



FEMA

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN

Week of September 29, 2014

Important Dates and Deadlines:

National PrepareAthon! Day
(September 30, 2014)

The Great ShakeOut
(October 16, 2014)

National PrepareAthon! Day

National Preparedness Month (NPM) comes to a close on September 30, the National PrepareAthon! Day. All across the country, federal, state, local and tribal governments, community organizations and members of the private sector have embraced NPM and America's PrepareAthon! by planning events that will help their community put preparedness into action and be more prepared in the event of a wildfire, hurricane, tornado, flood, earthquake or winter storm. If you are planning a preparedness activity for National PrepareAthon! Day on September 30, please be sure to register the activity at www.ready.gov/prepare.

If you haven't done something yet, it's not too late! The Great ShakeOut on October 16 provides an additional opportunity to put preparedness into action by practicing to "drop, cover and hold on" to prepare for earthquakes. For more information, visit www.shakeout.org.

Publication of the Unified Federal Review

Today, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in conjunction with its interagency Steering Group announces the Unified Federal Environmental and Historic Preservation Review Process (Unified Federal Review), an important step in the implementation of the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act (SRIA). SRIA amends the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, and authorizes several significant changes to the way agencies may deliver federal disaster assistance and establishes efficiencies that will expedite the recovery process and reduce cost.

Specifically, Section 429 of SRIA was added, directing the President, in consultation with the Council on Environmental Quality and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, to "establish an expedited and unified interagency review process to ensure compliance with environmental and historic requirements under Federal law relating to disaster recovery projects, in order to expedite the recovery process, consistent with applicable law." Prior to SRIA, state, tribal, territorial and local governments who applied for assistance to recover from damage caused by a disaster were required to have their recovery projects undergo different agencies' environmental and historic preservation reviews. Often the same data was required from various agencies to comply with the legal requirements.

The Unified Federal Review provides an opportunity to expedite environmental and historic preservation reviews that must be completed prior to the release of federal assistance or permits so the disaster recovery project can proceed without delays.

The goal of the process is to formalize and standardize the unification of both environmental and historic preservation regulatory requirements so that agencies can take advantage of the same project approval mechanisms and resources to expedite the environmental and historic preservation reviews necessary for more timely decisions on disaster recovery projects.

Development of a Unified Federal Review process is being led by a steering group consisting of the Council on Environmental Quality, the Department of Homeland Security, FEMA and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in addition to a larger working group that includes representation from other agencies who continue to work on identifying ways to enhance efficiencies in environmental and historic preservation reviews.

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FEMA's Office of External Affairs provides this bulletin to highlight recent and upcoming program and policy activities and announcements.

Feedback is welcome at fema-ea-bulletin@fema.dhs.gov. Previous editions are available at the [FEMA library](#).

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National Preparedness Month: *Be Disaster Aware, Take Action to Prepare*

"After the manmade and natural disasters Louisiana has experienced in the last decade, I know we've rebuilt a more resilient state. While we've improved our infrastructure, we must continue our rebuilding efforts and be prepared in the case of future disasters.

I'd like to encourage my fellow Louisianans to join me by taking advantage of the resources available at Ready.gov, to build a kit and have a plan if disaster strikes."

**Senator Mary Landrieu, Chair,
Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Homeland Security**

"As a National Preparedness Month Congressional Co-Chair and Chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, I urge all Americans to 'Be Disaster Aware, Take Action to Prepare.' This National Preparedness Month, learn more about the hazards facing your community and be sure to make an emergency kit and plan. Also, consider taking a few minutes to follow your local emergency management agencies on social media. Taking these small steps now can make all the difference when disasters strike."

**Rep. Susan Brooks, Chairman,
Committee on Homeland Security,
Subcommittee on Emergency
Preparedness, Response, and
Communications**

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To develop a coordinated and unified process, five critical elements were identified to drive the development of the Unified Federal Review. Each element is designed to support the overall process that will help federal agencies complete their environmental and historic preservation reviews in a more timely and efficient manner, leading to more efficient decisions with the ultimate goal of building more resilient communities.

The five elements of the process include:

1. Formalize the unification and standardization of requirements;
2. Develop standards and guidance for practitioners to unify the process;
3. Provide one accessible location for information and resources;
4. Develop inter-agency agreements formalizing roles, responsibilities and commitments to the Unified Federal Review; and
5. Support the continued development of the National Disaster Recovery Framework (available at www.fema.gov/national-disaster-recovery-framework).

Recognizing the challenges identified in unifying the environmental and historic preservation review process across multiple Federal agencies, the Steering Group developed a phased implementation plan for the process. Compliance with the legislative requirements will occur in three phases:

- Phase 1: Completion of the development of the Unified Federal Review process (Completed);
- Phase 2: Initial implementation – this phase will provide an opportunity to implement and refine reforms developed over the previous 18 months, receive additional stakeholder input based on experience with the process and further develop longer-term unifying and expediting mechanisms (August 2014 – August 2015); and
- Phase 3: Full implementation – this phase builds upon the monitoring and improvements completed during Phase 2 with the goal of continuous improvement (September 2015 and beyond).

To achieve these goals, standards and guidance for federal agencies have been developed to coordinate and align the environmental and historic preservation review processes and create a one-stop-shop for environmental and historic preservation information and resources. The information has been made available at www.fema.gov/environmental-historic-preservation/unified-federal-environmental-and-historic-preservation-review for both federal agencies and applicants.

The Unified Federal Review will improve the federal government's ability to assist states, tribes, territories and governments, communities, families and individual citizens as they recover from future presidentially declared disasters.

FEMA will continue to work with the interagency Steering Group to fully implement the Unified Federal Review to ensure Federal agencies coordinate to the fullest extent possible in order to provide timely reviews. For more information on the Unified Federal Review, please visit www.fema.gov/environmental-historic-preservation/unified-federal-environmental-and-historic-preservation-review.

FEMA Unveils National Strategy to Strengthen Youth Preparedness

FEMA announced a new strategy to educate young people about disaster prevention, protection, mitigation, response and recovery. The *National Strategy for Youth Preparedness Education: Empowering, Educating and Building Resilience* (National Strategy) couples attention on emergency and disaster preparedness with community action that focuses specifically on youth readiness for disasters and related events. The National Strategy was developed in partnership with the American Red Cross and the U.S. Department of Education. More than 25 organizations have affirmed their support.

Research shows that it is important to educate and empower young people to prepare for disasters. A 2010 study from Oregon State University showed that 14 percent of children and teens experienced a disaster during their lifetime, and four percent had been in a disaster within the past year. Of those who had experience with disaster, a quarter reported experiencing more than one.

Recognizing that children have the ability to play an important role in preparing themselves, their families, and their communities for a disaster, Disney, the Ad Council and FEMA are releasing new Public Service Advertisements (PSAs) as an extension of the Ready campaign. These new PSAs highlight several steps that kids can take to prepare for emergencies: Make a Plan, Build a Kit and Know The Facts. The new English and Spanish ads feature leading characters from Walt Disney Animation Studios' upcoming film "Big Hero 6," and they encourage viewers to visit www.ready.gov/kids to learn how to prepare for emergencies.

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The National Strategy presents nine priority steps to further youth preparedness education including: building partnerships to enhance, increase and implement youth preparedness learning programs; connecting young people with their families, communities, first responders and other youth; and increasing school preparedness. More information about these steps--as well as the national organizations that have affirmed their support--is available under the National Strategy tab in the FEMA Youth Technical Assistance Center at www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness. More information about emergency preparedness is available at www.ready.gov.

The following organizations have affirmed support for the National Strategy: American Red Cross; Boy Scouts Troop 9, Petaluma, CA; City of Costa Mesa Fire Department; City of Los Angeles Emergency Management Department; Civil Air Patrol; Corporation for National and Community Service; Department of Youth Affairs, Guam; Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH); Federal Emergency Management Agency Individual and Community Preparedness Division; Girl Scouts of the USA; Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense; Harvest Christian Academy CERT; HOSA-Future Health Professionals; International Association of Emergency Managers; Medical Reserve Corps; National Center for Missing & Exploited Children; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/National Weather Service; Northeast Nevada Citizen Corps/CERT Program; Points of Light Foundation; San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District; Save the Children; Simon Sanchez High School Tourism Academy; Texas School Safety Center, Texas State University; U.S. Department of Education; YMCA; and Youth Service America.

FEMA Awards \$11 Million to Increase Preparedness through the Continuing Training Grants Program

FEMA awarded six training grants for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Continuing Training Grant (CTG) program totaling \$11 million. These awards will result in trained and certified members of the whole community to include first responders, emergency managers, technical specialists, community leaders and tribal and local governments, preparing them for all types of disasters. The period of performance for the FY 2014 CTG program is 36 months.

The FY 2014 CTG program focuses on the following six areas: Hazardous Materials (HazMat)/Weapons of Mass Destruction; Cybersecurity; Countering Violent Extremism; Maturing Public-Private Partnerships; Medical Readiness/Immediate Victim Care at Mass Casualty Events; and Rural Training. Rural Training includes the following topics: HazMat; Mass Fatality Planning and Response; Crisis Management for School Based Incidents; Development of Emergency Operations Plans (EOP); Bioterrorism Awareness; and Media Engagement Strategies for First Responders.

Grants were awarded to the following organizations:

- International Association of Fire Fighters: \$2,170,106
- Norwich University Applied Research Institutes: \$2,379,124
- University of Maryland Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism Consortium: \$799,966
- Frederick Community College: \$1,172,276
- George Washington University: \$1,308,422
- Center for Rural Development: \$3,170,106

Information on the FY 2014 CTG program can be found on www.grants.gov by searching under Homeland Security Grants, CFDA #97.005.

The mission of the Office of External Affairs (OEA) is to engage, inform, and educate all of FEMA's stakeholders in support of the Agency's programs and initiatives to achieve its mission. OEA accomplishes its mission by coordinating and maintaining visibility of public and internal communications; advising FEMA program and support offices on decision-making regarding policies, plans, and actions that affect stakeholder, media, and Congressional audiences; and organizing outreach efforts targeted at principal stakeholders to include local, state, territorial, and tribal governments, the private sector, national organizations and associations, and the American public.



FEMA

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Office of External Affairs



FEMA

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Special Spotlight: National Preparedness Month and America's PrepareAthon!

National PrepareAthon! Day: September 30

Register to participate at www.ready.gov/prepare

September is **National Preparedness Month (NPM)**. All across the country, federal, state, local and tribal governments, community organizations, and members of the private sector have embraced NPM and America's PrepareAthon! by planning events that will help their community to be more prepared in the event of a wildfire, hurricane, tornado, flood, earthquake or winter storm. If you are planning a preparedness activity for National PrepareAthon! Day on September 30, please be sure to register the activity at www.ready.gov/prepare.

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Across the Country

Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency (CRESA) in Washington State is holding their **30 Days 30 Ways** Preparedness Challenge throughout the month of September. Through various social media outlets they post one simple readiness task each day and award prizes for participant responses.

The Denver Office of Emergency Management will host a preparedness lunch-and-learn and tours of its Emergency Operations Center for employees and the general public on **September 30**.

FEMA Region II will work with its Continuity of Operations plan to contact each of the heads of federal agencies located at 26 Federal Plaza to encourage them and their employees to take action and download the FEMA mobile app at 9:30 a.m. on **September 30** and make a family communication plan.

Faith leaders in and around Washington, D.C. will have the opportunity to learn how to create an emergency plan for their house of worship on **September 30** thanks to a workshop hosted by the Department of Homeland Security's Center of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships.

Oktibbeha County, Mississippi, will be participating in National PrepareAthon! Day on **September 30** by conducting a county-wide tornado drill for the county schools, the Mississippi State University campus and the general public. County leaders will be signing an Oktibbeha County PrepareAthon! proclamation at 10:00 a.m. CDT immediately followed by the county-wide tornado drill.

The University of Colorado-Denver's Anschutz Medical Campus will host a day-long safety fair for students, faculty and staff on **October 2**. Campus emergency management staff will engage attendees in a zombie preparedness emergency kit scavenger hunt, while disseminating information on relevant local hazards and preparedness tips.

In the Private Sector

Duracell is sponsoring an event in **New York City's Battery Park** on **September 30** to share preparedness and resiliency messages, as well as showcase their fleet of **Power Forward** trucks.

Energizer is posting preparedness tips on their [Instagram](#).

Microsoft Global Security is publishing unique preparedness content to [Twitter](#), including a back to school safety tip for children to keep an emergency kit in their lockers.

"The best time to prepare for a disaster is before it strikes. In 2011, after Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee hit Pennsylvania, I saw firsthand that a natural disaster can knock out power and telecommunication grids and leave people stranded until emergency response personnel can reach them. As co-Chairman of National Preparedness Month, I urge American families to review their emergency plans and make sure they have emergency kits prepared so they are ready in advance. Proper preparation saves lives, protects families, and helps communities get back on their feet after a disaster."

Rep. Lou Barletta, Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management:

"As Ranking Member of the Committee on Homeland Security Committee Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, I am pleased to serve as Congressional Co-Chair of National Preparedness Month. I have witnessed first-hand the tragedy that can occur from man-made disasters like the terrorist attacks on 9/11 or a natural disaster like Hurricane Sandy, and I want to use this opportunity to encourage communities to establish, evaluate, and update emergency preparedness plans. As communities take inventory of their preparedness capabilities, I urge community preparedness leaders to make sure that the needs of the most vulnerable are adequately addressed in emergency preparedness planning. And, as National Preparedness Month overlaps with the beginning of the academic year, I urge cities and towns across the United States to work to ensure that schools have plans in place to keep our children safe when disaster strikes."

Rep. Donald M. Payne, Jr., Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications

"We cannot always control Mother Nature, but we can do our best to prepare ourselves for disasters. This National Preparedness Month, I encourage families and business owners to learn more about the hazards facing their communities and make sure they are prepared in case disaster strikes. Preparation is key to ensuring the safety and security of loved ones. I hope you will join me this month in developing a plan to stay safe in a disaster."

Rep. Andre Carson, Ranking Member, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management