seem to be holding the upper hand for now, but as is always the case in DC, things can change quickly. This coupled with the lawmakers who are unhappy with the recent COVID vaccine directive and ongoing situation in Afghanistan is putting the White House behind by at least two scores. And with no time outs.

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

#### A Message From NEMA President Sima Merick

I am honored and excited to invite you to my hometown, Cleveland, Ohio for the NEMA 2021 Annual Forum, October 12-15. By the time we arrive in Cleveland it will have been two years since our last NEMA forum. We've all been through so much during that time but we are beginning to see a light at the end of a very dark tunnel. Now is the time to look back with perspective, have candid discussions and plan for the future, and that begins in Cleveland.

The pandemic has taken a toll and continues to deeply impact our professional and personal lives, but it isn't the only issue to discuss. Wildfires, drought, flooding, hurricanes and other impacts of climate change are increasing the frequency and severity of disasters. We are also challenged by systemic inequity throughout our disaster programs. These are serious and impactful issues, and we must lead in how they are addressed.

In working with NEMA Board of Directors we are committed to ensuring your time spent at the Annual Forum is successful, full of information but most of all SAFE! Health safety guidelines will be in place and enforced, including a mask requirement. We ask for your cooperation and understanding as some aspects of the forum will be different in order to keep all guests, staff and our host city of Cleveland as safe as possible.

NEMA is strong because of the participation by YOU the members - please help to strengthen and grow our professional association with your attendance and contributions at the Annual Forum. Thanks for all you do every day as we continue to move emergency management to the next level.

#### Registration Open for CISA Annual National Cybersecurity Summit

The [Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency](#) (CISA) will host its fourth annual National Cybersecurity Summit this October. Coinciding with Cybersecurity Awareness Month, the 2021 summit will be held virtually as a series of webinars each Wednesday in October, beginning October 6 and ending October 27.

[Registration](#) is required but there is no cost to attend. Last year's event, which was also hosted virtually, had more than 15,000 attendees from around the world join the event. This virtual event will bring critical infrastructure stakeholders together in a forum for meaningful conversations and collaboration on cybersecurity, with presentations focused on vulnerability management, partnerships, cyber workforce development, and the convergence of security domains and cyber-physical risk management efforts. Each week will feature presentations and sessions on a different theme.

This year's themes are:

- Oct. 6: Assembly Required: The Pieces of the Vulnerability Management Ecosystem
- Oct. 13: Collaborating for the Collective Defense
- Oct. 20: Team Awesome: The Cyber Workforce
- Oct. 27: The Cyber/Physical Convergence

#### White House Announces Afghan Refugee Plan

On Wednesday, the White House began notifying governors and state refugee coordinators across the country about how many Afghan evacuees from among the first group of nearly 37,000 arrivals are slated to be resettled in their states.

California is projected to take more arrivals than any other - more than 5,200 people, according to Department of State data for the Afghan Placement and Assistance program. Alabama and Mississippi are each slated to welcome 10. Oklahoma, which over the course of the 20-year war had resettled a relatively small number of Afghans, is slated to resettle 1,800 new arrivals.

Many of the new evacuees requested to be resettled in those states because they already have family and close friends living there, according to open source reporting. The Department of State resettled evacuees based on the advice of local affiliates of nine national resettlement agencies. Wisconsin will be the new home for about 400 Afghan evacuees, after they complete their immigration process. A state official said Wednesday afternoon that the White House is expecting 399 refugees to be resettled within Wisconsin, although no information has been released as to where within the state.

*Other News from DC and Around the Country:*

Homeland Security Today (Opinion): [Emergency Management: What Needs to Change](#) (Brock Long)  
Roll Call: [Ida Could be Catalyst for Debt Ceiling Deal](#)

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