

HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM

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Program News for the week ending October 12, 2018

Higher Education Program Updates

This week started out with the federal holiday of Columbus Day, a day to celebrate discovery and an opportunity to reflect on understanding culture. Several state and cities celebrate this day as Native American Day (South Dakota), Indigenous Peoples' Day (Los Angeles and Cincinnati), as an opportunity to highlight Italian Heritage (New York and New Jersey) or Puerto Rico Friendship Day (Puerto Rico). I am sure there are many more variations on the celebration across the Nation. Here in the sleepy town of Emmitsburg, it was a day of rest and reflection for some and for others just a typical Monday. Does your campus observe Columbus Day? Could this day serve as an opportunity to discover a community culture of preparedness?

Over the weekend, we also started to hear more about the approach of Hurricane Michael. Landfall is this afternoon, as I write my message on Wednesday. Shelters are open and people have been getting ready. FEMA Crowdsourcing unit is a new phenomenon that emerged last hurricane season and is continuing to grow. This unit provides a space for government, non-governmental and private sector stakeholders to share information, technology and expertise to improve situational awareness, information sharing and operations. Only during the disaster response, they host a daily coordination call at 5 PM (EDT) where the organization leads report their activities and needs to share across the community. The intent is to reduce duplication and promote effective and coordinated use of organizations. If your university is involved in sheltering, has technical expertise that you would like to contribute or you are curious about how you could support the FEMA crowdsourcing effort, please email your interest to the [FEMA Crowdsourcing Unit](#).

When you receive this message, I will be at the University of Albany attending the 11th Annual Homeland Defense & Security Summit. At this event, I plan to present on the Higher Education Program, discuss community accreditation efforts, lead a session on design thinking applied in emergency management and homeland security education and moderate a session on the Cultures of Preparedness Focused workshop findings. I am looking forward to seeing many community members at this gathering. I will update you on what I learn next week. I also want to share that I will be at the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan the following week. If you will attend, please let me know so we can meet up in person. I will be checking emails regularly while I am out of the office.

As I finish my message, I see that Hurricane Michael has made landfall- thousands of people are out of power and water is rising. Thousands have evacuated and the states are working to address all immediate needs. FEMA is fully engaged with other federal partners and at the ready to support state and local efforts. We will keep you posted as we receive information and I want you to remind you that as FEMA data is collected and becomes available you can find data sets at [Open FEMA](#). Until next week, be careful and be well!



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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](#).

Hi Ed Webinar: Storytelling in Emergency Management, October 16, 2018, 2:00 – 3:30 PM. Storytelling as it relates to planning for emergencies, understanding community values to promote preparedness, improving our ability to effectively teach and generally work toward honing our storytelling skills. Examples will be provided of how to develop and extract the stories as well as explore the theoretical approaches that guide and strengthen storytelling. The webinar will be an opportunity for you to share your experiences using stories in emergency management.
Registration and Conference Call-In: 1-800-320-4330, PIN: 376368#

The next EM Higher Education Community Conference Call is Friday, October 26, 2018, from 2:00-3:00 PM EDT, 800-320-4330, PIN: 376368. Please join us. Learn from the emergency management academic community about what is new and exciting in their world. Find out about ongoing projects and discuss higher education community needs that the Higher Education Program can address. Contact [Wendy Walsh](#) with your discussion topics.

The 21st Annual Emergency Management Higher Education Symposium, June 3-6, 2019, at FEMA's Emergency Management Institute at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, MD. In the coming months, we will post additional information to the [Hi Ed website](#) as it becomes available.

College List

The Higher Education Program keeps a list of colleges and universities that offer emergency management, homeland security, and related programs. Higher Education staff do not provide college recommendations or discuss the relative merits of the colleges and universities listed. If you have a new or updated program to include, send an email to FEMA-emi_collegelist@fema.dhs.gov.

NEW:

Internship, Scholarship and Training Opportunities

National Science Foundation's Accelerating Research through International Network-to-Network Collaborations (AccelNet). The goals of the AccelNet program are to accelerate the process of scientific discovery and prepare the next generation of U.S. researchers for multi-team, international collaborations.

Employment

Emergency Management/Homeland Security Vacancies:

- Emergency Management Specialist (Recovery), IC 13, CLOSE 10/22/2018, [FEMA-19-CTG-250033-CORE](#), Washington, D.C.
- Emergency Management Specialist (Mitigation), IC 13, CLOSE 10/18/2018, [FEMA-18-JMW-253828-CORE](#), Chicago, IL



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- Local Hire (Floodplain Management Specialist), IH NA, CLOSE 10/16/2018, [FEMA-19-EGB-256289-LH](#), Durham, NC
- Assistant Tribal Affairs Advisor, GS 13, CLOSE 10/16/2018, [FEMA-19-RJ-250494-MP](#), Washington, D.C.
- Supervisory Emergency Management Specialist, IC 12, CLOSE 10/17/2018, [FEMA-19-LMW-251280-CORE](#), Hyattsville, MD and Denton, TX

Higher Education Vacancies:

- [Penn State](#) – Tenured and Tenure-Track Faculty, Security and Privacy
- [Regis University](#) – Program Director, Master of Public Health Program
- [University of Albany](#) – Lecturer, College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security, and Cybersecurity
- [Valencia College](#) – Professor, Fire Science

Resources

[FEMA Podcast – Episode 24: One-Year Look Back On The Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery Efforts](#)
[NLM Disaster Information Management Research Center \(DIMRC\)](#)

FEMA Announces the Release of the New NFIP Flood Insurance Manual. FEMA released a new, easy to use [Flood Insurance Manual \(FIM\)](#), which supersedes the previous FIM. FEMA designed the FIM with the insurance professional in mind. The newly redesigned manual aims to make flood insurance issues and NFIP processes more understandable.

Three program changes announced in the new manual:

- The expanded Newly Mapped rating eligibility (effective October 1, 2018), appears in the How to Write section.
- FEMA added Cancellation Reason Code 26 to the How to Cancel section of the FIM to allow cancellation of an NFIP policy when a policyholder has obtained a duplicate policy from sources other than the NFIP.
- Notification requirements of Preferred Risk Policy Eligibility for certain cancellation reasons appears in the appropriate cancellation reasons within the How to Cancel section of the FIM.

The FIM is a resource for insurance professionals as they work with FEMA to close the insurance gap.

Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 Transforms Field of Emergency Management. On Oct. 5, 2018, President Donald J. Trump signed the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (DRRA) into law as part of the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act of 2018. These reforms acknowledge the shared

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responsibility of disaster response and recovery, aim to reduce the complexity of FEMA and build the nation's capacity for the next catastrophic event.

Highlights from the DRRRA include:

Greater investment in mitigation, before a disaster:

Authorizing the National Public Infrastructure Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, funded through the Disaster Relief Fund as a six percent set aside from disaster expenses.

Reducing risk from future disasters after fire: Providing hazard mitigation grant funding in areas that received Fire Management Assistance Grants because of wildfire. Adding 14 new mitigation project types associated with wildfires and windstorms.

Increasing state capacity to manage disaster recovery:

Allowing for higher rates of reimbursement to state, local, tribal and territorial partners for their administrative costs when implementing public assistance and hazard mitigation projects. Additionally, the legislation provides flexibility for states and tribes to administer their own post-disaster housing missions, while encouraging the development of disaster housing strategies.

Providing greater flexibility to survivors with disabilities:

Increasing the amount of assistance available to individuals and households affected by disasters, including allowing accessibility repairs for people with disabilities, without counting those repairs against their maximum disaster assistance grant award.

Retaining skilled response and recovery personnel:

Authorizing FEMA to appoint certain types of temporary employees who have been with the agency for three continuous years to full time positions in the same manner as federal employees with competitive status. This allows the agency to retain and promote talented, experienced emergency managers.

The full text of the bill can be found at www.congress.gov.

FEMA Releases Spanish Translation of the Continuity Guidance Circular.

FEMA released the Spanish-language version of the [Continuity Guidance Circular \(CGC\)](https://www.fema.gov/continuity-guidance-circular-cgc),

<https://www.fema.gov/continuity-guidance-circular-cgc>. The Spanish translation, titled *Circular de Guías de Continuidad*, will ensure that critical segments of the whole community can use the document to enhance continuity planning, operations and capabilities. The effort to translate the document was spearheaded by the Puerto Rico Capacity Building Sector and local translation team. The document translation will further capacity building efforts following Hurricane Maria by providing guidance and resources in the native language of territorial and local emergency managers.

Please direct any inquiries on the CGC FEMA-CGC@fema.dhs.gov

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) map layer displays data from the [National Shelter System \(NSS\) database](#). The NSS is synchronized every morning with the American Red Cross shelter database. It supports federal, state and local government agencies and voluntary organizations responsible for mass care and emergency assistance.



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The resources below compiled through a variety of sources and included here as interesting and relevant resources for research or classroom use. The links provided as a convenience and for informational purposes only. They do not constitute any endorsement or approval by FEMA or the Higher Education Program.

[BRIEF: FEMA to Reimburse Jacksonville State \\$18M for Tornado Rebuilding](#)
[Didn't Get FEMA's 'Presidential Alert'? Here's Why](#)
['You Can't Go Back and Build Over and Over.' But Buying out Homes Won't Be Cheap](#)
[University of North Georgia and FBI to Conduct State Survey on Cybersecurity](#)
[2018 Hurricanes Crowdsourced Photos. A Story Map for collecting and displaying 2018 Hurricane Crowdsourced Photos.](#)
[Why the government turns to Waffle House when tracking emergencies](#)
[The Value of Knowledge & Training in Response Operations](#)

[Calendar](#)

Flood Insurance Webinars for Agents, Presented by the National Flood Insurance Program.
(Capacity is Limited) Insurance agent continuing education course approval and credits vary by state.

[CLICK HERE](#) for information about your state.

Please register for both parts of this webinar.

Part One: October 17 - 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM CDT - [REGISTER](#)

Part Two: October 18 - 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM CDT - [REGISTER](#)

[Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills](#), October 18, 2018 at 10:18 AM (local time). Check out resources for how to prepare for an earthquake on the [Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills](#).

Home Fire Drill Day Saturday, Oct. 13, 2018, is the last day of [National Fire Prevention Week](#). The Ready Campaign is partnering with Nationwide's [Make Safe Happen](#) to support [Home Fire Drill Day](#). The partners created TV and radio public service announcements to highlight the importance of making and practicing family fire evacuation plans. Home Fire Drill Day encourages everyone to practice a fire drill and know what to do in the event of a home fire.

Basics to know before you practice:

- Know where to go.
- Check your smoke alarms.
- Do the drills.

Additionally:

- On Oct. 13, make a [family fire safety plan](#).
- Visit [Home Fire Drill Day](#) and pledge to conduct drills twice a year.
- To learn more about fire safety, download a [home safety checklist](#).

Download FEMA's [Life Saving Skills Social Media Toolkit](#) to help you prepare for and protect against disasters, as well as increase your awareness about common household hazards.

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DHS Emergency Services Sector and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency webinar *Connecting Emergency Management Agencies and Water Utilities*, October 18, 2018, 1:00 – 2:00 PM EDT. The webinar will discuss how emergency management agencies and water utilities can increase preparedness and help ensure that communities have essential drinking water and wastewater services during emergencies. The webinar will highlight key actions emergency management agencies and water utilities can take to build relationships, coordinate planning, share emergency capabilities, develop joint messages, and issue access cards. The webinar will also include some case study examples of how robust partnerships between emergency management agencies and water utilities have improved planning and response efforts. To register.

FEMA is hosting the **2019 Annual Hazard Mitigation Stakeholder Workshop** from **April 1 to 5, 2019**. This year's workshop theme is Advance Mitigation by Reducing Complexity. The workshop theme falls in line with FEMA's first and third strategic goals of "Build a Culture of Preparedness" and "Reducing the Complexity of FEMA." The abstracts must promote mitigation and reduce the complexity of it. The deadline for abstract submissions is October 17, 2018. Submit your abstract: fema-2019hmworkshop@fema.dhs.gov.

Participation is by invitation only – FEMA must accept your registration in order for you to attend the workshop. Registration for the 2019 Hazard Mitigation Stakeholder Workshop will be open in December 2018. For more information, visit <https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-stakeholder-workshop>.

Most presentations from the 2018 Hazard Mitigation Stakeholder workshop are available.

IAEM Thursday Learning Webinar Series: "Increased Preparedness Working with Non-Traditional Partners" Thursday, Nov. 15, 2018, 1:00-2:00 p.m. EDT.

About the webinar: Emergency managers often work with schools and hospitals to develop and exercise emergency action plans. However, dams and levee owners often have plans as well. Fort Bend County has integrated levee emergency action plans into their plans through a multi-departmental approach to planning, training and response. This coordination has improved preparedness of levee improvement districts throughout the county. The country is traversed by the Brazos River and has a long history of flooding. This system has been tested through multiple flood events in recent years; the county experienced three riverine floods between Memorial Day 2015 and Memorial Day 2016. The system was once again tested during Hurricane Harvey when record rainfall throughout the area caused massive flooding. To register.

2019 National Hurricane Conference, April 22 – 25, 2019, Hilton New Orleans Riverside. The primary goal of the National Hurricane Conference is to improve hurricane preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation in order to save lives and property in the United States and the tropical islands of the Caribbean and Pacific. In addition, the conference serves as a national forum for federal, state and local officials to exchange ideas and recommend new policies to improve Emergency Management. For more information and to register.





Reminder of Upcoming Deadlines

FEMA Announces Notice of Funding Opportunity for Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program

FEMA announced the annual funding opportunity for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG) is now open. The application period will close at 5 p.m. ET on Friday, Oct. 26.

The FY 2018 AFG program will award \$315 million to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters against fire-related deaths and hazards.

FEMA awards AFG funding to fire departments, non-affiliated EMS organizations and state fire-training academies. FEMA also awards funding to nonprofit organizations with experience and expertise in fire prevention, fire safety programs and activities, or firefighter research and development programs.

Since 2002, FEMA has awarded \$7.4 billion in fire grants. Historically, 84 percent of awards go towards purchasing personal protective equipment, vehicles and other operational equipment.

Applicant tools, including the Notice of Funding Opportunity and information about application webinars are available at www.fema.gov/welcome-assistance-firefighters-grant-program. The AFG Notice of Funding Opportunity is also available at www.grants.gov or <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=AFG>.

Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant Application Period Now Open

FEMA's [Hazard Mitigation Assistance](#) grant program provides funding to state, local, tribal and territorial governments for eligible mitigation activities that strengthen our nation's ability to reduce disaster losses and protect life and property from future disaster damages.

The open application period for two competitive Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants began on Oct. 1.

[Flood Mitigation Assistance](#) grants provide funds on an annual basis so that measures can be taken to reduce or eliminate risk of flood damage to structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). For fiscal year 2018, \$160 million is available, including \$70 million for community flood mitigation activities. The remaining \$90 million will be used for mitigation planning, technical assistance and projects that reduce or eliminate claims under the NFIP.

[Pre-Disaster Mitigation](#) grants are awarded annually for all-hazard mitigation planning and projects, such as the construction of community and residential safe rooms and wind retrofits. Pre-Disaster Mitigation grants help state, local, tribal and territorial governments build resiliency through measures that reduce risk to lives and property. For fiscal year 2018, \$235.2 million in grants funding is available, of which \$15 million is set aside for federally recognized tribes.

The remainder of the funds will be awarded on a competitive basis. Eligible state, local, tribal and territorial government applicants may apply for up to \$575,000, federal share for projects that reduce risk pre-disaster.

Eligible applicants may apply for the Flood Mitigation Assistance and Pre-Disaster Mitigation grants at <https://portal.fema.gov> through **3 p.m. ET on Jan. 31, 2019**.

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FEMA's mission is helping people before, during and after disasters

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