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Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 4:03 PM
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Subject: FW: FEMA Bulletin Week of April 11, 2016

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FEMA BULLETIN

Week of April 11, 2016
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Important Dates & Deadlines



Application
Deadline:
Hazmat Rail
Transportation
Virtual Tabletop
Exercise



National
PrepareAthon!
Day



National Incident
Management
System National
Engagement
Period Ends



Hazmat Rail
Transportation
Virtual Tabletop
Exercise Begins



18th Annual
Emergency
Management
Higher Education
Symposium
Registration
Deadline



National
Presentation:
Road to
Resilience -
Joplin Disaster
Recovery
Summit

FEMA Launches New Preparedness Feature to Smartphone App



Deadline: Pre-Disaster Mitigation and Flood Mitigation Assistance Grants Applications

FEMA recently launched a new feature to its free smartphone app that will enable users to receive push notifications to their devices to remind them to take important steps to prepare their homes and families for disasters. The reminder feature allows users to receive pre-scheduled safety and preparedness tips, including testing smoke alarms, practicing a fire escape plan, updating emergency kits and replacing smoke alarm batteries.

The app also provides a customizable checklist of emergency supplies, maps of open shelters and open recovery centers, and tips on how to survive natural and manmade disasters. The FEMA app offers a feature that enables users to receive push notifications of weather alerts from the National Weather Service for up to five locations across the nation.

The latest version of the FEMA app is available for free in the App Store for Apple devices and Google Play for Android devices. Users who already have the app downloaded on their device should download the latest update for the reminder alerts feature to take effect. The reminders are available in English and Spanish and are located in the "Prepare" section of the FEMA App.

FEMA Seeks Comments on the Refreshed National Incident Management System

FEMA released the refreshed National Incident Management System (NIMS) for a 30-day National Engagement Period. National engagement provides an opportunity for interested parties to comment on the draft of the refreshed NIMS, so that it reflects the collective expertise and experience of the whole community. The national engagement period will conclude on **May 9, 2016 at 5:00 pm EDT**.

NIMS provides a consistent and common approach and vocabulary to enable the whole community to work together seamlessly and manage all threats and hazards. NIMS applies to all incidents, regardless of cause, size, location or complexity.

FEMA is hosting a series of 60-minute engagement webinars to highlight key proposed changes to NIMS and answer participant questions. All webinars are open to the whole community.

To review the draft of the refreshed NIMS and to sign up to participate in a webinar, visit: <https://www.fema.gov/national-incident-management-system/national-engagement>. To provide comments on the draft, complete the feedback form and submit it to FEMA-NIMS@fema.dhs.gov.

Emergency Management Institute Offers Hazmat Rail Transportation Virtual Tabletop Exercise

FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) Virtual Tabletop Exercise (VTTX) program will offer a crude oil, transportation-based scenario **May 10, 11, and 12, 2016**. The VTTX was designed to help communities specifically look at a rail disaster based on events in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec.

internal response and recovery actions with agencies that could experience a crude oil incident similar to events in North Dakota, Alabama, and Virginia.

The VTTX involves key personnel discussing simulated scenarios in an informal setting, and can be used to assess plans, policies, training, and procedures.

EMI conducts a monthly series of VTTXs using a video teleconference (VTC) platform to reach community-based training audiences around the country providing a virtual forum for disaster training. The design of the VTTX is for a group of ten or more representatives from state, local and tribal emergency communities of practice. Participants will need to connect via a site equipped with the appropriate VTC capability, but alternate ways to participate are also available upon request.

The goals of the VTTX are to test the participants' knowledge, skills, and abilities to conduct all-hazards emergency response and recovery effectively. The VTTXs also enable coordination of response operations with counterparts from Federal agencies, state and local governments, private sector organizations, non-governmental agencies, and other whole community partners. The VTTX occurs 12:00 p.m. – 4 p.m. EDT.

To participate in a VTTX, submit an email request to Doug Kahn at douglas.kahn@fema.dhs.gov or call 301-447-7645. Please send a courtesy copy email to the Integrated Emergency Management Branch at fema-emi-iemb@fema.dhs.gov or call 301-447-1381. The deadline for applying to a VTTX is **April 19**. Additional information is available at <https://training.fema.gov/programs/emivttx.aspx>.

Take Action with America's PrepareAthon!



**TOGETHER
WE PREPARE.**



JOIN IN!

AMERICA'S
PrepareAthon!
BE SMART. TAKE PART. PREPARE.

Americans have been moving from awareness into action to prepare for disasters and save lives with America's PrepareAthon!, a grassroots, community-based campaign to create a more prepared nation. On April 30, National PrepareAthon! Day encourages all Americans to know what to do when a disaster occurs, to get involved and to get prepared now and throughout the year.

In addition to earlier preparedness tips, here are more actions you can take to get yourself and your family prepared for emergencies and disasters:

- Build an emergency supply kit for you and each member of your family that meets their specific needs. Include items like food that doesn't require refrigeration or cooking, water, medications, flashlights, and batteries.
- Download the FEMA app for disaster resources and safety tips.

For ideas and information on other things you can do for America's PrepareAthon!, visit the website at ready.gov/prepare.

Updated Version of Hazus Now Available

Hazus Multi-Hazard (Hazus-MH) is a nationally applicable, standardized methodology which uses Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology to estimate physical, economic and social impacts of disasters. This methodology graphically illustrates the limits of identified high-risk locations due to earthquake, hurricane and floods. Hazus-MH allows users to visualize the spatial relationships between populations and geographic assets for the specific hazard being modeled. Hazus-MH is used by states and communities to increase hazard awareness and to perform risk assessments that evaluate economic loss for certain natural hazards.

As part of the ongoing Hazus Modernization efforts, the Hazus team has deployed Hazus-MH 3.1. The software can be downloaded for free on the Flood Map Service Center (MSC) Hazus Download page. ArcGIS version compatibility remains at version 10.2.2 and it is supported for 64-bit Windows 7 and Windows 8.1 only. For educational resources and guidance on anticipated updates, visit the FEMA Hazus home page.

FEMA Updates Public Assistance Alternative Procedures Pilot Program Guide for Permanent Work

On April 4, 2016, FEMA's Public Assistance program issued the Public Assistance Alternative Procedures Pilot Program Guide for Permanent Work, Version 3. The Alternative Procedures Pilot Program was implemented in 2013 as a part of the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act. The Pilot Program empowers communities with choices and enables them to make decisions based on their post-disaster recovery priorities. The guide details information on grants on the basis of fixed estimates, an independent validation of estimates, project consolidation, and full federal cost share funding for alternate projects. The updated guide contains several important changes, including the added requirement of an expert panel review of cost estimates for projects over \$25 million, updating technical language in accordance with regulation, and clarifying guidance on insurance, scope of work changes, and time extension requests.

Reminder of Upcoming Deadlines

Webinar: Road to Resilience

The Joplin Disaster Recovery Summit is hosting a two-day session on **May 19-20** about the lessons learned through the recovery journeys of several southwestern Missouri communities affected by a devastating tornado in May 2011. The opening session, "Road to Resilience," will be available via webinar on **Thursday, May 19** from **2:30 – 4:15 p.m. EDT/1:30 – 3:15 p.m. CDT**. To register for the webinar, send an email to FEMARegion7info@fema.dhs.gov with your full name, organization, phone number, and email address.

The cost to register for the two-day summit is \$75 per person and registration is limited to 300 participants. Individuals requiring reasonable accommodations for either the two-day summit or the webinar should contact FEMARegion7info@fema.dhs.gov by **May 5, 2016**.

Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant Application Information

FEMA announced the Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFO) for the FY 2016 Pre-Disaster Mitigation and Flood Mitigation Assistance grant programs. These two grant programs assist state, local, tribal and territorial governments in strengthening our nation's ability to reduce the potential cost of natural disasters to communities and their citizens. The NOFO for each program is posted on Grants.gov and contains the key program priorities and application requirements. Applications are due by 3:00 p.m. EDT on **June 15, 2016**.

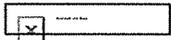
Emergency Management Institute Courses and Event Deadlines

The 18th Annual Emergency Management Higher Education Symposium, "Whole of Community-Talking about My Generation", will be held **June 6-9, 2016**, in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The event brings together representatives of colleges and universities that have, or are planning to offer, a disaster management program. The registration deadline is **May 13, 2016**.

For additional information, visit EMI's Emergency Management Training, Virtual Tabletop Exercises and Course Schedule.

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/fema-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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