

You are receiving this information as a member of the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA). It is being sent to you as a benefit of membership.

May 26, 2023



THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON: All Eyes on Debt Ceiling

You're in third grade. You know it's Amanda's birthday and she brought in those cupcakes you love. The ones with the sprinkles baked into the batter! Unfortunately, Mrs. Kaestner is never going to allow you to have cupcakes before you finish math and social studies. Hard to focus, isn't it?

It's been a similar dynamic this week in D.C. At this point, FEMA is indicating no supplemental for the DRF will be required because they can stretch existing funds until maybe August. Despite the fact that's still a month short of the end of the fiscal year, smack dab in the middle of August recess, and measures for survival may require Immediate Needs Funding and stripping unspent BRIC funds, even disaster funding has fallen prey to the requirements of...

The debt ceiling negotiations seem to be ongoing, with one headline perhaps summing it up best as "Optimistic -- For a Moment." The White House and Congressional leadership both finally seem to be at the table negotiating, but little has come out about potential results. With precious little time remaining before we collectively "Thelma and Louise" over that fiscal cliff, all eyes in DC are on these negotiations. Even previously scheduled mark-ups in House Appropriations were postponed pending the ongoing negotiations.

The House Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management did manage to hold a hearing entitled "Never Ending Emergencies -- An Examination of the National Emergencies Act." Witnesses from the Niskanen Center, Arnold & Porter LLP, and the Brennan Center for Justice testified. The primary concerns centered on recent court rulings watering down the ability for Congress to hold the President accountable and the expansion of emergency powers.

So T&I wins the prize this week for making it through both math and social studies to make it to that sweet, sweet cupcake at the end of the day. Just too bad some in D.C. aren't as patient and focused.

Hearings Next Week

None -- District Work Period

More News from the Nation's Capital...

FAREWELL TO AM RADIO?

According to reports out of Detroit this week, Ford, BMW, Tesla, Volvo, and Volkswagen have announced plans to remove AM radio from some new electric vehicles. Ford went a step further and announced intentions to include gas-powered vehicles as well. Electromagnetic interference and "changing with the times" were the two most mentioned reasons.

With the National Association of Broadcasters dubbing AM radio "the backbone of the Nation's emergency alert system," seven former FEMA administrators penning a letter to Department of Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, and NEMA entering discussions with IAEM, BCEM, and I Heart Radio, there will surely be more to come on this issue soon. At least one Member of Congress, Senator Markey (D--MA), issued a [press release](#) criticizing the move.

DHS ISSUES WARNING IN LEAD-UP TO 2024 ELECTIONS

This week, DHS warned about the potential for violence in the lead-up to the 2024 election cycle that could target the nation's critical infrastructure, faith-based institutions, government facilities, and minority communities, according to a bulletin posted Wednesday. "In the coming months, DHS expects the threat environment to remain heightened and that individuals may be motivated to violence by perceptions of the 2024 general election cycle," the [National Terrorism Advisory System \(NTAS\) bulletin](#) said, adding that "legislative or judicial decisions pertaining to sociopolitical issues" may also motivate attackers.

The new bulletin, released as a previous bulletin outlining the terrorism threat landscape was due to expire, points to recent incidents and public online communications to take a pulse of the current and most threatening terror threats in the United States. The bulletin states the U.S. remains in a "heightened threat environment". "Recent tragic events highlight the continued heightened threat environment our nation faces, and these threats are driven by violent extremists who seek to further their ideological beliefs and personal grievances," the DHS Secretary said in a statement on the bulletin. Other potential targets of violence include schools, racial and ethnic minorities, individuals or events associated with the LGBTQ+ community, government personnel, and law enforcement, the bulletin said. Potential attackers could include both domestic violent extremists and those motivated by the ideology of foreign terrorist organizations.

DHS PUBLIC-PRIVATE ANALYTIC EXCHANGE PROGRAM SESSIONS

The DHS Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A), Private Sector Engagement Office will host 2024 Public-Private Analytic Exchange Program (AEP) information sessions June 13, 20, and 27. The AEP is an unclassified annual program that provides analysts with an understanding of select homeland or national security-related issues. The AEP facilitates collaborative partnerships between private sector and government analysts, including from the Intelligence Community, to better understand emerging threats by collaborating and developing unclassified analytic deliverables. The analysts gain a greater understanding of how their disparate, yet complementary, roles can work in tandem to ensure mission success. This program is sponsored by DHS I&A on behalf of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. Additional information, including registration, can be found [here](#).

Other News from DC and Around the Country:

Político: [Puerto Rico's Power Play: How Should Billions be Spent](#)

nemaweb.org

