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June 27, 2025



THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON:

Heating Up in D.C.

A brutal heatwave has taken over Washington. Very fittingly, NEMA participated in the HeatWise DC forum this week, which brought together key state, local federal, and private sector stakeholders to discuss research and insights about extreme heat and identify actionable policies to address the threat. The event—hosted by the Heat Policy Innovation Hub at Duke University's Nicholas Institute for Energy, Environment & Sustainability—provided a great venue to collaborate on strategies to reduce heat-related risks and build long-term resilience. While Washington's extreme heat provided an appropriate backdrop for the event, we're all ready for a break in the sweltering weather...

Congress remained busy this week, despite the heat, with the biggest news being the House Appropriations Committee's passage of the FY26 DHS funding bill. We sent out a summary of the bill to all members earlier in the week. We were pleasantly surprised by the bill, which largely restores many of the grant reductions seen in FY24 and FY25. The Senate will likely start marking up their appropriations bills after the July 4 break and before August Recess.

While Congressional Republicans have been hard at work on the reconciliation bill, it's unclear how much progress has actually been made since last week. Senate Republicans continue to face hurdles in their push to advance their tax and spending package, and frustrations are growing in some corners over the slow pace of the process. Majority Thune remains publicly optimistic but is also very aware that the timeline is tight if Congress will meet the July 4 deadline. Votes are likely going to slip into the weekend, as key provisions of the bill have been struck by the Senate parliamentarian.

The main obstacles remain very similar to those the Senate were negotiating last week, including Medicaid-related provisions, funding for rural hospitals, and the SALT tax. Reporting indicates that the Senate still lacks the 50 votes required for them to begin formal debate on the bill.

Upcoming Congressional Hearings...

None - State/District Work Period.

More News from the Nation's Capital...

SECOND MEETING OF FEMA REVIEW COUNCIL ANNOUNCED

Late last week, it was announced that the FEMA Review Council will hold its next in-person meeting on **July 9 from 2:00-3:00 PM (ET)**. The meeting will include remarks and updates from Council leadership and an open panel discussion.

This meeting will be open virtually to members of the public and registration to participate must be received via email to femareviewcouncil@hq.dhs.gov no later than **5:00 PM (ET) on Tuesday, July 8, 2025**. Members of the public who have registered to participate will be provided the agenda and virtual link. The notice can be found [here](#).

For more information about the Council, visit their [website](#).

FEMA ANNOUNCES UPDATED BENEFIT COST ANALYSIS DISCOUNT RATES FOR MITIGATION PROJECTS

On Tuesday, FEMA announced that the Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) discount rate has been adjusted from 3.1 percent to 7 percent. This comes on the heels of recent action by the Office of Management and Budget to revoke an update to Circular No. A-94, "Guidelines and Discount Rates for Benefit-Cost Analysis of Federal Programs," returning the discount rate to the original amount set in October 1992.

FEMA uses the federal discount rate—an estimate of how the value of benefits and costs decreases over time—to calculate the net present value of proposed hazard mitigation projects. The agency is working to ensure all aspects of the BCA aligns with this new guidance, at the direction of DHS. The [BCA web page](#) has updated to include the 7% discount rate.

Hazard Mitigation Assistance projects that have not been awarded by FEMA as of April 8 must use the 7% discount rate when performing a BCA to calculate cost effectiveness. This applies to all projects, including those that require review for additional federal funding or phased projects. Public Assistance projects that have not been awarded by FEMA as of April 8 should also use the 7% discount rate when performing a BCA to demonstrate cost effectiveness.

FEMA will continue to update the [Benefit-Cost Analysis Toolkit](#) and will release additional guidance on applicability, timing and content.

APPOINTMENTS TO HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISORY COUNCIL ANNOUNCED AND MEETING DETAILS UPDATED

On Tuesday, President Trump and Secretary Noem appointed new members to the Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC). The HSAC leverages the experience, expertise, and national and global connections of its membership to provide the Secretary of Homeland Security with real-time, real-world, and independent advice on homeland security operations. The newly appointed members include:

- Henry McMaster, Governor, South Carolina, Chair
- Joseph Gruters, State Senator, Florida, Vice Chair
- Marc Andreessen, Co-Founder and General Partner, Andreessen Horowitz
- David Chesnoff, Attorney, Chesnoff and Schonfeld
- Christopher "Chris" Cox, Founder, Bikers for Trump
- Mark Dannels, Cochise County Sheriff, Arizona
- Richard "Bo" Dietl, CEO and Founder, Beau Dietl & Associates
- Matthew Flynn, Attorney, Steptoe. Former Deputy Assistant to the President. Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense.
- Rudolph W. Giuliani, Former Mayor, New York City
- Harvey C. Jewett IV, Retired President of Super 8 Motels Inc., Retired President and Chief Operating Officer, Rivett Group LLC., President Great Plains Education Foundation, Inc.
- Steve Kirby, Founding Partner, Bluestem Capital Company
- Mark Levin, Broadcast News Analyst, The Mark Levin Show
- Corey Lewandowski, Chief Advisor to the Secretary, Department of Homeland Security
- Nicholas Luna, Assistant to the President and Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Implementation, The White House
- George Lund, CEO and Chairman, Torch Hill Investment Partners
- Edward McMullen Jr, Senior Policy Advisor, Adams and Reese LLP. Former Ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein,
- Georgette Mosbacher, Co-Chair, Three Seas Programming, Atlantic Council's Europe Center, Former Ambassador to Poland
- James "Jim" Pallotta, Managing Partner and Founder, The Raptor Group.
- Omar Qudrat, CEO, Maden, Founder, Muslim Coalition for America, Major, U.S. Army Reserve
- Stephen Sloan, Global Head of Private Market Secondaries, Portfolio Advisors and Co-Founder, Cogent Partners
- Robert "Bob" Smith, Former U.S. Senator, New Hampshire
- Alexei Woltornist, Co-Founder and President, ATHOS. Former Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, Department of Homeland Security

The date and time of the first meeting of the HSAC have also changed since it was announced last week. The meeting will now be held on **July 2, 2025 from 1:00-4:00 PM (ET)**. Attendance to the meeting is required and must be received via email no later than **5:00 PM (ET) on Monday, June 30, 2025**. Each individual must provide their full legal name and email address to [Alexander Jacobs](mailto:Alexander.Jacobs), Alternate Designated Federal Officer of the HSAC, via email to HSAC@hq.dhs.gov. Members of the public who have registered to observe will be provided the agenda and livestream link. All other meeting details remain unchanged.

DHS AWARDS GRANTS TO HELP PROTECT JEWISH FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS FROM TARGETED VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM

This morning, DHS announced it is awarding \$94,416,838 to 512 Jewish faith-based organizations across the United States through its National Security Supplemental (NSGP-NSS). This money, part of the [Nonprofit Security Grant Program](#), will be used to help these organizations harden their defenses against attacks. The funding was appropriated by Congress in response to a surge in antisemitic threats. All faith-based institutions were eligible to apply for grant funding to help defend themselves from threats including houses of worship, educational facilities, medical facilities, community centers and other faith-based institutions.

NASEO WEBINAR: WILDFIRE RISK MITIGATION STRATEGIES

The National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO), in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (DOE CESER), will host a [wildfire forum webinar](#) for state and territory energy offices and state, local, tribal, and territorial partners. The webinar is scheduled for **July 1 from 1:00-2:30 PM (ET)**. To join the wildfire forum, you can register [here](#).

These forums will feature presentations from subject matter experts and discussions with states to explore best practices and guidance with those facing emerging wildfire risks. The forums will enable state energy offices to proactively address wildfire risks, develop response capabilities, and engage partners for collective preparedness.

The upcoming webinar will examine the expanding role of State energy offices in wildfire mitigation and resilience planning. Featured speakers will explore how Wildfire Mitigation Plans can be integrated into broader state strategies and highlight opportunities for collaboration across agencies. The session will include a guided walkthrough of the newly released Wildfire Mitigation Plans Database developed by Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, showing how states can leverage this resource to inform planning and decision-making.

NHSC ISSUES RECOMMENDATIONS TO FEMA: ADDRESSING NATION-STATE THREATS

This week, the National Homeland Security Consortium (NHSC) [published a short paper for transmission to FEMA](#) that highlights some of the areas of growth between the federal, state, and local partners in addressing nation-state risks. The NHSC met on February 5, 2025 to discuss the evolving nation-state threat and to identify recommendations for how the incoming FEMA leadership could best position the agency to support its stakeholders in confronting this threat.

The nation-state threat that the US faces in this context refers to strategic military, cyber, and state-sponsored terrorist activities undertaken by rival countries to undermine national security. The primary threats that factor into this discussion are cyberattacks, support for terrorism and potential terrorist attacks within the homeland, and military aggression up to and including nuclear missile attack.

The NHSC is a forum for public and private sector disciplines to coalesce efforts and perspectives about how best to protect America in the 21st century. The Consortium consists of 22 national organizations that represent local, state, and private sector professionals. The group represents the array of professions that deliver the daily services that are vital to the safety and security of the United States.

AM RADIO ACT MAKES PROGRESS IN CONGRESS

This week, the AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act ([S. 315 / H.R. 979](#)) gained majority support in the U.S. House of Representatives with the addition of 12 new co-sponsors. The bill now has bipartisan backing from 122 Republicans and 106 Democrats. Introduced in the House in February, the legislation has yet to be taken up by the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

In the Senate, the bill has already achieved a significant majority. It passed the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation in February with bipartisan support and currently awaits a vote on the Senate floor.

If enacted, the bill would direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue regulations requiring that motor vehicles include access to AM radio broadcasts. Automakers failing to comply could face civil penalties. Additionally, the bill calls for the Government Accountability Office to evaluate whether other communications systems can match AM radio's coverage and reliability for emergency public alerts.

NEMA has supported this bill and strongly encourages its passage. Emergency managers rely on AM radio as an essential tool to deliver timely, local, and life-saving information. When disasters strike and broadband, electric power and cell service fail, AM radio remains a trusted and resilient source of emergency updates. Unlike other communication methods, AM radio's unmatched reach ensures no community is left without critical information--especially in rural and underserved areas. Of particular concern is that removing free, over-the-air AM radio from vehicles would directly undermine FEMA's emergency alert system, which ensures the President can reach all Americans in a public safety or national security emergency.

Other News from DC and Around the Country...

HS Today: [PERSPECTIVE: Coordinating Civil Unrest Through Ground-Level Emergency Management Experience](#)

Yale Climate Center: [FEMA is Unprepared for the Next Hurricane Katrina, Disaster Experts Warn](#)

ProPublica: [States Fear Critical Funding From FEMA May Be Drying Up](#)

Reuters: [A Shrinking FEMA Puts Lake Town's Rebuilding Plans in Limbo](#)

Politico: [Capitol Agenda: Thune's Megabill Teeters on the Brink](#)

USA Today: [US Officials Issue Warning on Heightened Threats from Iran](#)

HS Today: [Breaking Through Intelligence Silos for Domestic Emergency Management](#)

MSN: [Critical Water Worker Shortage Threatens U.S. Infrastructure](#)

SC Media: [DHS: Attacks on US Critical Infrastructure Likely Following Iran Strikes](#)

Smart Cities Dive: [As FEMA Shrinks, Cities Face Rising Burdens — and Risks](#)

Yahoo News: [Trump's Plan to Shutter FEMA Leaves U.S. 'More Vulnerable,' says Former Head of Agency](#)

Utah News Dispatch: [Amid FEMA Uncertainty, Western Governors Commit to More Coordination on Post-Fire Flooding](#)

Politico: [Thune Faces Brewing Megabill Mutiny](#)

CNBC: [FEMA is Not a 'Replacement for Insurance Coverage,' Risk Management Expert Says. Here's Why](#)

NY Times: [As FEMA Shrinks, a Grassroots Disaster Response is Taking Shape](#)

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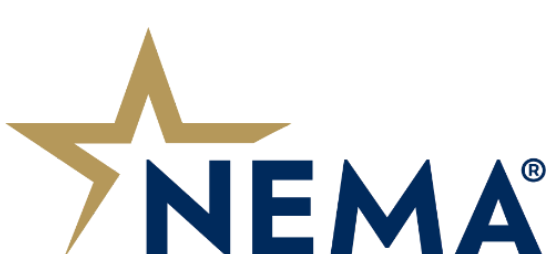
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