



Michigan State Police

Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division

Informational Bulletin

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Potential U.S. Department of Homeland Security Shutdown

Due to the current dispute in Congress over the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) fiscal year 2015 budget, DHS and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) face the potential for a lapse in appropriations. If an agreement is not reached, FEMA will have to furlough the majority of their permanent employees after 11:59 p.m. on February 27.

If a shutdown occurs, Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security (MSP/EMHSD) employees funded by DHS/FEMA grants will continue to operate as normal because personnel are on an earlier grant cycle and funds have already been secured to support their positions. Michigan's local emergency management programs funded by DHS/FEMA grants will also continue to operate as normal in the immediate near future. These programs operate on a reimbursement process and should not see any immediate operational issues.

Grant Processing Delays

Grant processing at the federal level will be delayed for new and active emergency management and homeland security projects. DHS/FEMA grant personnel would be considered non-essential staff and furloughed. MSP/EMHSD staff will continue to meet grant obligations and fiscal year 2015 application deadlines once a budget is approved.

Any grant projects that required Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) review could be delayed. The EHP review is at least a 30-day process and timelines could exceed the current grant performance period and not be able to be completed.

Presidential Declarations

During a lapse in funding, FEMA will acknowledge—but cannot process—requests from governors or tribal leaders for presidential declarations of a major disaster or emergency unless the request is determined necessary for the protection of life and property.

Public Assistance grants for the Southeast Michigan Flooding Disaster, which help fund the rebuilding of public buildings and infrastructure affected by the August 2014 severe storms and flooding in Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties, will be delayed if federal grant staff are furloughed. Should this occur, MSP/EMHSD staff will continue to work with local communities to ensure projects are ready to go once the budget impasse is resolved.

FEMA Training Facilities

FEMA will be unable to provide training to emergency responders at the Emergency Management Institute in Maryland and Center for Domestic Preparedness in Alabama during a DHS shutdown. Training courses provided by the MSP/EMHSD will not be affected.

Assistance to Firefighters Grants or Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Awards

While not overseen by the MSP/EMHSD, the processing of incoming applications for fiscal year 2014 Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) or Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response (SAFER) awards, which impact thousands of fire departments around the country, would be delayed if FEMA grant staff is furloughed. SAFER, AFG and Fire Prevention and Safety program grantees will not be able to draw down funds during a lapse in appropriations.

Contact Information

Questions concerning this Informational Bulletin should be directed to Ms. Penny Burger at (517) 333-5046 or BurgerP@michigan.gov.