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January 17, 2025



THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON:

Transition of Power

It's a time of transition throughout Washington, with an administration change only three days away and a new Congress just getting kicked off. A lot of eyes are focused on the first tranche of nomination hearings, and of course we're particularly interested in the hearing for Governor Kristi Noem for Secretary of Homeland Security. Governor Noem's hearing, after being postponed for two days, has just gotten underway this morning as I send this newsletter. Earlier this week, NEMA announced our support for Governor Noem's nomination, and we stand ready to work with her on addressing the homeland security and emergency management issues facing the nation.

In Congress, efforts to finalize FY25 appropriations appear to be largely stalled as leaders struggle to set a topline number. Appropriators are waiting for direction, but the concurrent budget reconciliation talks seem to be diverting some attention. As a reminder, the current Continuing Resolution funding the federal government expires on March 14th.

Meanwhile, discussions over potential disaster aid for California, as they address the historic wildfires in the Los Angeles area, are also ongoing. There haven't yet been any decisions made about whether to provide funding in a standalone bill or include it in the final FY25 appropriations deal. The other potential sticking point for negotiations is related to the tense political battle over adding conditions to the aid. Speaker Johnson has come out in support of some form of conditions being attached to the aid and Congressional Democrats quickly rejected the idea. Both sides are digging in, and we'll be watching the negotiations closely and will provide more information as it becomes available.

I hope everyone has a happy MLK Jr. Day and a safe, smooth Inauguration Day. We're thankful for the hard work of countless departments and agencies across all levels of government who have spent months preparing for Monday, helping ensure a peaceful transfer of power. As someone who is not a fan of crowds or freezing weather—I'll be watching from my living room.

Upcoming Congressional Hearings...

No hearings currently scheduled related to emergency management.

More News from the Nation's Capital...

FEMA ANNOUNCES FUNDING OPPORTUNITY TO HELP COMMUNITIES RECEIVE LOW-INTEREST LOANS FOR RESILIENCE PROJECTS

On Tuesday, FEMA announced the third funding opportunity for the [Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund \(RLF\) grant program](#) to make communities safer from natural hazards. This program, funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, provides [capitalization grants to eligible applicants](#) nationwide. States, territories, eligible Tribal Nations, and the District of Columbia are eligible for a total of \$178 million, the largest amount available in a single fiscal year for the program. Funding enables these entities to administer revolving loan funds that will help local governments carry out hazard mitigation projects and build community climate resilience.

Through this program, states can direct loans to local governments to mitigate the effects of events such as drought, intense heat, wildfires, floods and earthquakes. It is one of several Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs that fund improvements to make communities more resilient to natural hazards. Eligible projects include construction or modification of natural or built infrastructure to increase resilience, building code adoption and enforcement, local zoning, land use planning changes and developing local hazard mitigation plans. Deferred maintenance of mitigation infrastructure and paying the non-federal cost share of other FEMA hazard mitigation projects are also eligible.

The Safeguarding Tomorrow RLF funding notice is available at [Grants.gov](#). Eligible entities must apply for funding using the FEMA Grants Outcome (FEMA GO) system. Applications may be submitted a rolling basis through **September 30, 2025**.

FEMA PUBLISHES 2024 NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS REPORT

On Tuesday, FEMA announced the release of the [2024 National Preparedness Report \(NPR\)](#). The 13th annual NPR outlines progress toward achieving the national preparedness goal of a secure and resilient country. It highlights the nation's preparedness across all sectors and levels of government for events ranging from extreme weather to sophisticated cyber incidents.

This year, the report places particular emphasis on four core capabilities: Mass Care Services, Public Information and Warning, Infrastructure Systems, and Cybersecurity. These areas—identified through ongoing assessments, leadership priorities, and recent disaster impacts—continue to present significant challenges, but also opportunities for enhancing national resilience.

For more than a decade, FEMA has been reporting on the state of national preparedness to identify the risks and opportunities that inform emergency management decision-making. This annual report once again offers practical insights into preparedness and capabilities at the federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial levels as well as the individual household level to inform decisions about program priorities and resource allocations that increase community resilience.

The National Preparedness Report was established in Presidential Policy Directive/PPD-8, signed on March 30, 2011, which required the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit to the President the first national preparedness report based on the National Preparedness Goal.

CISA WEBINAR: EMERGENCY SERVICES SECTOR RESILIENCE DEVELOPMENT

CISA has announced the next iteration of its Emergency Services Sector (ESS) Resilience Development Webinar Series, a quarterly webinar series that focuses on topics of interest to ESS stakeholders. The webinar is scheduled for **February 12, 2025** from 1:00-2:00PM (Eastern). You can register for the webinar [here](#).

This webinar will focus on the Protected Critical Infrastructure Information (PCII) Program, created by the U.S. Congress under the Critical Infrastructure Information Act of 2002, to encourage public and private sector owners and operators of physical and cyber critical infrastructure to voluntarily share sensitive security and proprietary information with CISA or other federal government agencies. The program supports the U.S. Government's ability to understand and identify:

- Security risks and threats from physical and cyber-attacks;
- Vulnerabilities, mitigation, and resilience strategies; and
- Critical infrastructure security during planning and emergencies.

The intended audience for this event is Emergency Management, Emergency Medical Services, Fire and Rescue Services, Law Enforcement, and Public Works stakeholders.

FEMA ANNOUNCES NEW COMMUNITY DISASTER RESILIENCE ZONE DESIGNATIONS

Late last week, FEMA announced the designation of additional Community Disaster Resilience Zones for Tribal Nations and territories. As outlined in the Community Disaster Resilience Zones Act of 2022, FEMA first designated 483 zones in September 2023 across all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

With FEMA's recent announcement, the agency has designated an additional 172 zones for 57 Tribal Nations and 112 zones for four territories. This brings the total to 767 designated zones across the nation. A full list of Community Disaster Resilience Zones can be viewed on [FEMA's website](#).

The Community Disaster Resilience Zone Act is intended to support resilience projects that primarily benefit a designated zone. The primary benefit of a zone designation is the potential for increased access to additional funding and technical assistance for resilience and mitigation projects. In the coming months, FEMA plans to announce additional coordination and multi-sector coordination across the public and private sectors, as well additional state, Tribal Nation, and territorial designated zones.

Other News from DC and Around the Country...

HSToday: [FEMA Releases New Guide for Inclusive Emergency Management](#)

LA Times: ['This is Your Hurricane Katrina': Assessing the Long Road Ahead for L.A.](#)

The Hill: [Johnson Backs Conditions on California Fire Aid](#)

LA Times: [For Uninsured Fire Victims, the Small Business Administration Offers a Rare Lifeline](#)

NBC News: [As Los Angeles-Area Wildfires Rage, Trump Homes in on a FEMA Administrator](#)

The Hill: [FEMA Administrator Says Weather Events 'Do Not Discriminate' on Politics](#)

Maui Now: [Hawai'i AG Releases Third and 'Final Forward-Looking Report' on Lahaina Wildfire](#)

The Record: [Easterly: SEC vs. CIRCIA a 'Recipe for Dysfunction' After Private Sector Complaints](#)



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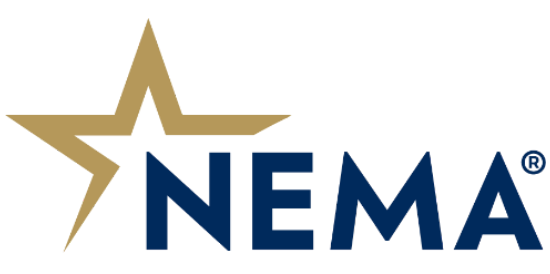
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