

SUMMARY

- News of Afghan repatriation and refugee arrivals in NJ and VA has been a hot topic in the news. Coverage is largely neutral to positive and focuses on personal human interest stories and the volume of traffic, as well as informational updates and how people can help.
- COVID-19 updates have been treated with increasing concern in the news with no FEMA mentions.
- FEMA mentions have been concentrated in West Virginia regarding flood recovery.

NATIONAL NEWS

- [FEMA administrator on Tennessee flooding: 'We are seeing the effects of climate change'](#)
- [Tropical system in Caribbean may take aim at US Gulf Coast; Damaging storms for Midwest](#)
- [Lawmakers urge Biden and FEMA to declare drought disaster in West](#)

[FEMA administrator on Tennessee flooding: 'We are seeing the effects of climate change'](#)

National media coverage was limited overnight on FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell's visit to Tennessee on Wednesday. [CNN](#) and the [Associated Press](#) both ran articles from earlier in the day and [Fox News](#) reported Criswell toured the area with Gov. Bill Lee. [Fox News 17 \(TN\)](#) reports Criswell acknowledged the devastation during a press conference with Lee noting climate change is having an impact, "We're seeing more disasters. We're seeing more severe disasters. We're seeing these weather events intensify much more rapidly." Criswell also talked about new mitigation funding "to help reduce the impacts that we're going to continue to see from climate change." The article also has a link to the [White House press release](#) on resilience funding through FEMA.

[Tennessean.com \(TN\)](#) reports Criswell also said \$230,000 in flood aid has already been approved for those seeking it. The federal disaster declaration was also expanded to Dickson, Hickman and Houston Counties on Wednesday, meaning residents there are also eligible for aid. [News 5 Nashville \(TN\)](#) reports some of the flooding occurred in areas that were not designated flood zones, and many homes didn't have flood insurance. The article encourages people to contact their insurance agency to ensure the damage is not covered and that FEMA grants are available to those whose homes were damaged by the flood. [News 5 Nashville \(TN\)](#) also did a video story with a brief voice over on the FEMA visit. Criswell thanked Lee and first responders after her visit via her [Twitter](#) account.

[The Tennessean](#) - Aug 25, 2021 - Meghan Mangrum , Adam Friedman , Rachel Wegner , Cole Villena - Reach: 77118

[Tropical system in Caribbean may take aim at US Gulf Coast; Damaging storms for Midwest](#)

[AccuWeather](#) reports a tropical wave sweeping through the Caribbean Sea could strengthen into a hurricane this weekend and may be on a path to impact parts of the U.S. Gulf Coast. Forecasters say it's still too early to determine the exact track and intensity of the storm, but Gulf states need to prepare and monitor the system closely. [Reuters](#) reports the NHC puts the chances Invest 99L will become a cyclone over the next 48 hours at 60 percent.

The [Weather Channel](#) says current models suggest Invest 99L will take a more northward trek through the Gulf than earlier models, impacting areas from Louisiana to Texas. The next system would be named Ida. [AccuWeather](#) reports forecasters are also watching two other areas over the open waters of the Atlantic Ocean, but neither are expected to impact the U.S. on their current track. Should either or both become named storms they would be Julian and Kate.

More damaging, severe weather is on tap for the Midwest into the weekend. [AccuWeather](#) reports heavy, gusty and locally severe thunderstorms moved through parts Montana, the Dakotas, Nebraska, the Lower Peninsula of Michigan to Ohio, central Pennsylvania and western New York state on Wednesday night. The main threat Thursday will extend from parts of Montana, Minnesota and Iowa with the potential for strong winds, flash flooding and isolated hail. On Friday, the main storm threat will extend from the Dakotas to Wisconsin.

[AccuWeather.com](#) - Aug 26, 2021 - Renee Duff, - Reach: 275717840

[Lawmakers urge Biden and FEMA to declare drought disaster in West](#)

[AXIOS](#) reports California Rep. Jared Huffman and Rep. Joe Neguse want FEMA to declare a drought emergency in the West. [NBC News](#) reports the lawmakers wrote a letter to President Biden Wednesday asking for additional FEMA resources to aid Western communities faced with water cuts as supplies dwindle rapidly. The letter states, "This drought could have long-term impacts on the food supply, wildlife, and livelihoods of Americans in the West as these conditions persist." [Fox 21 \(CO\)](#) says the letter highlights record drought conditions across the West from the following states: California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah, and Washington. Western governors' asked FEMA for a drought disaster declaration earlier this month.

[Axios](#) - Aug 26, 2021 - Rebecca Falconer - Reach: 5727644

AFGHAN REFUGEES & REPATRIATION EFFORTS

Flights

- [PHOTOS: Families evacuated from Afghanistan arrive at Washington Dulles International Airport](#) (Richmond)
- [Afghan refugees arrive at Dulles Airport following Kabul evacuation](#) (Yahoo)
- [1st Group of Afghan Evacuees Arrives in New Jersey](#) (NBC Philadelphia)
- [Arriving Afghans without paperwork prompt delays and security challenges](#) (CNN)

Assistance

- [PA Senators share thoughts on Afghanistan, budget resolution](#) (Local News 12)
- [New Jersey receiving Afghan refugees at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst](#) (WHYY)

- [First of 9,500 Afghan Refugees Arrive at New Jersey Air Base](#) (Bloomberg)
- [Woody and Nelsen funeral homes collecting donations for Afghanistan refugees](#) (NBC12)
- [Virginia steps up aid for Afghan arrivals, seeks mass vaccination site](#) (Culpeper Star-Exponent)
- [More Virginia sites set to welcome Afghan immigrant influx](#) (Virginian-Pilot)
- [Ft. Pickett To Host Afghan Refugees](#) (NBC12)
- [Fort Pickett prepares to host Afghan refugees fleeing from the Taliban](#) (WRIC)
- [Va. Congresswoman: DoD authorizes Fort Pickett to temporarily house Afghan refugees](#) (WDBJ)
- [Sherrill Eager to Flag Cases of Vulnerable Afghan Women Leaders](#) (Insider NJ)
- [Virginia's Marine Corps Base Quantico to house 5,000 Afghan refugees](#) (ABC 3)
- [NJ Marine fights to get special visas for his Afghan interpreter, his family](#) (PIX 11)