



Region II Individual and Community Preparedness Bulletin

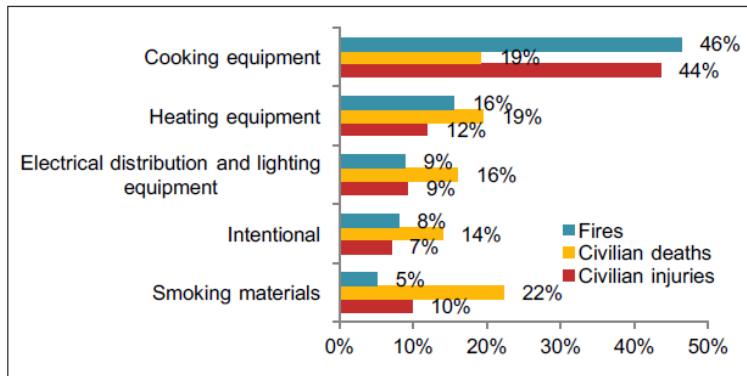


Increase Your Fire Preparedness in 2018

Have you ever wondered what your personal risk of fire is over your lifetime? Or how the fire risk from smoking – when you’re not a smoker – compares with the other risks to non-smokers from smoking?

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), households can expect to average a home fire every 15 years or five fires in an average lifetime. That is one of the results of the latest survey of unreported fires, conducted by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission in 2004-2005, when combined with NFPA’s annual tracking of reported fires.

Leading causes of home structure fires: 2010–2014



Source: National Fire Protection Association.

Every day, there are seven fatalities due to home fires, the majority of which occur in homes which are not equipped with operational smoke alarms. The segments of the population which suffer the most amount of deaths in home fires are children and senior citizens. To reduce the number of fatalities and educate the public about the risks associated with home fires, the American Red Cross (ARC) established the Home Fire Campaign (HFC) in 2014, the overall goal of which is to promote fire safety across the United States.

The objectives of the campaign are met by ARC volunteers working in conjunction with local fire departments and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members to canvass at-risk neighborhoods, install **free** smoke alarms, replace batteries in existing smoke alarms, and speak with constituents about fire safety. Since its inception, a total of 1,034,502 alarms have been installed. To volunteer or participate in a HFC campaign in your community, please follow this link:

<https://www.redcross.org/sound-the-alarm>.



Coming Soon in Region II



2018 NJCCIC Secure NJ Cybersecurity Summit

Hosted by the New Jersey Cybersecurity & Communications Integration Cell and the Kean University Cybersecurity Center



Date: January 12, 2018

Time: 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Location: Kean University/STEM Building

In keeping with the mission of the NJCCIC, the purpose of the 2018 NJCCIC Secure NJ Cybersecurity Summit is to provide attendees with practical strategic and tactical information that can be used to make them more resilient to cyberattacks.

- **Audience:** Public and Private Sector Cybersecurity Professionals
- **Cost:** Free, breakfast and lunch will be provided

Please go to www.cyber.nj.gov/calendar/securenj2018 for more information on agenda, speakers, and registration. Seating is limited.

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



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 & TTX

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](#).

FEMA News

FEMA - Third and Fourth Quarter 2017 Highlights:

[Brock Long was officially sworn in as FEMA Administrator](#) by former Department of Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly in a ceremony June 23, 2017.

[FEMA was delighted to host several Girl Scouts](#) including Brownies, Juniors, and Cadets at its third annual Girl Scouts Day.

FEMA hosted more than 30 non-profit organizations for [Voluntary Organization Partnership Day](#) to promote the services that voluntary and faith-based organizations provide to disaster survivors.

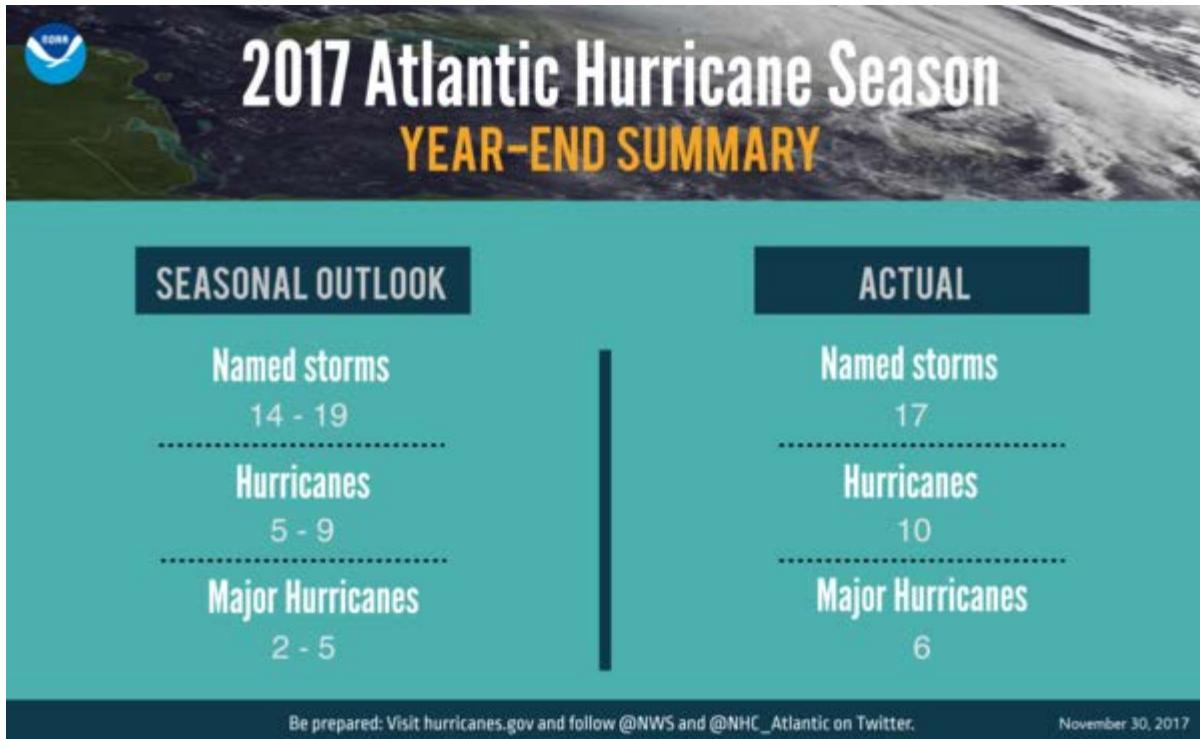
Louisiana and survivors of the flooding [received \\$5 billion](#) in federal disaster assistance for recovery.

Acting Secretary Elaine Duke [announced](#) final allocations of \$288 million for six Fiscal Year 2017 DHS competitive preparedness grant programs.

FEMA announced the winners of the [2017 FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Awards](#), recognizing the efforts of individuals across the country who are working to prepare for emergencies.

In early November, [FEMA surpassed \\$4 billion in paid claims to insured flood survivors of Hurricane Harvey](#), triggering the NFIP 2017 reinsurance placement. FEMA sent an initial proof of loss to reinsurers on December 5, 2017, requesting the entire \$1.042 billion in reinsurance.

The [historic 2017 Hurricane Season](#) produced 17 named storms of which 10 became hurricanes, including the first two major hurricanes to hit the continental U.S. in 12 years. Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria impacted the lives of 25.8 million people. During this season:



During the 2017 hurricane season, Response's 28 National Urban Search and Rescue task forces demonstrated their ability to rapidly deploy search and rescue resources to assist state, local, tribal, and territorial governments during overlapping disaster operations by saving or assisting more than 8,800 lives and searching more than 30,909 structures.

FEMA improved survivor access to disaster assistance through enhancements to telephone, mobile, and web-based registration intake and helpline services. Also, Recovery expedited the launch of Contact Center Capability Modernization Program technology to support the addition of more than 5,000 call agents to conduct telephone-based registration intake and help line services across 10 Regions, Joint Field Offices, headquarters, National Processing Service Centers, and Internal Revenue Service call centers, as well as pop-up call center facilities in Nevada, California, and Puerto Rico.

There were 6,843,848 combined registration intake and helpline calls offered to the National Processing Service Centers and the other satellite facilities from 01/01/2017 through 12/17/2017.

FEMA staff deployed (peak to date) 15,000 personnel total to all open events, including responders in the field, Surge Capacity Force volunteers, National Processing Service Center support, National Response Coordination Center/Regional Response Coordination Center and deployed in place. Activation of the DHS Surge Capacity Force occurred for the second time (the first time was during Hurricane Sandy), along with the first-ever expansion to include 32 other federal agencies (Tier IV).

Other News

Register Today for 2018 National CERT Conference!

Registration is now open for the 2018 National CERT Conference being held in Naples, FL on August 23-25, 2018. Register for the conference and reserve your hotel room today! Need additional info on the conference? Visit www.flacertassociation.org to learn more.

Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) helps enhance School Preparedness across the Nation

The start of a new year is a perfect time to reflect on not only all you have accomplished in the past 12 months, but also make resolutions for new action. This may mean reflecting on lessons learned from drills, exercises, or actual emergencies that occurred, and creating, reviewing, and revising your emergency operations plan (EOP) as a result.

As you reflect, questions that you may ask key stakeholders include: *“Did our school district, school, or institution of higher education (IHE) conduct any drills or exercises that made us reevaluate procedures? Were there opportunities to maximize relationships with partners or neighboring agencies that we missed? Did an emergency happen that forced us to take a look the effectiveness of our functional annexes? Was there something new that we learned from a REMS TA Center or federal partner training or resource that can be incorporated into our team’s emergency preparedness planning?”* Planning teams can use these questions and others as a guide when debriefing on the successes of the year, possible areas for plan improvement, and sources of capacity building. They can also consider conducting the following activities at the start of the year to support the creation of a high-quality plan and overall emergency management program development.



- **Visit sites referenced in the EOP.** Schedule mini-field trips around your school grounds and IHE campuses to visit relevant sites discussed in the plan, such as evacuation, triage,

reunification, and media areas, with key stakeholders. The goal should be to not only [assess the safety and security of buildings and grounds](#), but to also consider how functions ([evacuation](#), [reunification](#), [medical and mental first aid](#), [communication](#)) will work simultaneously during and after an emergency, and whether adjustments to site layout or processes can be made to enhance mitigation, protection, response, and recovery.

- **Give involved parties appropriate resources specific to emergency plans, policies, and procedures.** The New Year can serve as a good time to [review key courses of action for goals and objectives in your EOP](#), and to distribute any visual aids that planning and response teams can use as quick reference guides. Make sure that any new staff members joining the team during the spring semester are aware of all relevant plans, policies, and procedures, and that all staff members are updated on any state and/or local laws that inform changes in courses of action.
- **Familiarize students and staff members with the plan in collaboration with community partners.** K-12 education agencies can consider having community partners such as law enforcement and emergency medical services personnel visit schools to remind students of the role partners play in ensuring their safety. Along with exercises designed to test EOPs, community partners can share information about non-school-sponsored events in which students can participate to support whole school community preparedness. The return from winter break is a great time for IHE campuses to host workshops that help students brush up on personal safety topics such as [individual preparedness](#) and [fire safety](#). It's also a good time to host a [Campus CERT program](#) or [campus-wide exercises](#) in collaboration with community partners or neighboring institutions.
- **Train staff members on the skills necessary to fulfill their roles.** Practice may not make perfect when it comes to emergency management, but practice does support preparedness! Ensure that staff members assigned to roles that require special training, such as first aid or threat assessment, are up to date on the latest certifications, standards, and research required for their area of expertise. Use exercises planned throughout the year as opportunities to reinforce important concepts.

Newark Prep Rally Helps Kids Prepare for Disaster

Just days before the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Sandy, the most destructive hurricane to ever hit New Jersey, Save the Children staff members hosted a Prep Rally at Newark's Speedway Academies to help kids prepare for future emergencies.

The [Prep Rally](#), an interactive program that helps teach children critical disaster preparedness skills. Save the Children created the Prep Rally as a signature part of its Get Ready Get Safe initiative, which is designed to help U.S. communities prepare, protect and care for the most vulnerable among us in times of crisis – children.

Third and fourth graders at Speedway Academies took part in numerous engaging Prep Rally activities, including the Disaster Supplies Relay Race, the



Preparedness Pledge and the [Prep Step](#), a fun song and dance to help make preparedness accessible for families.

"Save the Children is on the ground helping children and families affected by the recent disasters, but we are also encouraging communities all across the country, like Newark, to be better prepared for the next emergency," said Sarah Thompson, Save the Children's Director of U.S. Emergency Preparedness. "The goal of a Prep Rally is to take preparedness seriously, but make it fun and memorable so that kids feel safe and empowered to help make changes at home."

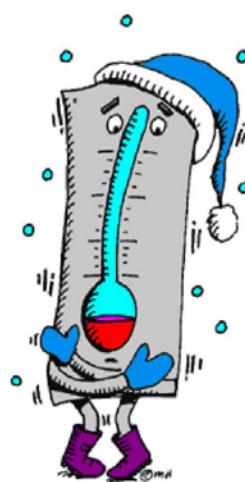
Educators and community leaders interested in hosting their own Prep Rally can access helpful resources at savethechildren.com/getready.

To learn more about Save the Children or its response efforts supporting children and families affected by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, go to SavetheChildren.org.

Emergency Preparedness Tips

FEMA Region II Preparedness Tip Preparing Your Home for Extreme Cold

- ✓ Insulate water supply lines that run through unheated areas.
- ✓ Caulk cracks and holes in outside walls and foundations near pipes.
- ✓ Make sure that all exterior windows and doors are air tight.
- ✓ Open kitchen and bathroom sink cabinets to allow warmer air to circulate around plumbing.
- ✓ Check that seniors, infants and those with access and functional needs are in safely and adequately heated dwellings.



- ✓ Leave the heat set on at least 55 degrees while away.
- ✓ Know where and how to shut off the main water supply.
- ✓ Make sure you have sufficient heating fuel.
- ✓ Never use a stove/oven or grill to heat your home.
- ✓ Place space heaters on level, hard surfaces at least three feet from anything flammable.
- ✓ Install carbon monoxide detectors.

Emergency Preparedness Tips

PUT A ON FREEZE WINTER FIRES

Home fires occur more in winter than in any other season. As you stay cozy and warm this winter season, **be fire smart!**

Half of all home heating fires
occur in the months of



Heating equipment
is involved in **1 in every 7**
reported home fires and **1 in every 5** home fire deaths.

Keep anything that can burn at least

3 feet from any heat source like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators, or space heaters.

Keep portable generators outside, away from windows, and **as far away as possible from your home.**

Install and test carbon monoxide alarms at least **once a month.**



Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents **every year.**

Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container, and keep it outside at least **10 feet** from your home and any nearby buildings.

Plug only **1 heat-producing appliance** (such as a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.



For more information visit www.usfa.fema.gov/winter or www.nfpa.org/winter

EDUCATIONAL / TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

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.](#)

V-0001 - Virtual Tabletop Exercise Series (VTTX) – Airport Ebola

Exercise Description: This exercise will simulate an inbound aircraft with passengers suspected of being exposed to Ebola. This will be based upon real-world events at Newark-Liberty (EWR), Los Angeles International (LAX), John F. Kennedy International (JFK), Las Vegas International (LAS), and other airports worldwide. Those incidents severely tested those airports' quarantine plans and responding agency capacity.

The VTTX involves key personnel discussing simulated scenarios in an informal setting, and can be used to assess plans, policies, training, and procedures. This VTTX differs from other tabletop exercises in that it will be conducted using **Video-Teleconference (VTC) technology** (not a web-based program), and is intended to provide an opportunity for responders across the Nation to simultaneously participate in a hazard-specific facilitated discussion. Lead facilitation for the exercise will be coordinated by EMI, with local facilitation provided by the participating agency. This format will allow the common delivery of exercise materials, scenarios, modules, and discussion questions among those participating in the exercise. [Read more in Training Opportunity 1373.](#)

V-0001 - Virtual Tabletop Exercise Series (VTTX) –Passenger Train Derailment

Exercise Description: This exercise will simulate a passenger train derailment based upon real-world events such as the 2011 Bay Area Rapid Transit subway, the 2013 Metro-North Railroad, and the 2015 Amtrak Philadelphia Northeast Regional incidents that caused property damage, injuries, and fatalities.

The VTTX involves key personnel discussing simulated scenarios in an informal setting, and can be used to assess plans, policies, training, and procedures. This VTTX differs from other tabletop exercises in that it will be conducted using **Video-Teleconference (VTC) technology** (not a web-based program), and is intended to provide an opportunity for responders across the Nation to simultaneously participate in a hazard-specific facilitated discussion. Lead facilitation for the exercise will be coordinated by EMI, with local facilitation provided by the participating agency. This format will allow the common delivery of exercise materials, scenarios, modules, and discussion questions among those participating in the exercise. [Read more in Training Opportunity 1374.](#)

E0209 State Recovery Planning and Coordination

Course Description: This course provides participants with knowledge and skills that will support States in pre- and post-disaster recovery planning, management, and coordination. [Read more in Training Opportunity 1376.](#)

E0210 Recovery from Disaster: The Local Community Role

Course Description: This 4-day course covers foundational concepts in disaster recovery and the latest guidance on recovery planning. Participants will either assess their own recovery plan or a sample against this national planning guidance. Following that, participants will discuss how a disaster recovery effort can be organized, managed, and led along with the types of challenges faced by recovery managers. Scenario activities throughout the course give participants the opportunity to target information strategies, address local capabilities and challenges, and analyze experiences from Joplin, Missouri. The capstone activity is meant to apply all of the knowledge acquired in the course, through further examination of all of the elements of a pre-disaster recovery planning document in the context of a realistic recovery scenario. [Read more in Training Opportunity 1377.](#)

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 Next EM Higher Education Community Conference Call is Friday, **January 19th, from 2:00-3:00 PM ET. 800-320-4330, PIN: 376368. Please join us.**

Must Reads

How Hurricane Maria Worsened Puerto Rico's Health Care Crisis

Commonwealth Fund

This report details how almost three months after Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico, worsening long-standing economic and health challenges still exist. More than a third of the territory's 68 hospitals are still without electricity, and some community health centers are operating without regular power and clean water. It discusses how Hurricane Maria has exacerbated existing fault lines in the territory's health system.

Creating Resilient Communities for Children

Through the Resilient Children/Resilient Communities Initiative, partnerships in Arkansas and New York are working to meet the unique needs of children in a disaster. Watch their YouTube [video](#) to see how they are working to make a lasting impact locally and across the country. They are currently working through two pilot programs in Arkansas and New York. The goal is to connect community leaders and create child-focused resilience plans. This will help children be better protected before, during and after disasters. For more information, please visit us [here](#).

Volcanic Simulation Teaches Students Crisis Management Skills

Burnaby Now

Imagine a scenario where a volcano is about to erupt and you are responsible for deciding what to do next. Who should be alerted and who needs to be evacuated? Where and when might lava start flowing? How dangerous will the gas and ash emissions be? This is what Earth Sciences 421 students experienced during a five-hour volcano simulation exercise in early December. [READ MORE](#)

Disaster Recovery goes High Tech

PC

When disaster strikes — be it a flood, earthquake, or fire — the real work often begins when the immediate threat is over, from providing people with clean water to keeping them abreast of what comes next. At the Global Humanitarian Technology Conference in Silicon Valley recently, researchers, first responders, engineers, and field workers discussed how technology helps them get the job done. [READ MORE](#)

"123456" Remains Most Common Password in 2017

Beepingcomputer

For the second year in a row, "123456" remained the top password among the millions of clear text passwords exposed online thanks to data breach incidents at various providers.

While having "123456" as your password is quite bad, the other terms found on a list of Top 100 Worst Passwords of 2017 are just as distressing and regretful. [READ MORE](#)

Kids Learning and Educating Adults about Flood Issues

ASFM News & Views

Flood education is available through a variety of disciplines, curriculum and programs, including water quality, environmental conservation, engineering, Earth sciences, climate change and more. ASFFM collected more than 100 unique education resources that cover all flood types—riverine, urban, coastal, storm surge, etc. and at every grade level from kindergarten through high school. These materials are available in lesson plans, videos, activities and even online games. Many of the education programs meet state standards or connect with existing federal programs such as the “[Teachers Guide to the Monmouth County High Water Mark Initiative](#)” developed by the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium, which builds on FEMA’s HWM Initiative.

[READ MORE](#)

