Gouveia, Susan

(C)

From: Masser, Michelle
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2015 3:33 PM
To: Harris, Laura
Cc: Gouveia, Susan
Subject: FW: External Affairs Bulletin Week of October 19, 2015

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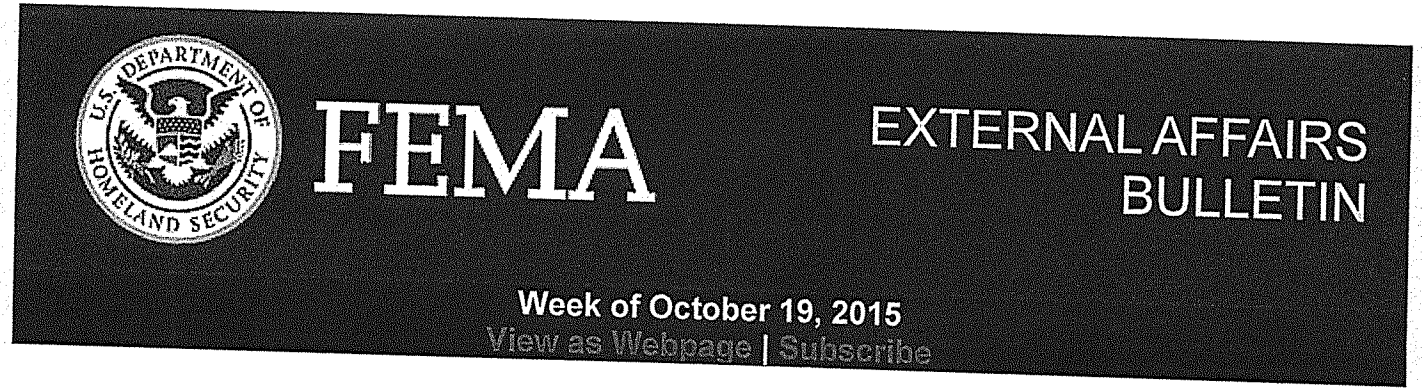

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FEMA Hosts the Voluntary Organization Partnership Day

Please join FEMA for the first annual Voluntary Organization Partnership Day on Tuesday, October 27 at FEMA Headquarters, located at 500 C St SW, Washington, DC, from 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. EDT. Professionals, academicians, students, and volunteers in emergency management, public administration, and related fields are invited to learn about and build relationships with our voluntary, faith-based, and community liaisons and partners. This event is co-hosted by FEMA Voluntary Agency Liaisons (VALs), the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (National VOAD), and the DHS Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships.

Opening remarks will be delivered at 9:45 a.m. in the FEMA Courtyard. The partner exhibition showcase will last 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. in both the Courtyard and Holiday Inn Capitol Ballroom. The event will conclude with a Town Hall 2 – 3:30 p.m. in the Capitol Ballroom.

This unique event will recognize and build awareness of the valuable services and support our voluntary, faith-based, and community partners provide before, during, and after disasters. Attendees can browse mobile response units and exhibit booths to learn about whole of community partnerships. Additionally, visitors can interact with comfort dog teams, chat with partner representatives, and network with other professionals, academicians, students, and volunteers in emergency

Important Dates & Deadlines

Voluntary Organization Partnership Day

Proposed Stafford Act Section 705 Policy Open Comment Period Deadline

Preliminary Damage Assessment Manual Open Comment Period Deadline

management, public administration, and related fields. Please email AC Claud at alfred.claud@fema.dhs.gov for additional information.

FEMA Hosts Quarterly Meeting of the Interagency Coordinating Council on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities

FEMA's Office of Disability Integration and Coordination (ODIC) hosted a quarterly meeting of the Interagency Coordinating Council on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities (ICC) on Thursday, October 8. Established in 2005 under Executive Order 13347, the ICC coordinates the efforts of 25 Agencies and Departments in the area of disability-inclusive emergency preparedness.

The ICC discussed occupant emergency planning for people with disabilities during active shooter incidents. Daniel Rivera, Active Shooter Program Lead for the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) National Protection and Programs Directorate gave a presentation about active shooter incident training development at the Department. Gay Jones, FEMA's Office of Disability Integration and Coordination Disability Integration Specialist, and Rebekah Tosado, DHS's Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Senior Advisor spoke about some of the gaps in the training that may not include individuals with disabilities or others with access and functional needs. Also, Paul Timmons, Director of Portlight Strategies, provided an update about the flooding in South Carolina and the cooperative partnerships established among FEMA, Portlight, state and local emergency responders, and local disability focused organizations.

Emergency Management Institute Offers a Virtual Tabletop Exercise on Long-Term Power Outage

With winter weather just around the corner, the Emergency Management Institute's (EMI) Virtual Tabletop Exercise (VTTX) program will focus on a long-term community power outage caused by weather events on **November 17, 18, and 19, 2015**. The VTTX will allow participating communities to share real-time incident preparation, response and recovery concerns and solutions with all participants. The program continues to evolve and grow to meet the demands of the emergency management community across the United States.

EMI conducts a monthly VTTX series using a video teleconference platform to provide a virtual forum for disaster training and discussion for community-based audiences around the country. The VTTX program is designed for a group of at least ten or more personnel from local or state emergency management organizations with representatives from other disciplines such as public safety, public works, public health, health care, government, administrative, communications, military, private sector, non-governmental, tribal nations, and other whole community partners.

Participants must have an appropriate site equipped with video teleconference capability that can access FEMA.

The goals of the November VTTX are to help participants to prepare for a long-term power outage affecting their community by exercising and enhancing the performance of critical response and recovery tasks and improving coordination with counterparts from local governments, other state governments, federal agencies, private sector organizations, and non-governmental agencies. The VTTX broadcast will begin at 12:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) and end at 4:00 p.m. EST.

EMI will conduct the following VTTX programs for the remainder of the calendar year:
- December 8, 9, 10: Active Shooter

To apply to participate in a VTTX exercise, submit an email request to Doug Kahn at douglas.kahn@fema.dhs.gov or call 301-447-7645 and cc the Integrated Emergency Management Branch at FEMA-EMI-IEMB@fema.dhs.gov or call 301-447-1381. The deadline for applying to participate in a VTTX is four weeks prior to the start date.

Additional information about this VTTX can be found on https://training.fema.gov/programs/emivttx.aspx.

REMINDER: FEMA Seeks Comments on Draft Preliminary Damage Assessment Manual

FEMA seeks comments from state, local, tribal, and territorial emergency management practitioners on the draft FEMA Damage Assessment Operating Manual. The manual establishes national damage assessment standards developed from historic lessons learned and best-practices already in use by federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial, emergency management agencies.

The FEMA Damage Assessment Operating Manual is built using a framework that encourages local information collection, state, tribal or territorial verification, and federal validation. This document better highlights and provides guidance to state, local, tribal, and territorial governments on their role in the assessment. This version of the PDA manual also clarifies the types of damage that will qualify under the descriptors of destroyed, major damage, minor damage, or affected.

The draft manual and comment matrix is posted in the FEMA library. Comments should be added into the comment matrix and submitted to Mr. Ryan Buras, Senior Program Advisor, Public Assistance, Recovery Directorate, by 11:59 p.m. EST on **November 14, 2015**. FEMA asks that comments on the manual be sent either by email to PDAmanual@fema.dhs.gov or by mail with a November 14 postmark to Mr. Ryan Buras, Senior Program Advisor, Public Assistance, Recovery Directorate, FEMA, 500 C Street, SW, Mail Stop 3163, Washington, DC 20472.

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 www.fema.gov/external-affairs-bulletin. 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.

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 state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, the private sector, national organizations and associations, and the American public.

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