



FEMA

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN

Week of August 25, 2014

Important Dates and Deadlines:

[Tribal Declaration Final Guidance](#)
(August 31, 2014)

[National Preparedness Month Thunderclap](#)
(September 2, 2014)

[Flood Risk Mapping Guidelines and Standards](#)
(September 3, 2014)

FEMA Releases Final Tribal Consultation Policy

Administrator Craig Fugate announced the [FEMA Tribal Consultation Policy](#) beginning the next phase of engagement and collaboration with American Indian and Alaskan Native tribes. FEMA remains committed to enhancing its government-to-government relationship with federally recognized Indian tribes. In the spirit of this commitment, FEMA developed this policy to implement Executive Order 13175, *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments*. The new policy establishes a process for regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with tribal officials on FEMA actions that have tribal implications.

FEMA's policy further builds upon the process described in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Tribal Consultation Policy, and tailors that consultation framework to FEMA's mission. The policy creates a consistent and transparent consultation process that will be applied across the FEMA programs and offices.

The new policy guides FEMA employees in their consultation with tribes, and emphasizes the role of tribal governments in informing FEMA policy actions that have tribal implications that impact Indian Country. The policy outlines the requirements and guidelines for FEMA officials and employees to follow to ensure meaningful consultation with tribes.

FEMA consulted with tribes in the development of the final policy beginning in October 2013, when the FEMA Administrator sent the proposed Tribal Consultation Policy to Tribal Leaders and asked for their input. FEMA consulted with the 566 federally recognized tribes and associations on the policy from October 2013 through March 2014. During that time FEMA presented the policy at conferences, in face-to-face consultation meetings, listening sessions, webinars and conference calls, and received many written comments from tribes.

Visit www.fema.gov/tribal for more information about the policy and FEMA's Tribal Affairs. See the Special Spotlight insert at the end of this EA Bulletin for information on additional efforts that FEMA has undertaken in support of tribes.

Support the National Preparedness Month Thunderclap

September is National Preparedness Month. The [Ready Campaign](#), along with [America's PrepareAthon!](#), needs your support with the Thunderclap campaign to promote #NatIPrep!

Thunderclap is a crowd speaking platform promoting a jointly branded message from the Ready Campaign and America's PrepareAthon! to remind Americans about the beginning of National Preparedness Month with the hashtag #NatIPrep. Please consider [joining the National Preparedness Month Thunderclap](#) as soon as possible. It takes only 30 seconds to share a tweet or Facebook post.

#NatIPrep will launch on **September 2 at 2 p.m. EDT** through Facebook, Twitter and Tumblr. More information about NPM and how to join the Thunderclap is [available online](#). Thunderclap will require temporary access to social media accounts. After the campaign on September 2, please revoke access to the application.

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](#).

Open Joint Field Offices

AK, IA, MN, ND, NE,
NY, SD, TN, VT, WA
[Learn more.](#)

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

During [National Preparedness Month](#), September 1-30, we ask you, your family, community, school and workplace to take action by planning a [National PrepareAthon! Day](#) on or around September 30. We recommend using [digital media tools](#) as a way to promote National Preparedness Month.

This year's theme for National Preparedness Month is "Be Disaster Aware, Take Action to Prepare."

Getting Started for National Preparedness Month

- ✓ Download the [NPM Digital Engagement Toolkit](#)
- ✓ Visit www.ready.gov/september for tips and information about NPM
- ✓ Visit www.ready.gov/es/septiembre for information about NPM in Spanish
- ✓ Join the [National Preparedness Month Thunderclap](#) on September 2 at 2 p.m. ET
- ✓ Use the hashtag #NatIPrep on social media to promote National Preparedness Month
- ✓ Register for National PrepareAthon! Day at www.ready.gov/prepare
- ✓ Follow [@Readygov](#) and [@PrepareAthon](#) on Twitter
- ✓ Like Ready.gov on [Facebook](#)

This bulletin is not intended to provide a comprehensive list of policies that are open for public comment, nor does it describe all of the instructions or requirements necessary to submit a comment. For a complete list of instructions and deadlines please click the hyperlinks included. FEMA does not endorse any non-government organizations, entities or services.

Update to the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Unified Guidance

FEMA is updating the current Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Unified Guidance (published July 12, 2013). This guidance document provides an interpretation of general program requirements for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program and Flood Mitigation Assistance Program per applicable statutes and regulations. Additionally, this document provides HMA project specific guidance in its addendum. FEMA is requesting feedback from stakeholders such as state, local, tribal and territorial governments including state hazard mitigation officers, hazard mitigation planners, tribal emergency managers, floodplain managers and other members of the emergency management community who would like to provide input on the current HMA guidance.

Please visit the [FEMA Library](#) to access the current HMA Guidance (FY 2013 Hazard Mitigation Assistance Guidance with line numbers and FY 2013 Hazard Mitigation Assistance Guidance Addendum with line numbers) and the comment tracker. Responses may be submitted to the comment tracker by **September 16, 2014**, at hmaguidance@fema.dhs.gov to facilitate the anticipated release of the updated HMA Unified Guidance by the Spring of 2015.

Know Your Risks: Earthquakes

One of the most frightening and destructive phenomena of nature is a severe earthquake and its terrible aftereffects. An earthquake is the sudden, rapid shaking of the earth, caused by the breaking and shifting of subterranean rock as it releases strain that has accumulated over a long time.

For hundreds of millions of years, the forces of plate tectonics have shaped the earth, as the huge plates that form the earth's surface slowly move over, under and past each other. Sometimes, the movement is gradual. At other times, the plates are locked together, unable to release accumulated energy. When the accumulated energy grows strong enough, the plates break free. If the earthquake occurs in a populated area, it may cause many deaths and injuries and extensive property damage.

The USGS recently updated their [U.S. National Seismic Hazard Maps](#), which reflect the best and most current understanding of where future earthquakes will occur, how often they will occur, and how hard the ground will likely shake as a result.

FINAL REMINDER: FEMA Tribal Consultation Period for Draft of Tribal Declaration Pilot Guidance Comes to a Close

In January 2013, the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act provided federally recognized tribal governments the option to request a Presidential emergency or major disaster declaration independently of a state. FEMA drafted the Tribal Declaration Pilot Guidance. Since initiating tribal consultation on the draft in April 2014, FEMA staff have met face-to-face with tribal leaders or their designees around the country to discuss the proposed guidance and ways to improve the draft.

FEMA is extending the tribal consultation period for the draft of the Tribal Declaration Pilot Guidance. **Tribal governments may submit comments through August 31, 2014.** Comments on the draft of the [Tribal Declarations Pilot Guidance](#) can be sent to tribalconsultation@fema.dhs.gov.

REMINDER: Flood Risk Mapping Guidelines and Standards

FEMA established a maintenance plan for the Risk MAP Guidelines and Standards and plans to issue updates on a semi-annual basis. As part of this current update, a [public review announcement](#) provides an opportunity for comment prior to incorporation into the policy. This announcement lists proposed updates to existing standards and drafts of new standards.

FEMA intends to publish these standards as a part of the Policy for Flood Risk Analysis and Mapping. Comments may be provided via email to FEMA.GS@riskmapcdfs.com. Comments received prior to **September 3, 2014**, will be reviewed and addressed as appropriate before the standards are finalized.

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

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN

Special Spotlight: Tribal

www.fema.gov/tribal

The FEMA Tribal Integration Group

FEMA established an internal Tribal Integration Group (TIG) this year, which serves as an internal coordinating body for tribal-related engagement and consultation across FEMA programs. The TIG, co-led by FEMA Senior Executives – Office of External Affairs Deputy Director Stephanie Tennyson and Director of the DHS Center for Faith-based & Neighborhood Partnerships David Myers – is working to ensure that the agency consults and collaborates with tribes and considers tribal government needs in the agency's program and policy development.

In addition, the TIG strengthens efforts to engage tribal governments in FEMA's processes, procedures and outreach. The TIG is also in the process of looking at long-term resource and organizational strategies to build a stronger relationship with tribal nations throughout the agency.

The TIG not only serves as an internal coordinating body for tribal-related engagement and issues across FEMA programs and the agency as a whole; it is also a tool for FEMA to consider, discuss and take action on high-level tribal.

FEMA's National Tribal Affairs Advisor

In addition to the creation of the Tribal Integration Group, the FEMA Office of External Affairs continues to strengthen the role of tribal activities within the office and established a permanent National Tribal Affairs Advisor (NTAA) in May. This position recognizes the importance of a permanent, long-term liaison with Indian country who serves as an advisor to the TIG and FEMA leadership.

The NTAA will support the important work of the FEMA Regional Tribal Liaisons, who work with tribes and Alaskan Native villages in the FEMA Regional Offices on a daily basis. In addition, in support of the new NTAA position and in recognition of the need to continue to strengthen our tribal partnership, OEA's Intergovernmental Affairs Division established a Tribal Affairs Branch to increase support across FEMA for tribal engagement and outreach.

Mr. Milo Booth was appointed as the NTAA and joined FEMA on May 22. An Alaska Native, and a member of the Metlakatla Indian Community, Mr. Booth has more than 18 years of experience working with tribal, state and federal agencies.

FEMA Appoints Two New Tribal Members to National Advisory Council

FEMA recently appointed two new tribal members to the National Advisory Council (NAC). The NAC is responsible for helping advise Administrator Craig Fugate on all aspects of emergency management. Mr. James Akerelrea, Elected Tribal Government Official, and Mr. Jeffrey Hansen, Non-Elected Tribal Government Official, join Mr. Chris Howell, Administrator Selection, in advising Administrator Fugate. This action will provide tribes with an even greater voice in emergency management, and will strengthen the role of tribes in the development of FEMA policy.

New Stafford Act Amendments

FEMA's Office of Response and Recovery is undertaking extensive outreach to support and inform tribes about the new Stafford Act Amendments under Sandy Recovery Improvement Act to ensure that tribes understand the options available to them when seeking a Presidential declaration either directly on their own or through the state. To date, six tribes have directly received Presidential Disaster Declarations.

FEMA HQ and the Regions are committed to working with tribes to continue to educate and prepare them in the event there is a disaster that significantly impacts Indian country. The Pilot Declaration Guidance, which is in development, will provide guidance to the process for tribes. When complete, it will reflect tribal input received as a result of [the consultation process that closes August 31](#).



FEMA visits with the Tulip Tribe. L-R: Police Chief Echevarria, FEMA NTAA Milo Booth, Chairman Herman Williams Sr., Emergency Management Director Rochelle Lubbers