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September 23, 2022



THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON: Scramble in the Senate!

At this point, nothing seems too certain for the path of a funding bill. Right now it will either be a continuing resolution, or a government shutdown, and there are minimal signs as to the way it is leaning. Senate leadership is in a bind. Without a surefire route to adoption of a short-term measure to fund the government after Sept. 30, Schumer started the legislative process yesterday, expecting to work with colleagues over the weekend to try to finalize a plan that can get enough votes between Tuesday night and next Friday. The House appears poised for action, but with the razor-thin voting margin in the Senate, and the majority in disagreement about how to proceed, there are landmines everywhere.

In short, debate rages about what to include or not include in the package. In addition to the ongoing debate about the provision promised to Sen. Manchin (D—WV), there could be aid to Ukraine, a disaster supplemental to address the situation in Puerto Rico, or any number of policy riders. Regardless, once finalized, the belief is this upcoming CR will fund the government through mid-December.

On another note, we are hiring!! NEMA is looking for a qualified applicants for our Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) Training and Exercise Coordinator position! If you're interested in this opportunity with us, check out the application [here!](#)

Hearings the Week of September 26, 2022

[Legislative Mark-Up Hearing](#)

Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs
Wednesday, September 28, 2022, at 11am ET

More News from the Nation's Capital...

OIG Releases Report on COVID-19 Response and Relief Funding

This week, the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) released a report on total federal funding for the COVID-19 response and relief effort. As of September 2021, FEMA had received approximately \$98 billion to assist the Nation in addressing the challenges of the pandemic. OIG conducted this review as part of Phase 1 of the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee's (PRAC) study to determine the sources and intended purpose of Federal pandemic response program funds provided to six geographic locations. The report does not contain any recommendations but rather lays out the funding summary – the full report can be found [here](#).

California Renews Emergency Management Assistance Compact

Last week, California renewed its commitment to interstate alliances by passing AB 1565, renewing their agreement to the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). Since enactment, this bill ensures that the state will be participating in EMAC till 2028.

FEMA Seeks Feedback on NIMS Guidance

FEMA seeks feedback on the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Information and Communications Technology Functional Guidance. The comment period will conclude on October 20. The guidance provides instruction on integrating communication, information and cybersecurity into the Incident Command System structure while adhering to the concepts and principles of the NIMS doctrine. The engagement period provides an opportunity for interested parties to comment on the draft documents to ensure they are relevant to all implementing partners.

To provide feedback on the documents, complete the form located [here](#) and email a completed form to FEMA-NIMS@fema.dhs.gov no later than 5 p.m. ET on October 20.

OIG Finds DHS Needs to Expand Virtual Law Enforcement Resource Awareness

Recently, DHS OIG found that there are limitations to DHS law enforcement components collaborate and leverage resources for virtual training. Specifically, components are not always aware of other DHS components' research, purchases, capabilities, or availability of law enforcement virtual training simulators. Without additional coordination on virtual training activities, DHS faces challenges training LEOs and may limit potential cost savings. This report provides six recommendations to try and mend these gaps in coordination.

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

GAO Release Report on Building Federal Resilience to Climate Change

On Monday, GAO released a report highlighting the fiscal effects of natural disasters on our nation with the increasing frequency and severity due to climate change. This report found to reduce federal fiscal exposure to climate change, the federal government needs a cohesive, strategic approach, with strong leadership and the authority to manage risks.

GAO identified five areas in which government-wide action is needed to reduce federal fiscal exposure to climate change. These areas include the federal government's roles as (1) insurer of property and crops, (2) provider of disaster aid, (3) owner or operator of infrastructure, (4) leader of a strategic plan to coordinate federal efforts, and (5) provider of data and technical assistance to decision makers.

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

Other News from DC and Around the Country:

INTERPOL: [INTERPOL Working Group Highlights Cyber Threats Across the Americas](#)

Entrepreneur: [3 Steps to Prepare Your Business for Wildfire Season](#)

HSToday: [Senate Confirms Dimitri Kusnezov as DHS Under Secretary for Science and Technology](#)

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