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June 13, 2025



## THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON:

### A Busy Congress and an Uncertain FEMA

The week started strong with the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security marking up the DHS funding bill, but then stalled on Thursday when the full committee markup was postponed. We'll be holding off on releasing our summary of the bill until it has been marked up by the full committee, as changes and amendments are possible. Despite the timing issues, the bill passed by the subcommittee was surprisingly positive for emergency management, with grants (e.g., EMPG, HSGP, UASI, FIRE/SAFER) largely returned to FY23 levels—before the significant cuts that were made in FY24. At the risk of jinxing it, we're cautiously optimistic that these funding levels will stay where they are in the final bill. Keep an eye out for our summary once the full Appropriations Committee weighs in!

Congress is also continuing to negotiate the reconciliation bill that we've discussed in previous newsletters. The GOP is still aiming for a July 4 deadline, but challenges remain to get there—many of the changes being discussed by the Senate will be a very tough sell for the House. The reconciliation process further complicates Congress' work on FY26 appropriations, as the Senate isn't expected to come to an agreement on top-line spending for FY26 until after the reconciliation bill is over the finish line.

Additionally, the House voted on Thursday to approve a request from the Trump administration to rescind billions in funding previously appropriated by Congress. The rescission package would cancel \$9.4 billion in funding—\$8.3 billion for USAID and other international development programs and \$1.1 billion for PBS and NPR. While both parties had issues with the package, the House ultimately passed the bill (which the White House has said is just the first of many). While there's nothing EM-related in the rescission package, it is yet another complicating factor that impacts the rest of Congress' work.

Finally, the elephant in the room, President Trump has made another statement about the future of FEMA that has received a lot of attention. In an Oval Office briefing on Wednesday, President Trump highlighted plans to begin phasing out FEMA after hurricane season. While it can be difficult to parse some of the administration's conflicting messaging about FEMA, it doesn't seem like this latest comment points to any significant change in the plan for the agency—the end of hurricane season roughly aligns with the timeline for the FEMA Review Council to issue its recommendations to the President. That said, the comments have exacerbated concerns from both inside and outside of FEMA that the agency will not be able to provide the necessary assistance during hurricane season, which officially began earlier this month. Coupled with the [continued leadership departures](#) at the agency, the administration's approach to FEMA reform has many in the emergency management community concerned about what this summer will bring...

#### [Upcoming Congressional Hearings...](#)

None - State/District Work Period.

#### [More News from the Nation's Capital...](#)

### FEMA UPDATES STATE MITIGATION PLANNING POLICY GUIDE

Late last week, FEMA announced that it has updated the [State Mitigation Planning Policy Guide](#) to reflect recent executive orders. The guide is the official interpretation of the mitigation planning requirements in the Stafford Act, as amended and other federal statutes as well in federal regulations, specifically Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations Part 201 Mitigation Planning.

The Guide facilitates consistent approval of state mitigation plans, promotes risk-informed decision-making and supports states in building mitigation capabilities. State mitigation [plans are required](#) under the Stafford Act as a condition of receiving certain types of non-emergency assistance. Changes in the 2025 update include removal of requirements related to climate change and equity. These actions ensure that FEMA guidance aligns with the President's Executive Orders and Secretary Noem's direction supporting states and local communities in disaster planning, response and recovery.

The updated guide becomes effective immediately upon the official release.

### FEMA UPDATES RESILIENCE ANALYSIS AND PLANNING TOOL (RAPT)

On Tuesday, FEMA announced that it has updated the [Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool \(RAPT\)](#)—the free geographic information systems (GIS) tool that helps emergency managers and local partners assess threats and hazards that may challenge their community's resilience.

The 2025 update of the RAPT includes new census data from the American Community Survey five-year estimate (2019-2023) and the updated Community Resilience Challenges Indices for counties and census tracts. There are 22 commonly recognized indicators available in the Community Resilience Challenges Indices that can be found in the Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool.

The RAPT supports the FEMA mission by providing emergency managers and community leaders at all levels of government access to the latest population, infrastructure, and hazard data with easy-to-use analysis tools. This allows users to combine layers of community resilience indicators, infrastructure locations and hazard data so they can make more informed decisions on mitigation, response and recovery.

FEMA will host three interactive webinars on the RAPT. Each webinar will cover the same content. You can register for one of these 60-minute Zoom sessions below:

- [Webinar 1](#) – Tuesday, June 24, 2:00-3:00 PM (ET)
- [Webinar 2](#) – Wednesday, June 25, 12:00-1:00 PM. (ET)
- [Webinar 3](#) – Monday, June 30, 4:00-5:00 PM (ET)

Visit the [Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool Resource Center](#) to access supporting materials, learn more about the tool's functionality, and see how it can improve resilience planning in your community.

### HOUSE HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TO RESIGN

On Monday, Rep. Mark Green (R-TN), Chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, announced that he plans to retire following the upcoming vote on the reconciliation bill. In his announcement, he stated that he will be joining the private sector.

Rep. Green's resignation will leave open his chair position on the House Homeland Security Committee, which has oversight over aspects of FEMA and much of President Trump's immigration policies. It is not currently known who will seek to replace him as the chair of the committee but we will provide an update once that information is available.

### FEMA WEBINAR: MONITORING GRANTS

On Tuesday, FEMA's Grant Programs Directorate (GPD) Training Branch announced an upcoming webinar for federal grant recipients, subrecipients, and federal grants staff on monitoring grants. This webinar will provide an overview of the monitoring process; what to expect before, during, and after the review; along with monitoring updates that affect grant management.

The webinar is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 17, from 1:00-2:00 PM (ET)**. You can register for the webinar [here](#)—a meeting link will be provided upon registration.

### PEW REPORT: HURRICANE HELENE AND STATE FISCAL RESILIENCE

Pew Charitable Trusts has recently released a new report, "Hurricane Helene's Staggering Costs Test States' Fiscal Resilience," examining the far-reaching financial impact of the storm. The analysis highlights how Helene's billions in damages strained emergency funds, insurance systems, and state budgets. As disasters grow more frequent and severe, the report underscores the urgent need for stronger fiscal planning and disaster preparedness at the state level. You can read the full report [here](#).

### DHS OIG REPORT: FEMA CONTRIBUTED TO THE NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY BUT COULD BENEFIT FROM IMPROVED REPORTING

On Tuesday, the DHS Office of Inspector General (OIG) released a report entitled [FEMA Contributed to the National Drug Control Strategy but Could Benefit from Improved Reporting](#). Pursuant to Title 21 of the USC, Chapter 22, National Drug Control Policy, the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) manages the President's National Drug Control Strategy. As a National Drug Control Program Agency, FEMA must report Operation Stonegarden grant drug-related funding and performance measures each fiscal year. The DHS OIG conducted this audit to determine the extent to which Operation Stonegarden performance measures accurately reflect the program's contributions to the President's National Drug Control Strategy.

The report found that FEMA's FY23 Operation Stonegarden performance measure—prosecuted narcotic cases—accurately reflected Operation Stonegarden's contributions to the President's National Drug Control Strategy. Specifically, FEMA's prosecuted narcotic cases measure reflects one of the Strategy's key goals, namely, to reduce the supply of illicit substances in the United States. Although FEMA's FY23 performance measure contributed to the Strategy, FEMA did not fully comply with federal law and ONDCP guidance for reporting Operation Stonegarden's performance. Specifically, although FEMA provided annual data since at least 2020 on Operation Stonegarden's performance measure for inclusion in ONDCP's National Drug Control Assessment, it did not provide performance targets, as required under Title 21 of the USC § 1705(c)(1)(G). Nor has FEMA reevaluated or updated its Operation Stonegarden drug enforcement funding estimate which was set at 15 percent in 2012.

Finally, the OIG identified numerical errors in the FY 2023 drug interdiction information FEMA provided to ONDCP for Operation Stonegarden. These deficiencies occurred because FEMA has limited involvement in Operation Stonegarden operations. FEMA does not have a baseline measure to track Operation Stonegarden performance and progress over time. Without comprehensive and accurate information, ONDCP cannot

properly evaluate Operation Stonegarden's contribution to the Strategy, or shape in a fully informed manner drug control policy for the country.

**[Other News from DC and Around the Country...](#)**

**Statescoop:** [Staffing Cuts to FEMA, NOAA Will Impair Disaster Response, Says Alerts Expert](#)

**Washington Post:** [As Disasters Loom, Emergency Managers Say They Aren't Counting on FEMA](#)

**Bloomberg:** [Trump Says FEMA Phaseout to Begin After Hurricane Season](#)

**NPR:** [Recovery Failure: Why We Struggle to Rebuild for the Next Storm](#)

**CBS News:** [Head of FEMA's Storm Response Center Leaving Agency Amid Leadership Exodus](#)

**New York Times:** [How Trump Is Changing FEMA as Hurricane Season Begins](#)

**Washington Post:** [Trump Wants to End FEMA, Says Governors Can Handle Disasters](#)

**HS Today:** [DHS S&T Highlights Role of AI in Strengthening First Responder Operations](#)

**Politico:** [House Homeland Security Chairman Mark Green Says He'll Retire From House After Megabill Vote](#)

**ABC News:** [Aid Groups Weigh How Much More They Can Help if FEMA Reduces its Disaster Response](#)

**Industrial Cyber:** [Trump Executive Order Rewrites US Cybersecurity Playbook, Targets Foreign Threats and Federal Bloat](#)

**The Hill:** [Senate GOP Deeply Divided Over Cutting Cost of 'Big, Beautiful Bill'](#)

**NPR:** [DHS Memo Details How National Guard Troops Will be Used for Immigration Enforcement](#)

**Fox 5:** [Sen. Warnock Worried FEMA Unprepared for Hurricane Season](#)

**HS Today:** [Former FEMA Administrator Pete Gaynor Launches Leadership Resource Website](#)

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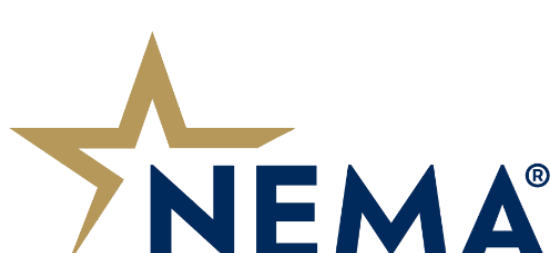
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