



Preparedness and Resilience Bulletin: Empowering People and Communities



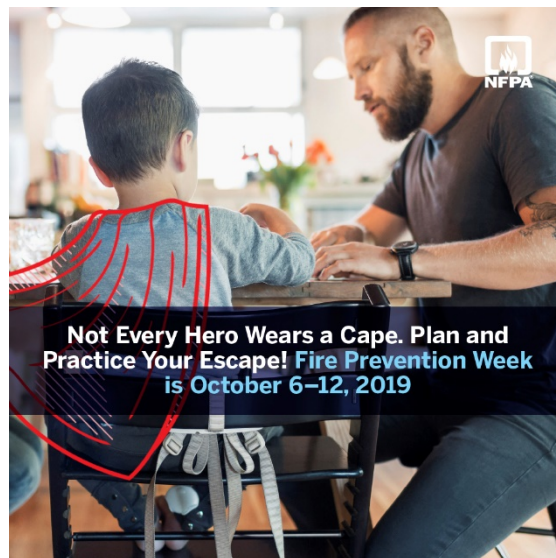
National Fire Prevention Week is Coming!

Thirty years ago, people had 17 minutes on average to escape a home fire; now, they have about [two minutes](#). Due to changes in construction practices and materials, as well as furniture placed by residents, risks posed by a fire hazard has become ever more threatening. This year's [National Fire Prevention Week](#) (October 6 – 12) works to promote the importance of taking small but important actions to keep individuals and communities safe from fire. Are you and your family prepared against a fire?

During an emergency, knowing what to do at the time of a disaster can help make the most of the short time available. Developing and practicing an escape plan is one of the most essential strategies to prevent a fire tragedy.

- Make a home escape plan by drawing a map of your home, showing all doors and windows. Discuss the plan with everyone in your home.
- Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily.
- Have an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole or mailbox) a safe distance from the home where everyone should meet.
- Practice your home fire drill at night and during the day with everyone in your home, twice a year.
- Practice using different ways out.
- Teach children how to escape on their own in case you cannot help them.
- Close doors behind you as you leave.
- IF THE ALARM SOUNDS: get out and stay out. If you have to escape through smoke, get low and go under it. Call the fire department from outside your home.

While there are many ways that a fire can start at your home, this also means that there are several precautions you can take to prevent it from happening. The following are some important ways to keep your home safe:



In the kitchen:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, broiling, or boiling food.
- If you leave the kitchen, turn the burner off.
- Keep things that can burn away from your cooking area.

Electrical Sense:

- Plug only one heat-producing appliance into the electrical outlet. Never use an extension cord. Examples of heat-producing appliances are: microwave, coffee maker, and portable heater.
- Extension cords are for temporary use only.
- If you have an electrical cord that is frayed or broken, don't use it.

Safe Home Heating

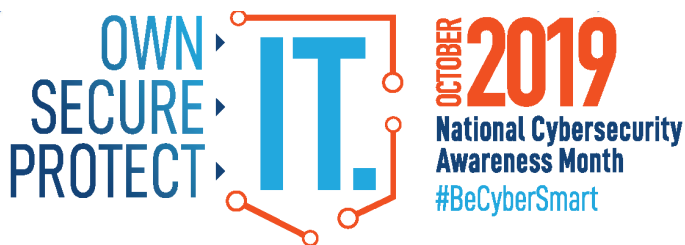
- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from fireplaces, wood stoves, portable heaters, and radiators.
- When you leave a room or go to bed, turn heaters off or unplug them.
- Have your furnace, chimney and chimney connector inspected by a professional each winter. Make repairs before cool weather sets in.

Home Protection:

- Install smoke alarms inside every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home.
- Test your alarms each month.
- The alarms should be interconnected—when one alarm sounds, they all sound.

You can find more information, tips, and resources on fire prevention by visiting the [U.S. Fire Administration](#) and the [National Fire Protection Association](#) webpages. Be the hero without a cape; plan and prepare for fire.

Cybersecurity Awareness Month - Ransomware



October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month (NCSAM), which is a time to remind ourselves of the importance of being safe and secure online. Ransomware has rapidly emerged as the most visible cybersecurity risk playing out across our nation's networks, locking up private sector organizations and government agencies alike. And that's only what we're

seeing – many more infections are going unreported, ransoms are being paid, and the vicious ransomware cycle continues. In light of the NCSAM, we strongly urge you to consider ransomware infections as destructive attacks, not an event where you can simply pay off the bad guys and regain control of your network (do you really trust a cybercriminal?).

Helping organizations protect themselves from ransomware attacks is a chief priority for the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). The CISA has assisted many ransomware response and recovery efforts, building an understanding of how ransomware attacks unfold, and what potential steps you can take to better defend systems. But CISA also recognizes that there's no such thing as perfect cybersecurity and ransomware

infections can still happen, so they've also developed recommendations to help organizations limit damage and recover smartly and effectively.

The below recommendations—the first “CISA INSIGHTS” product—lay out three sets of straightforward steps any organization can take to manage their risk. These recommendations are written broadly for all levels within an organization. It's never as easy as it should be, so if you need help, CISA urges you to reach out for assistance—it is there to help, but so is the FBI, numerous private sector security firms, state authorities, and others.

Actions for Today – Make sure you're not tomorrow's headline:

1. Backup your data, system images, and configurations and keep the backups offline
2. Update and patch systems
3. Make sure your security solutions are up-to-date
4. Review and exercise your incident response plan
5. Pay attention to ransomware events and apply lessons learned

Actions to recover if impacted—don't let a bad day get worse:

1. Ask for help! Contact CISA, the FBI, or the Secret Service
2. Work with an experienced advisor to help recover from a cyberattack
3. Isolate the infected systems and phase your return to operations
4. Review the connections of any business relationships (customers, partners, vendors) that touch your network
5. Apply business impact assessment findings to prioritize recovery

Actions to secure your environment going forward – don't let yourself be an easy mark:

1. Practice good cyber hygiene; backup, update, whitelist apps, limit privilege, and use multifactor authentication
2. Segment your networks; make it hard for the bad guy to move around and infect multiple systems
3. Develop containment strategies; if bad guys get in, make it hard for them to get stuff out
4. Know your system's baseline for recovery
5. Review disaster recovery procedures and validate goals with executives

Please visit the [CISA Resource Page on Ransomware](#) for more information. Victims of ransomware should report it immediately to CISA at www.us-cert.gov/report, a local [FBI Field Office](#), or [Secret Service Field Office](#).

Find additional resources below:

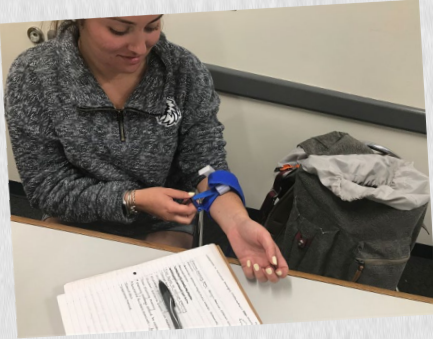
NJCCIC

[Ransomware: Risk Mitigation Strategies](#)
[Ransomware Threat Profile](#)
[Mitigating the Risk of Malware Infections](#)
[Supply Chain Security](#)
[Cybersecurity Best Practices](#)
[NJ Statewide Information Security Manual](#)

MS-ISAC

[Security Primer - Ransomware](#)
[Security Primer – General Security](#)
[Recommendations](#)
[Want to Keep Your Data? Back It Up!](#)

Region II Staff in Your Neighborhood!



Sept 12 - FEMA Region II's ICPO conducted an Until Help Arrives training for Homeland Security students at Monmouth University as a part of National Preparedness Month.
FEMA/Devin Kerins



Sept 14 - FEMA, as well as the Neptune Police, OEM, CERT and the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office participated in the Neptune Day preparedness event.
FEMA/Mark Strohoefer



Sept 12 - NJ FIT Preparedness Liaison, provided information on Preparedness Ambassadors Pilot in Mahwah to 50 volunteer members of the CERT Partnership comprised of 6 municipal teams in Bergen County.
Mahwah-CERT/Allan Becker



Sept 17 - FEMA provided resources to a gathering of houses of worship led by New Jersey's Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness in Burlington County.
FEMA/Devin Kerins



Sept 23 - NJ FIT Preparedness Liaison discussed FEMA Preparedness Resources for National Preparedness Month with Monmouth County COAD.
Monmouth COAD/Anthony Pluchino



Sept 25 - Deborah Costa discussed the Preparedness Ambassador program with CERT volunteers in Middlesex County.
FEMA photo.

Coming Soon to Region II

FEMA REGION II MONTHLY WEBINAR SERIES

Are You Protected? Cybersecurity Awareness

Tuesday, October 8, 2019 from 12 PM – 1 PM ET

October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, a time to educate our communities on the importance of cybersecurity and personal accountability. U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency works to create a resilient infrastructure. CISA offers many free resources, programs and services that our partners can take advantage of to strengthen their cyber posture. Resources include penetration testing, vulnerability scanning, programmatic and infrastructure cyber assessments and more.

This webinar will feature Rich Richards, Cyber Security Advisor, DHS CISA.

- Register now using this link:
https://icpd.adobeconnect.com/r2cyber_/event/registration.html
- Make sure to [test your Adobe Connect](#) before the meeting.
- This event will include captioning.
- Contact FEMA-Prepare@fema.dhs.gov to learn more.



Source: Ready.gov



FEMA

Emergency Operations Planning Workshop for Houses of Worship

Tuesday, October 29, 2019, 5 PM – 8 PM
Avalon Community Center, Avalon, NJ

This 3-hour workshop by FEMA Region II, DHS, and NJOHSP is intended to provide the safety, security, and emergency planners of houses of worship throughout the Region with an overview of the *FEMA Guide to Developing High Quality Emergency Operations Plans for Houses of Worship*; and through collaboration with other houses of worship, share lessons learned and ideas while walking through the development or improvement of emergency operations plans.

Register at: <https://femar2-eop-how-avalon.eventbrite.com>

If you missed our September Preparedness Webinar – Youth Can Help with Preparedness

Click hear to listen

<https://icpd.adobeconnect.com/p3akzkoqijhz/>

New York Disaster Interfaith Services (NYDIS)

Upcoming Events:

- Oct 16 – [Mental Health First Aid & Opioid Overdose Training for Faith Community Leaders](#)
- Oct 29 – [Fall Summit for NYC Religious Leaders](#)

FEMA Releases 2019 National THIRA: Overview and Methodology

FEMA's National Preparedness Assessment Division (NPAD) released the [2019 National Threat Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment \(THIRA\): Overview and Methodology](#). The *2019 National THIRA* uses an updated methodology and standardized language that all communities use to describe the level of capability that the Nation—including government, private, and non-profit sectors—needs to fully manage the Nation's threats and hazards of greatest concern while concurrently engaging in response and recovery efforts for ongoing disasters. Figure 1 (above) shows the threats and hazards included in the *2019 National THIRA*.

The *2019 National THIRA* represents an initial effort to identify the greatest threats and hazards to the Nation, the potential impacts of those threats and hazards to life and property, and the capabilities needed to address those impacts. FEMA will continue to refine its approach to conducting national risk and capability assessments, and the National THIRA will continue to evolve and improve by incorporating the best available information and insights provided by Federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial stakeholders. In the future, the National THIRA, combined with additional assessment products, will offer a comprehensive, unified assessment of national preparedness.

PrepTalk: Using Codes and Standards to Build Resilient Communities



FEMA and its emergency management partners released Stuart Tom's PrepTalk "[Using Codes and Standards to Build Resilient Communities](#)." In his PrepTalk, Tom provides an overview of why we have building codes, how they work, how codes have a central role in increasing community resilience to disaster and safety in general, and how the public can get

involved. Tom is a member of the Board of the International Code Council (ICC) and formerly the fire marshal of the City of Glendale, Calif. He has also served as a member of the Los Angeles Uniform Code Program Steering Committee, and as co-chair of the State Fire Marshal's Wildfire Ignition and ad-hoc committee. His PrepTalk video and additional resources are available at www.fema.gov/preptalks/tom. PrepTalks are a partnership between FEMA, the International Association of Emergency Managers, the National Emergency management Association, the National Homeland Security Consortium, and the Naval Postgraduate School Center Homeland Defense and Security.

FEMA Podcast Episode 46: Teaching Children What to Do in an Emergency



During National Preparedness Month, weekly themes focused on a different aspect of preparedness, including the importance of making an emergency plan, saving early for unexpected costs of disasters, getting involved in community preparedness efforts and teaching you people to prepare. On this episode, FEMA focused on youth preparedness during a roundtable discussion with a few members of the FEMA team. To learn more about the important roles children can play in creating a systematic shift in the culture

of preparedness, listen to the [podcast here](#).

The [FEMA podcast](#) is an audio program series available to anyone interested in learning more about the Agency, hearing about innovation in the field of emergency management, and listening to stories about communities and individuals recovering after disasters.

Mitigation Matters

The VE Zone

With [VE Zones soon coming to the Great Lakes](#), now is a good time for a quick refresher on what this area of the Special Flood Hazard Area is, as well as what it means when it comes to building and flood insurance. The VE Zones, also known as the coastal high hazard area or Velocity Zones, are parts of the SFHA that are subject to water velocity including waves of 3 feet or higher. This zone has more stringent building standards than that of other areas. Unlike in A Zones, structures in V Zones cannot be elevated on fill, solid walls, or crawlspaces, and floodproofing is prohibited. Instead, structures must be elevated on pile, post, pier, or column foundations. These standards allow waves to pass under the building without transmitting the full force of the waves on the structure's foundation, lessening the chance for failure. Additionally, whereas AE Zones requirements are measured by the height of the lowest floor elevation, in VE Zones it goes by the lowest horizontal structural member of the building.

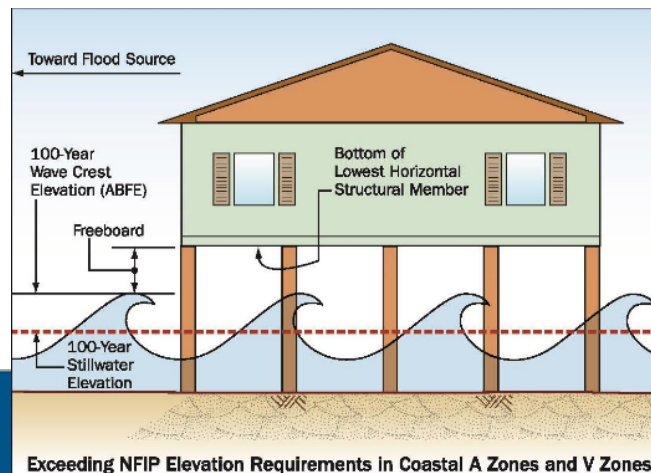


Figure 7. Recommended construction in Coastal A Zone and V Zone.

Example 1: V Zone building, supported on piles or piers, no below-BFE enclosure or obstruction. \$250,000 building coverage, \$100,000 contents coverage.

Floor Elevation Above BFE	Reduction in Annual Flood Premium*
1 foot	25%
2 feet	50%
3 feet	62%
4 feet	67%

VE Zones also have free of obstruction requirements in any area below the lowest floor. This means that, as stated before, standard walls are not allowed below the lowest floor. What is allowed are breakaway walls that are designed to give way under wind and water loads without causing collapse, displacement, or other damage to the elevated portion of the

building or the supporting pilings or columns. As with AE Zone, this space is only to be used for parking of vehicles, access, and storage. However, one important caveat to this area below the lowest floor is that building requirements and flood insurance requirements do not perfectly match here. While there are no limits on the amount of enclosure from a federal floodplain management standard, any enclosure more than 299 square feet will have dramatically higher flood insurance rates. So, it is heavily encouraged to limit these closures below this number. Flood insurance is also often much higher in VE Zones in general. For example, the average annual premium for a building built to BFE in an AE Zone is \$1,400, while in a VE Zone it is \$9,000. Thus, in this more than any other zone homeowners should consider elevating their property as high as allowable.

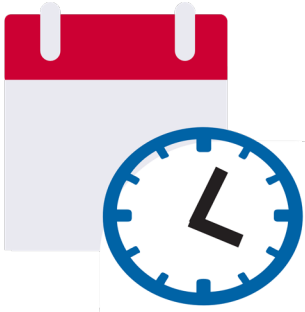
For further reading, visit:

[Home Builders Guide to Coastal Construction](#)

[https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1517893153030-](https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1517893153030-da3a700b0d220794eda4d6da801798a8/LIMWA_and_Higher_Construction_Standards_fact_sheet_12_18_17_r)

[da3a700b0d220794eda4d6da801798a8/LIMWA_and_Higher_Construction_Standards_fact_sheet_12_18_17_r](https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1517893153030-da3a700b0d220794eda4d6da801798a8/LIMWA_and_Higher_Construction_Standards_fact_sheet_12_18_17_r)
[viewed.2_CLEAN.pdf](#)

Important Deadlines



Public Comments about Information Collection

FEMA recently listed a Federal Register Notice for public comments about [information collection](#), in regards to mitigation grant programs. In accordance with federal law and as part of the Code of Regulations, part 80, this notice seeks comments concerning grants for the property acquisition and relocation for open space. Acquisition and relocation of property for open space use is one of the most common mitigation activities.

Federal grant funds are available for eligible activities in FEMA's three mitigation grant programs: Flood Mitigation Assistance, Hazard Mitigation Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. These programs require all properties acquired with FEMA funds to be deed restricted and maintained as open space in perpetuity. This requirement ensures that no future risks from hazards occur to life or structures on that property, and that no future disaster assistance or insurance payments are granted as a result of damages to that property. Comments are collected via the [Federal Register](#) until Oct. 8.

Nonprofit Security Grant Program

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) has been released. FY 2019 NSGP will provide \$60 million to support security related investments and activities for nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of a terrorist attack. Eligible nonprofit organizations must apply for FY 2019 NSGP through their State Administrative Agency (SAA). A list of SAA points of contact is available at: <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/28689?id=6363>. Nonprofit organizations may not apply directly to FEMA for FY 2019 NSGP funds. The FY 2019 NSGP Notice of Funding Opportunity and all related documents are available at: <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/178521>. For more information, please contact fema-gpd-pdsb@fema.dhs.gov.

Other News

Concerns of Children and Families after Sandy, Irma and Maria

Tuesday, October 15, 2019, Jacob K. Javits Federal Building 6th Floor, New York, NY

New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands experienced unprecedented destruction from Hurricanes Sandy, Irma and Maria. While the devastation to property from natural disasters is enormous, the impact on people can be even more damaging. As part of our continued effort to identify and share lessons learned from these disasters, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) cordially invites you to a symposium focusing on the impact of disasters on children and families, emergency preparedness, response and recovery. For more information, please contact Glen.Karpovich@acf.hhs.gov OR Joan.Noerling@acf.hhs.gov.

National Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Conference

December 2–5th, 2019, Hilton Americas, Houston, TX

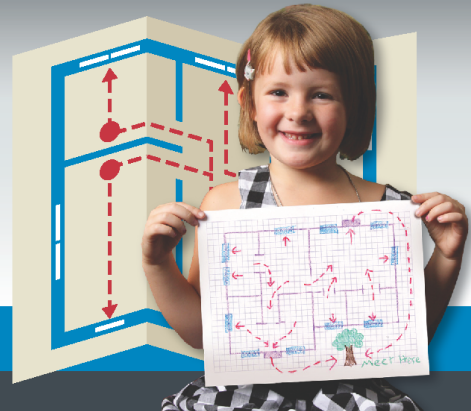
The [National Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Conference](#) highlights best practices of health care coalitions across the U.S. and provides opportunities for attendees to network with peers, share ideas, and learn about building and sustaining effective health care coalitions. For additional details, click [here](#). For info on AAP disaster preparedness/response initiatives, see <http://www.aap.org/disasters> or e-mail DisasterReady@aap.org.

Emergency Preparedness Tips

Plan and Practice your Escape™

Not every hero wears a cape.

Fire Prevention Week / October 6-12, 2019



Why is it important to have a family escape plan?



Fire is FAST!

In less than 30 seconds a small flame can turn into a major fire. It only takes minutes for thick black smoke to fill your home. Fire spreads too quickly and the smoke is too thick. There is only a short time to escape.



Fire is HOT!

Room temperatures in a fire can be 100 degrees at floor level and rise to 600 degrees at eye level. If you inhale this super-hot air, it will scorch your lungs.



Fire is DARK!

Fire starts bright, but quickly makes black smoke and complete darkness. If you wake up to a fire you may be blinded, disoriented and unable to find your way around your home.



Fire is DEADLY!

Smoke and toxic gases kill more people than flames do. The odorless, colorless fumes can lull you into a deep sleep before the flames reach your door. You may not wake up in time to escape.

For more information and free fire-safety resources, visit
www.usfa.fema.gov and www.nfpa.org.



Click here to
add image.



CERT Corner

See what local CERTs are doing!



Hoboken CERT participated in the annual Newark-Liberty International Airport Drill with the Port Authority of NY/NJ on Sept. 14 to assist first responders prepare for an airport emergency landing. Our members were moulaged to simulate the types of injuries frequently caused in an airplane hard landing/crash.

Brick CERT brought new additions to the team on September 24th. The event was memorialized with Chief Riccio and CERT coordinators Joseph Pawlowicz and Joseph Gilsenan. In addition, Brick CERT celebrates its ten-year anniversary this year. The CERT has helped with disasters such as Superstorm Sandy, as well as community events like Summerfest.



BERGEN COUNTY C.E.R.T. DAY

Saturday, October 19, 2019

0800-1600 Hours

Bergen County Law & Public Safety Institute

281 Campgaw Road

Mahwah, NJ 07430



Registration:

Email Evelyn Powell at
Powell@bcoem.org to register

Include your full name and team
affiliation

Registration closes Friday,
October 4, 2019



There will be 6 rotating one hour practical evolutions:

Bleeding Control
Fire Practical / Utility Shut Off
CPR/AED Refresher
Communications / R.A.C.E.S.
Point of Distribution (P.O.D.) Review
Shelter Races

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

If you have events you would like to share, please email them to
deborah.costa@fema.dhs.gov

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

Educational/Training Opportunities



FEMA

Emergency
Management
Institute

National Emergency Management Executive Academy (NEMEA) Overview/FY20 Application Process



The National Emergency Management Executive Academy (NEMA) is a component of the Emergency Management Professional Program (EMPP). The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) created the NEMA to provide a comprehensive and cutting-edge curriculum as the setting for senior emergency management executives to come together to explore contemporary emergency management challenges. The program hones strategic leadership and critical thinking for senior executives involved with multi-jurisdictional, national, and international emergency management policy development and decision-making responsibilities.

The program is a competency-based executive education experience that requires working collaboratively on projects and participating in activities with a capstone team to address some of the wicked problems in the emergency management field. Suggestions for a specific emergency management challenge to be addressed by an executive cohort as an Executive Academy capstone project may be submitted to:

<https://training.fema.gov/empp/executive.aspx>.

For more information, visit our Emergency Management Professional Program (EMPP) website

(<https://training.fema.gov/empp/executive.aspx>).

E0389 Master Public Information Officer Program – Part Three (MPIOP)

This is a three-course series that prepares public information officers for an expanded role in delivering public information and warning using a strategic whole community approach. [Read more at Training Opportunity 1487](#). Multiple Dates, 2020, Emmitsburg, MD.

L0840 Basic Interagency Logistics Seminar

This Basic Interagency Logistics (IL) Seminar familiarizes participants with logistics planning considerations for all hazards response activities for Federal, State, Local, Territorial, Tribal, Non-Governmental Organizations, and other partners which provide Logistics support in accordance with the ‘Whole Community’ concept set for in Presidential Policy Directive (PPD) 8, dated March 2011. The seminar also provides and overview of IL Partner disaster response organizations. It identifies and discusses parameters for logistics support coordination and creates a “Whole Community” forum for the exchange of best logistics practices. [Read more at Training Opportunity 1549R](#). Multiple Dates, 2019-2020, Frederick, MD.

E/L0548 Continuity of Operations Program Manager Course

November 12-13, 2019, 8:30 AM-4 PM, 1 World Trade Center, Room 55S08, New York, NY 10007

This two-day course will provide training on Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP). The session is intended for government, non-profit, and healthcare program managers responsible for creating and maintaining their organization’s emergency continuity plans. This course is a part of the Continuity Excellence Series and completion applies credit to the Continuity Practitioner Program (Professional Level I Master Level II).

[Register here](#).

NEW JERSEY CYBER RESILIENCY WORKSHOP



Source: nationsonline.org

The one-day workshop will assist the attendee in strengthening their preparedness for future cyber-attack challenges by reviewing a real-life case study, questioning a panel of experts, participating in practical exercises, and collaborating in a table top exercise.

Date: Monday, October 21

Time: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Location: Monmouth University

400 Cedar Ave, West Long Branch, NJ 07764

Registration is free of charge:

<https://r2cyberresiliency-mu-general.eventbrite.com>



FEMA



CyberProtex

NEW JERSEY CYBER RESILIENCY WORKSHOP



Source: blog.funnewjersey.com

The one-day workshop will assist the attendee in strengthening their preparedness for future cyber-attack challenges by reviewing a real-life case study, questioning a panel of experts, participating in practical exercises, and collaborating in a table top exercise.

Date: Tuesday, October 22

Time: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Location: New Jersey Innovation Institute

323 Dr. MLK Jr. Blvd, Newark, NJ 07102

Registration is free of charge:

<https://r2cyberresiliency-newark-general.eventbrite.com>



FEMA



CyberProtex

Training Calendars

FEMA: <https://training.fema.gov/emiacourses/schedules.aspx>

NJOEM: <http://ready.nj.gov/training/schedule.shtml>

NJOHSP: <https://www.njhomelandsecurity.gov/calendar>

NYDSES: <http://www.dhses.ny.gov/training/calendar/>

DHSOBP: <https://cdp.dhs.gov/obp>

Webinars

FEMA FY 2019 NOFO Application

FEMA has posted the Fiscal Year 2019 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) announcements for the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) and Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant programs on www.grants.gov. FEMA will offer a series of webinars in September and October on the FY 2019 NOFOs prospective applicants and how to use [Mitigation eGrants](#), the system that FEMA will use to accept and process all grant applications. Please call 1-800-320-4330 with PIN 338559 or click the links below.



- [eGrants for Beginners](#)
Wednesday, October 16, 2019, 5 PM EST
Monday, October 21, 2019, 9 AM EST
- [Avoiding Application Pitfalls](#)
Tuesday, October 8, 2019, 2 PM EST
Tuesday, October 15, 2019, 2 PM EST

Making Mitigation Work: A Webinar Series

The Natural Hazards Center—in partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency—will soon launch a new webinar series, Making Mitigation Work. These free, one-hour webinars will feature innovative speakers and highlight recent progress in mitigation policy, practice, and research.

- [Moving Mitigation Forward: The Past, Present, and Future of Mitigation Assistance](#)
Tuesday, October 8, 2019, 1-2 PM EST
- [Disaster Spending and Mitigation: A State-by-State Story](#)
Tuesday, November 12, 2019, 1-2 PM EST

Librarians are Essential: Advocating for a Seat at the Table

This 50-minute webinar featured two speakers discussing advocacy and the essential role of librarians in disasters. Siobhan Champ-Blackwell of the National Library of Medicine Disaster Information Management Research Center drew on resources available through the National Library of Medicine to present ways in which librarians can advocate for themselves by initiating and developing relationships with relevant local, state, and federal officials and agencies, as well as emergency responders. Dr. Lenny Rhine discussed his experience with the Research4Life Advocacy Toolkit and associated marketing resources, discussing their application in different scenarios.

Hurricane Dorian Webinar Featuring Team Rubicon

This 55-minute webinar discusses the impact of Hurricane Dorian on the Bahamas, featuring a speaker from Team Rubicon, a nonprofit organization offering veterans a chance to continue their service by helping those afflicted by disasters. The extent of the destruction in the Bahamas is detailed, along with the response to the disaster, and the greatest medical and rebuilding needs of the Bahamas.

Must Reads



Head Start Program Training to Prepare and Recover Faster

It may not be the first thing that comes to mind when you think about disasters, but childcare plays an important role in disaster recovery. Imagine a family affected by a hurricane. Their house may need repairs, neighbors may need help, and money could be a concern. Parents depend on safe and reliable childcare. If a community childcare center cannot open, then parents cannot return to work. Businesses lose workers, and stores lose customers. This can affect the ability of the whole community to recover. This is especially true in historically under-served communities where Head Start

centers have a heavy presence. [Preparing Head Start](#) and other early childhood education centers is vital to recovery. Read more [here](#).

Partnering with the Healthcare Supply Chain During Disasters

This [58-page document](#) from TRACIE (Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange) is intended to provide an overview of the emergency planning and response considerations of healthcare supply chain owners, operators, and end users, as well as insights for healthcare coalitions (HCCs) working with healthcare supply chain partners on preparedness, response, and recovery. It is not intended to be a comprehensive listing but aims to capture key changes during serious or catastrophic events, compared to normal supply chain operations, as well as planning and response contingencies.

Disaster Response: HHS Should Address Deficiencies

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) was asked to review the federal public health and medical services response to Hurricanes Irma and Maria in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico in 2017. [This 53-page report](#) examines the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)'s actions and leadership of this response and identifies several shortcomings in HHS's leadership. While the scale, location, and timing of these storms complicated response efforts, the deficiencies identified were in many cases a function of preparedness policies, or lack thereof.

From Words to Action: Towards a Community-Centered Approach

[This 66-page report](#) commissioned by the Global Preparedness Monitoring Board explores progress in community engagement in health emergencies made over recent years, highlights ongoing gaps and challenges, and articulates how community engagement can be more effectively implemented to improve outcomes in health emergency preparedness and response. While advances have been made in recent years, countries remain sorely underprepared to tackle a global pandemic, and significantly greater investment needs to be dedicated to longer-term community engagement.

Virtual Resource Center for Public Health Emergency Preparedness

[This virtual resource center](#) was developed as a repository for state-focused resources pertaining to public health emergency preparedness policy. The resources are targeted at state leaders in the fields of public health, emergency management, and administration, although due to the cross-disciplinary nature of public health emergency preparedness, a broader audience may find these tools useful. Resources are grouped into four major sections: Lessons Learned, Promising Practices, State Examples, and External Links.