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July 3, 2025



THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON:

Reconciliation Nearly Over the Finish Line

After days of grueling negotiations, the passage of the reconciliation bill appears imminent in the House. This comes after the Senate very narrowly passed the bill on Tuesday, with an assist from Vice President Vance to break a tie. As a reminder, the bill includes the following homeland security provisions:

- \$10 billion in grant funding to reimburse states for border security efforts during the Biden administration (may be limited in eligibility).
- \$500 million for state and local capabilities to detect threats from unmanned aerial systems (likely distributed via the State Homeland Security Grant Program [SHSP]).
- \$625 million for planning and security costs relating to the 2026 FIFA World Cup (likely distributed via SHSP).
- \$1 billion for planning and security costs related to the 2028 Olympics (likely distributed via SHSP).
- \$450 million for Operation Stonegarden.
- \$300 million to restart the Presidential Residence Protection Program.
- \$10 billion for DHS to “ensure adequate funding for border security across the board.”

It was looking questionable in recent days, but Speaker Johnson (R-LA) appears to be on the brink of meeting the self-imposed July 4th deadline for getting the bill to the President. GOP leadership worked through the night to flip the remaining holdouts who had been very skeptical of many of the bill's provisions, including Medicaid cuts, clean energy tax credits, tax cuts, and more. Now that this bill is nearly over the finish line, some are discussing the possibility of a second reconciliation package at the end of the fiscal year. Speaker Johnson is interested in the possibility—having stated that he wants to address entitlement reform—but Majority Leader Thune (R-SD) seems less eager to go through this process again.

Once the reconciliation process is complete, we can expect more attention on the FY26 appropriations process. The DHS funding bill has already been passed by the House Appropriations Committee, and we expect the Senate will begin marking up their bills during July.

Finally, next week the House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee will be holding a roundtable discussion on Tuesday morning, focused on discussing options for reforming FEMA to ensure that federal emergency assistance is provided efficiently and effectively to impacted communities and disaster survivors. This roundtable will also be used to gather input on a discussion draft bill to reform FEMA released in May by T&I Chairman Sam Graves (R-MO) and Ranking Member Rick Larsen (D-WA). NEMA will be represented at the roundtable by Lynn Budd, NEMA President and Director of the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security, where she'll offer the state perspective on a variety of emergency management issues. This roundtable is scheduled the day before the next FEMA Review Council meeting, where we are eager to hear more about the direction the Council is heading and what reforms they are prioritizing.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy 4th of July!

Upcoming Congressional Hearings...

Fixing Emergency Management: Stakeholder Perspectives

House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure | Subcommittee on Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management

Tuesday, July 8; 10:00 AM (ET)

Note: This is a roundtable discussion and not a formal hearing

Threats on the Horizon: Closing the C-UAS Authority Gap for State and Local Responders

House Committee on Homeland Security | Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence

Wednesday, July 9; 10:00 AM (ET)

The State of Our Nation's Federal Forests and the Outlook for the 2025 Wildfire Year

House Committee on Natural Resources | Subcommittee on Federal Lands

Wednesday, July 9; 10:00 AM (ET)

More News from the Nation's Capital...

NEMA JOINS COALITION URGING RELEASE OF FY25 NOFOS

On Monday, NEMA and a coalition of 11 other associations [sent a letter](#) to Secretary Noem urging DHS to publish the Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFO) for the preparedness grants as soon as possible to ensure obligation prior to the end of the fiscal year.

On March 14, 2025, Congress passed the *Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025*, which governs the timeline by which NOFOs must be made available for certain preparedness grants. The language makes clear that funds “shall be made available to eligible applicants not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act...” According to this timeline, the grants should have been made available for application on or before May 16, 2025. As of the date of the letter—more than a month after the statutory deadline—these grants are yet to be made available to communities nationwide that rely on the grants to build key emergency management and homeland security capabilities and augment national preparedness.

While each of the affected programs represents unique constituencies, partnerships, and capabilities, they have also supported decades of post-September 11 efforts. Countless reports, Congressional testimonies, and anecdotes highlight the direct return on investment of these programs. The lack of timely NOFOs creates an inability to enhance response and recovery capabilities across the country and puts critical infrastructure at risk.

FEMA RELEASES UPDATED CONTRACT PROVISIONS GUIDE

On Monday, FEMA's Grant Programs Directorate announced the release of the [Contract Provisions Guide Version 2 \(October 2024\)](#), [FEMA Policy FI-207-21-0001](#). This updated guide is designed to assist recipients and subrecipients of FEMA financial assistance awards in complying with the federal procurement standards, specifically the required contract provisions under 2 C.F.R. § 200.327. Highlights of the updated guide include:

- A detailed walkthrough of the required contract provisions and applicability of these provisions based on various procurement factors.
- Verbatim, template, or recommended language for compliance.
- FEMA-recommended contract provisions to add additional contract language and enhance the procurement process.

The updates in this guide apply to FEMA financial assistance awards and disaster declarations issued on or after Oct.1, 2024. For additional information, including links to other resources and procurement training, you can visit FEMA's procurement website [here](#).

CISA AND PARTNERS RELEASE FACT SHEET URGING CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE TO STAY VIGILANT IN THE CURRENT GEOPOLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

On Monday, CISA, in collaboration with the FBI, the Department of Defense Cyber Crime Center (DC3), and the National Security Agency (NSA), [released a fact sheet](#) urging organizations to remain vigilant against potential targeted cyber operations by Iranian state-sponsored or affiliated threat actors.

The fact sheet notes that over the past several months, there has been increasing activity from hacktivists and Iranian government-affiliated actors, which is expected to escalate due to recent events. These cyber actors often exploit targets of opportunity based on the use of unpatched or outdated software with known Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures or the use of default or common passwords on internet-connected accounts and devices.

CISA, FBI, DC3, and NSA strongly urge critical infrastructure asset owners and operators to implement the mitigations recommended in the joint fact sheet, which include:

- Identifying and disconnecting operational technology and industrial control systems devices from the public internet;
- Protecting devices and accounts with strong, unique passwords;
- Applying the latest software patches; and
- Implementing phishing-resistant multifactor authentication for access to OT networks.

You can review the joint fact sheet and act now to understand the Iranian state-backed cyber threat, assess and mitigate cybersecurity weaknesses, and review and update incident response plans to strengthen your network against malicious cyber actors.

FEMA UPDATES PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENT GUIDE

On Tuesday, FEMA published an updated [Preliminary Damage Assessment Guide](#), which defines how state, local, tribal and territorial government officials and FEMA staff collect, validate, quantify, and document the cause, location and details of damage following a disaster. Changes within the updated guide should be used immediately for any incidents that take place on or after July 1. This Preliminary Damage Assessment Guide supersedes all previous versions.

State, local, tribal and territorial governments, as well as certain nonprofits, are encouraged to review the updated Preliminary Damage Assessment Guide. The guide helps emergency management officials at all levels of government efficiently complete accurate and consistent preliminary damage assessments that align with Stafford Act presidential disaster declaration request requirements.

Updates to the guide include consolidating methodologies for conducting Individual Assistance and Public Assistance joint preliminary damage assessments, expanding on the importance of completing the initial damage assessment, consolidating roles and

responsibilities and incorporating new policy and programmatic requirements, among other revisions.

To learn more and watch a video series on the guide's process, visit [FEMA's YouTube channel](#).

Other News from DC and Around the Country...

MoneyWise: ['No Good': Florida Couple Who Lost Their Home in Hurricane Helene Raise Concerns, Questions After \\$30,000 FEMA Flood Insurance Check Failed to Clear](#)

CNN: ['We've Been Ghosted By FEMA': Officials Across Country Say They Can't Get Answers on Critical Funding](#)

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

EHN: [FEMA Delays and Funding Cuts Leave State Emergency Programs in Limbo](#)

Brookings: [Will the Federal Government Be Ready for Natural Disasters This Year?](#)

Politico: ['No Alternative Funding Sources': Trump's Stifling of Disaster Aid Leaves Cities Adrift](#)

FireRescue1: [Aid Groups Worry About Future Work if FEMA Reduces Emergency Response](#)

Politico: [House Left in Limbo as Megabill Talks Continue](#)

Security Magazine: [Iranian Cyber Actors May Target "Entities of Interest" in US, Warns CISA](#)

Fire and Safety Journal: [FEMA Response Questioned as Western Governors Discuss Wildfire Recovery](#)

Insurance NewsNet: [FEMA, NOAA Cuts Put Insurance Coverage at Risk, Experts Say](#)

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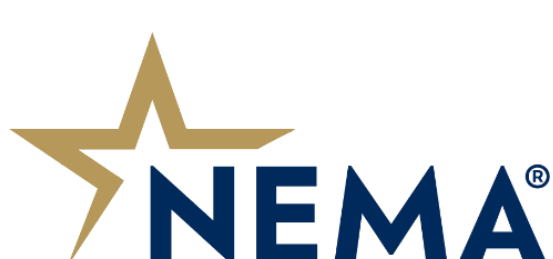
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