



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.

April 11, 2025



## THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON:

### The Cuts Keep Coming

Earlier this year, when FEMA rescinded the FY24 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program, many expressed concerns about what that meant for the future of the program. Unfortunately, late last week, those concerns were justified, with FEMA announcing that it is eliminating the BRIC program. Referring to BRIC as an “example of a wasteful and ineffective FEMA program,” the memo signed by the Senior Official Performing the Duties of FEMA Administrator Cameron Hamilton announced that the FY24 NOFO has been cancelled. According to the memo, FEMA will:

- Not award all BRIC projects selected but not yet awarded;
- Not grant POP extensions on any project, without prior approval by Hamilton;
- Review all projects not completed but fully obligated to determine courses of action; and
- Stop the obligation of all management costs and review management costs requirements for partially or fully obligated projects.

As FEMA's largest pre-disaster mitigation program, this is a significant blow to state and local efforts to implement projects that reduce risks posed by natural hazards, support adoption and enforcement of codes and standards, and reduce disaster losses and protect life and property from future disasters.

Notably, this major change at the agency comes before the recently established FEMA Review Council has held their first meeting. We continue to urge the administration to not make additional substantial changes to FEMA's workforce, programs, or policies until the Review Council has completed their work.

Coming on the heels of weeks of conflicting government statements about the abolishment of FEMA, I think it's fair to say we're in uncharted territory in the world of emergency management. We've been working hard, along with our partners, to advocate for reforming FEMA and not abolishing it. Part of this strategy relies upon our membership to contact their Governors' offices and Congressional delegations asking them to call the White House and discourage the dismantling of FEMA and the further elimination of federal emergency management programs. We are also developing documents and other messaging with FEMA/EM reform recommendations to share with the FEMA Review Council and other stakeholders and decision-makers.

#### Upcoming Congressional Hearings...

None - State/District Work Period

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

### FEMA ENDS BUILDING RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITIES (BRIC) PROGRAM

Late last week, FEMA [announced](#) that it is ending the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program and canceling all BRIC applications from Fiscal Years 2020-2023. If grant funds have not been distributed to states, tribes, territories, and local communities, funds will be immediately returned either to the Disaster Relief Fund or the U.S. Treasury.

Per FEMA's official statement, ending this program will “help ensure that grant funding aligns with the President's Executive Orders and Secretary Noem's direction and best support states and local communities in disaster planning, response and recovery.”

### GAO REPORT: DOMESTIC TERRORISM - ADDITIONAL ACTIONS NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT AN EFFECTIVE NATIONAL STRATEGY

On Wednesday, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) [released a study](#) examining the 2021 National Strategy for Countering Domestic Terrorism. In June 2021, the White House NSC released the Strategy that aims to provide a framework to address domestic terrorism, which it identified as an urgent priority. GAO was asked to review the Strategy and the report examines, among other things, (1) steps agencies have taken to implement the Strategy, (2) the extent to which the Strategy includes desirable characteristics for an effective national strategy, and (3) challenges identified by federal and nonfederal partners in implementing the Strategy.

GAO reviewed the Strategy and related documents, analyzed NSC information, and interviewed officials from eight federal agencies. GAO also interviewed nonfederal partners and Joint Terrorism Task Force personnel in seven geographically dispersed states that had experience with domestic terrorism incidents, as well as 12 domestic terrorism experts.

### CISA WEBINAR: INTRODUCTION TO PACE PLANNING FOR THE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION ECOSYSTEM

This week, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) announced an educational webinar coinciding with [Emergency Communications Month](#). This webinar will cover Primary, Alternate, Contingency, and Emergency (PACE) Planning, which helps to promote and maintain operability, interoperability, and continuity of emergency communications. PACE Planning supports the Information Communications Technology (ICT) Framework and promotes the three critical components of cyber resilience for risk mitigation, incident recovery, and response.

This webinar will provide PACE Planning best practices and include key insights that can support your planning efforts. The webinar will provide attendees with an understanding about: 1) PACE Planning methods; 2) key initiation triggers; 3) an understanding of what to do when primary communications fail; and 4) ways that agencies can work to develop a multi-agency PACE Plan.

The webinar is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at 1:00 PM (ET)**. You can [register for the webinar here](#).

### FEMA ANNOUNCES THE AGENCY IS WAIVING CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLANS

On Wednesday, FEMA announced that it is waiving requirements in certain sub-elements of FEMA Policy FP-206-21-0002, Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide, dated April 19, 2022, related to underserved communities, socially vulnerable populations, and climate change effective until the revised Guide is released to comply with recent Executive Orders.

Local mitigation plans are required under the [Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act](#), as amended, and related statutes as well as [Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) Part 201](#). Mitigation Planning is a condition of receiving certain types of non-emergency assistance. The Guide is the official interpretation of the statutes, regulations and other applicable authorities, providing additional clarification and procedures to develop, update, review, and approve mitigation plans.

Waiving certain requirements allows approval of local mitigation plans to continue, ensuring communities meet this one eligibility requirement for certain FEMA non-emergency assistance programs to have an approved mitigation plan. Specifically, the Policy Waiver for the Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide modifies sub-elements A2-a, A3-a, B1-e, B2-a, B2-b, C4-a, and E1-a by removing requirements related to underserved communities, socially vulnerable populations and climate change.

The Policy Waiver applies to all local mitigation plans approved on or after Jan. 20, 2025. Plans approved and plans that were “approvable pending adoption” prior to Jan. 20, 2025, are not required to amend or revise their plans based on this Policy Waiver. This Policy Waiver will be in effect until the revised FEMA Policy FP-206-21-0002, Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide, is issued.

### NSA, CISA, FBI, AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS RELEASE CYBERSECURITY ADVISORY ON “FAST FLUX,” A NATIONAL SECURITY THREAT

Late last week, CISA—in partnership with the National Security Agency (NSA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Australian Signals Directorate's Australian Cyber Security Centre (ASD's ACSC), Canadian Centre for Cyber Security (CCCS), and New Zealand's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC-NZ)—released joint Cybersecurity Advisory [Fast Flux: A National Security Threat](#). This advisory warns organizations, internet service providers (ISPs), and cybersecurity service providers of the ongoing threat of fast flux enabled malicious activities and provides guidance on detection and mitigations to safeguard critical infrastructure and national security.

“Fast flux” is a technique used to obfuscate the locations of malicious servers through rapidly changing Domain Name System (DNS) records associated with a single domain name. This threat exploits a gap commonly found in network defenses, making the tracking and blocking of malicious fast flux activities difficult.

The authoring agencies strongly recommend adopting a multi-layered approach to detection and mitigation to reduce risk of compromise by fast flux-enabled threats. Service providers, especially Protective DNS providers (PDNS), should track, share information about, and block fast flux as part of their provided cybersecurity services. Government and critical infrastructure organizations should close this ongoing gap in network defenses by using cybersecurity and PDNS services that block malicious fast flux activity.

For more information on PDNS services, see [Selecting a Protective DNS Service](#).

#### Other News from DC and Around the Country...

**E&E News:** [FEMA Halts Grant Program That Spent Billions on Disaster Protection](#)

**Washington Post:** [States Caught Unprepared for Trump's Threats to FEMA](#)

**CNN:** [DOGE Expected to Take Aim at DHS with Staffing Cuts, Including at US Secret Service](#)

**HS Today:** [FEMA Cancels BRIC Program, Returns Millions in Unused Funds to U.S. Treasury](#)

**Politico:** [Noem Offers Buyouts to DHS Workers](#)

**Insurance Day:** [Trump's Attack on FEMA Could Increase Claims](#)

**Reuters:** [Trump Administration Violated Court Order by Pausing FEMA Grants, Judge Rules](#)

**HS Today:** [CISA Potentially Facing Additional Workforce Reductions](#)

**NYT:** [FEMA Cuts More Than \\$300 Million in Disaster Prevention Aid to New York](#)

**ND Monitor:** [Loss of \\$20 Million in FEMA Infrastructure Grants 'Devastating' to North Dakota Communities](#)

[nemaweb.org](https://nemaweb.org)



Facebook



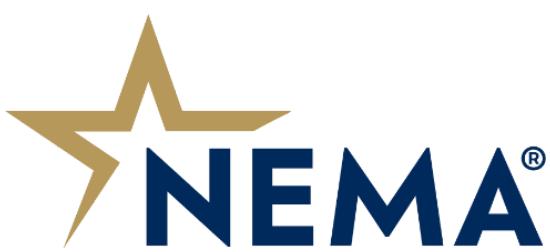
Twitter



LinkedIn



Youtube



**2025  
ANNUAL  
FORUM**  
**OCTOBER 9-12**  
**CHEYENNE**

Copyright NEMA 2025. All rights reserved.