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Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 8:36 AM
Subject: FEMA Region II Individual and Community Preparedness Bulletin

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Individual and Community Preparedness Bulletin
Volume 2, Issue 41 - December 20, 2017

In this issue:
- Financial Preparedness (Page 1)
As we get closer to saying goodbye 2017, let us propose a News Year’s Resolution that everyone should consider, and implement - Financial Preparedness. If you speak to your financial advisor they might start by saying how you need to have at least three months of living expenses in an emergency fund. I’m not talking about that kind of financial preparedness. What I am referring to is having your financial records in order, in case a disaster strikes. The 2017 hurricane season affected 25.8 million people following the impact of hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. When a disaster strikes, whether it be a hurricane, flood, tornado, or a long term power outage, you will typically be without power, communication, utilities, fuel, food and water.

What steps can you take to better prepare yourself and your family? Let’s assume that you have your GO-BAG. What do you need to be financially prepared? There are four simple steps to financial preparedness that include you 1) compile, 2) review, 3) safeguard, and 4) update your important documents.

You should compile **hard copies** of:

- All important telephone numbers (doctors, family members, banks, pharmacies, insurance agents)
- Passports/drivers license, military/work I.D.
- Banking/investment/retirement accounts, mortgage/deeds, insurance policies, tax statements, estate planning, cemetery deeds
- List of all passwords
- Car/motorcycle/boat registration and title, if applicable
- Cash on hand, in small denominations, for up to seven days

You have to prepare for the possibility of a total communication blackout. Add to that the possibility that all your records at home may be lost. Plan on ATM’s and credit card machines not being operable as well. The list will be different for everyone, so use this as a starting point and make it your **New Year’s Resolution**.

The Emergency Financial First Aid Kit created by FEMA and Operation HOPE is a flexible tool designed to help individuals and families at all income levels collect and secure the documentation they would need to get on the road to recovery [https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1441373659995-38b0760a58171b871d494ddacbf52b6e/EFFAK_2015_508_enabled.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1441373659995-38b0760a58171b871d494ddacbf52b6e/EFFAK_2015_508_enabled.pdf).
Then and Now


Pictured from left to right: Eli Pesqueira, NYC Mayor’s Office of People with Disabilities; Brian Baer, The Elevated Studios; James Flemming, FEMA Region II Disability Integration Specialist; Andrew Perlman, NYC Emergency Management; Eric Goldman, FEMA Region II Regional Preparedness Liaison; and Kathleen Madigan, FEMA Region II Disability Integration Specialist.

On December 2, 2017 in collaboration with NYC Emergency Management and the Brooklyn South Community Emergency Response Team, FEMA Region II Preparedness Liaison delivered a presentation to a Brooklyn congregation about all-hazards preparedness including an overview of which items to include in a Go-Kit, how to enroll in the National Flood Insurance Program, and why it is critical to establish a family communications plan.

Pictured: FEMA Region II Preparedness Liaison, Eric Goldman

Coming Soon in Region II

Virtual Workshop for Active Shooters in Houses of Worship

For House of Worship Communities
January 22, 2018
630pm-930pm EST
For details email devin.kerins@fema.dhs.gov

NEW JERSEY MAYORS’ CLIMATE SUMMIT

Mayors and community leaders across New Jersey have taken up the challenge of addressing climate change and implementing sustainability practices at a local level. Please join them to discuss what we must achieve locally, and understand the specific steps we can take today to succeed. It is vital for our mayors and communities to take a leading role in preserving the environment and protecting the public health of our citizens. The day will consist of three panels of experts, resource organizations, and local leaders discussing a pathway forward to enable New Jersey to succeed in meeting the challenges presented by climate change. This event is hosted by Mayor Phil Kramer of
Franklin Township, Mayor Bruce A. Harris of Chatham Borough, and brought to you by NJ League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, Rutgers University Bloustein School of Planning & Public Policy, and Sustainable Jersey.

Saturday, February 3, 2018, 8:30am - 1:30pm EST
Rutgers University Bloustein School of Planning & Public Policy
33 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
REGISTER - Early Bird: $10 before January 29

Important Deadlines

DHS Seeks Host Institution for 2018 National Seminar & Tabletop Exercise

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is now seeking a partner college or university to serve as the host institution for the 2018 National Seminar and Tabletop Exercise for Institutions of Higher Education (NTTX) anticipated to be held in October 2018. Final event date will be dependent on host institution’s schedule and availability.

The 2018 NTTX will be a two-day event, with 450 attendees and staff, and will include a multi-module tabletop exercise, seminar and workshop sessions, and an after-action session. The topic for this year’s event will be threats of campus disorder at a large-scale event.

In coordination with the DHS Office of Academic Engagement, a host institution serves as the venue for the event, supporting space, technology, and other logistical requirements. Host institution specifications are available here.

Applications must be submitted by 11:59 pm Eastern on Wednesday, January 10, 2018.

If your institution would like to be considered as this event’s host institution, please apply here.

For more information on the Campus Resilience Program and the TTX Series, visit here.

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FEMA News

FEMA - First Quarter 2017 Highlights:

- FEMA finalized the Tribal Declarations Pilot Guidance under the Stafford Act.

- FEMA celebrated its diversity through Martin Luther King, Jr., Day, African American History Month, and Women’s History Month.
As the lead agency for emergency management, FEMA worked closely with other federal, state and local agencies to support the 2017 Presidential Inauguration.

The Oroville Dam, about 75 miles north of Sacramento, had nearby residents focused on the spillways as heavy rains and severe storms threatened structures and livelihoods. FEMA declared a Major Disaster Declaration on Feb. 15, 2017.

FEMA employees raised more than $208,000 for the 2016 Combined Federal Campaign.

We continued to simplify the grants management process. The Grants Management Modernization Program continued to conduct extensive, user-oriented evaluations of those business processes to help create a more efficient and easy-to-use system.

FEMA - Second Quarter 2017 Highlights:

- FEMA supported the Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs) available through Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) as one of the ways emergency managers can alert the public about emergencies.

- FEMA issued an update to the Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide (PAPPG), effective for all disasters declared on or after April 1, 2017.


- Mutual Aid Got a Boost through FEMA’s New National Incident Management System Products. FEMA’s National Integration Center released a suite of draft National Incident Management System Resource Management guidance documents that enhance the interoperability and effectiveness of mutual aid between jurisdictions and agencies.

- FEMA made $8 Million Available for Homeland Security National Training Program Continuing Grants to develop and deliver FEMA training to address cybersecurity, economic recovery, housing, and rural and tribal preparedness.

- FEMA Implemented New Public Assistance Process in Missouri and New Hampshire following flooding and severe storms to implement FEMA’s New Public Assistance Delivery Model.

- FEMA’s Emergency Management Institute held the 19th Annual Emergency Management Higher Education Symposium hosting over 250 academic and emergency mgmt. professionals.

- FEMA Launched the Revised Hazard Mitigation Assistance Webpage Project. The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) introduced its newly revised and reformatted online content on the FEMA.gov website. Resource materials are aligned and consolidated into individual, state or local government or federally recognized tribes.

More FEMA highlights to come!
Holiday Shopping Tips from The Department of Homeland Security’s STOP.THINK.CONNECT.

Just like food and decorations, deep discounts and bargain prices have become a huge part of the holidays. As shoppers go online to find good deals, they are also exposing themselves to cyber criminals seeking to exploit the festive season.

Scammers and spammers view the holidays as a golden opportunity to take advantage of unsuspecting online shoppers. Hackers may use tactics like preying on popular keyword searches to lure shoppers to malicious websites, with the goal of collecting financial and personal information.

To help keep you and your bank account safe, it’s important to learn how to shop securely during the holidays. These simple tips from the STOP.THINK.CONNECT.TM Campaign can help protect your personal information and transactions throughout the holiday season:

- Watch out for deals that look too good to be true. Scammers often try to trick shoppers by offering extremely low prices on hard-to-get items. Don’t open suspicious email attachments or follow unsolicited web links in email messages.
- Consider using a credit card instead of a debit card. There are laws to limit your liability for fraudulent credit card charges, and you may not have the same level of protection when using your debit card. Check with your card providers to see what protections they provide for each card you have.
- Avoid financial transactions on public Wi-Fi, which is often not very secure. Save your online shopping, banking, or sensitive transactions for your home network.
- Keep your computer, browser, anti-virus, and other critical software up to date.
- Check privacy policies. Before providing personal or financial information, check the website’s privacy policy to ensure your safety.
- Beware of fake URLs. Malicious websites look like legitimate sites, but the URL may use a variation in spelling or a different domain (e.g., .com vs. .net). Also look in the address box for the "s" in https:// before any transaction. That “s” tells you that the site is taking extra measures to help secure your information.

Keep a record of your purchases and copies of confirmation pages in case there are unauthorized purchases on your bank statements. If there is a discrepancy, report it immediately.
As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.

**Picking the Tree**
- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.

**Placing the Tree**
- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.

**Lighting the Tree**
- Use lights that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

**After Christmas**
Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home.
Check with your local community to find a recycling program.
Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

**Facts**
- One of every three home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.
- Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
- A heat source too close to the tree causes roughly one in every four of the fires.
Emergency Preparedness Tips (continued)

Region II Holiday Safety Tip
Top 10 Holiday Dangers for Pets

9. Noisemakers. While celebrating, it is easy to forget that loud noises and celebratory poppers or noisemakers can scare your pets.
8. Keep an eye out for salt. Ice melt and salt-dough ornaments can prove life-threatening.
7. Medication monitoring. If you’ll be having guests stay with you this year, be mindful of any medication they may bring.
6. Watch out for candles. Be sure not to leave your pets unattended around candles.
5. Holiday eats. Many of our holiday favorites can be harmful, including sweets, fatty and spicy foods, and alcohol.
4. Snow globes. Some snow globes contain ethylene glycol, highly toxic to all pets.
3. Under the tree. Wrapped presents can pose a threat to curious cats and dogs.
2. Pesky plants. Holly and mistletoe can cause gastrointestinal and cardiovascular problems.
1. O’ Christmas tree. Make sure that your tree is tightly secured so that there’s no chance of it tipping or falling over; Keep the tree water covered and inaccessible. Tinsel can cause severe vomiting, obstructed digestive tract and dehydration.

http://www.aspca.org

FEMA Region II Holiday Gift Giving Tip #2
Give the Gift of Preparedness this Year!

Dashing through the Snow

✓ 5 in 1 whistle
✓ Emergency Vehicle Kit
✓ Cell Phone Adapter
✓ Bright Colored Ponchos
✓ Orange safety vest
✓ Insulated work gloves
✓ Snow Tires or chains
✓ First Aid Kit
✓ Waterproof Boots
✓ Crank Weather Radio
✓ Windshield scraper
✓ Flashlight with extra batteries
✓ Shovel
✓ Water
✓ Snack food
✓ Matches and candles
✓ Hats, socks and mittens
✓ Blankets or sleeping bag
✓ Road salt, sand and/or cat litter
✓ Car window breaker
✓ Booster/Jumper cables
✓ Emergency flares and reflectors
✓ Compass
✓ Credit card knife
✓ Utility Cash stash Capsule
✓ Carabiners
✓ Survival Pocket Tool
✓ Pry bar with carabiner
✓ Paracord bracelet or belt
Emergency Management Institute Emmitsburg, MD
Fiscal Year 2019 Community-Specific
Integrated Emergency Management Course (IEMC) Application Process

Purpose: To provide an overview of the Community-Specific Integrated Emergency Management Course (IEMC) Application Process for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019. The deadline for applying to the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) for a community-specific IEMC in FY2019 is February 1, 2018. Applications must be submitted to your respective FEMA Region by this date.

Read more in Training Bulletin 1368.

The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) has developed a process and tools to assist State Training Officers (STOs), Regional Training Managers (RTMs), and other training partners (authorities having jurisdiction (AHJs)) in the task of instructor management following the release of the October 2017 NIMS document.

To achieve a successful rollout of the NIMS ICS curriculum, it will be critical that each AHJ implement their tailored instructor management program. EMI is providing a framework and tools to assist the whole community in updating their training programs.
December 21, 2017  3:00 p.m. Eastern

Read more in Training Bulletin 1369.

Webinars

FEMA Emergency Management Institute Weekly EMI e-Forums
Wednesdays in January 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. EST

EMI e-Forums are 1-hour, moderated, webinar discussion forums that provide an opportunity for EMI and the emergency management community to discuss matters of interest on national preparedness training. EMI e-Forums facilitate a discussion of whole community-presented best practices. The panel members are whole community, with topics relevant to whole
community. These exchange of ideas are free of charge and available to anyone who wishes to participate.

**Dates:**
- 1/10 EMI-Developed/State-Delivered G Courses: Best Practices from the States that Deliver Them
- 1/17 The Emergency Management Professional Program (EMPP): Aligning the Academies with the Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) Certification
- 1/24 Incident Management Teams: Innovation and Evolution to Build Community Capability
- 1/31 Nothing Scheduled

Read more in Training Bulletin 1371.

**Higher Education Program Webinars**
The Higher Education Program regularly hosts webinars for the emergency management higher education academic community. If you have a pertinent topic or idea, contact Wendy Walsh.

The Next EM Higher Education Community Conference Call is Friday, December 15th, from 2:00-3:00 PM ET. 800-320-4330, PIN: 376368. Please join us. Learn from the emergency management academic community what is new and exciting in their world. Find out about ongoing projects and discuss higher education community needs that we can address.

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**Must Reads**

**Sandy Hook shooting anniversary: How schools have changed security**  

Buzzers for the front door. Security cameras. Bulletproof glass. These are among the physical reinforcements that have become more common in schools across the country in the five years since the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary, as more and more schools try to address security concerns. READ MORE

**Preventing infectious disease outbreaks following natural disasters**  
[EDM Digest](https://www.edm-digest.com)

Natural disasters generate ideal conditions for the development and outbreak of infectious diseases. For example, respiratory, diarrheal and vector-borne diseases are most common after a natural disaster. Severe storms, flooding and other natural catastrophes affect both the physical and social environment of disease victims. Infrastructures such as homes that are compromised, for example, can lead to unsafe drinking water and unsanitary conditions. READ MORE
Hurricane Maria has made Puerto Rico a testbed for new technology. As government, tech companies, and nonprofits have worked to bring the US territory back online, Puerto Rico and its people have turned to new technologies to connect with one another and the outside world. The solutions have come from islanders themselves and companies that have come to help. READ MORE

At 230,000 acres, Thomas Fire is now the fifth-largest wildfire in modern California history. Santa Barbara County was under siege from the Thomas fire Sunday as fire crews fought to keep the destructive blaze from the region’s picturesque beach communities. Authorities said the out-of-control blaze had scorched 230,000 acres by Sunday evening, making it the fifth largest wildfire in modern California history. READ MORE

Phishers Are Upping Their Game. So Should You. Not long ago, phishing attacks were fairly easy for the average Internet user to spot: Full of grammatical and spelling errors, and linking to phony bank or email logins at unencrypted (http:// vs. https://) Web pages. Increasingly, however, phishers are upping their game, polishing their copy and hosting scam pages over https:// connections — complete with the green lock icon in the browser address bar to make the fake sites appear more legitimate. READ MORE

This year’s flu season looks like a bad one—and it could be coming early. When it comes to flu season, the only thing we can be absolutely certain of is this: it will happen every year. We are notoriously bad at predicting pretty much everything about influenza, including the timing and severity of the season, so we rely on small clues to try to get ahead of the virus. And so far, this year’s hints are pointing to particularly nasty—and early—flu season. So get your shots now, people. READ MORE