

NATIONAL NEWS

[Homeowners face new risks and costs](#)

Media coverage continued over the weekend on changes to FEMA's NFIP with [AXIOS](#) reporting that policies will no longer include subsidized plans that for decades helped prop up home values in some of the most dangerous flood zones. The article notes Risk Rating 2.0 includes more risk variables than previous methodologies, including flood frequency, flood types, distance to water sources, elevation and costs to rebuild. The article goes on to say there are now an additional 6 million properties in danger of flooding based on the new risk model, concentrated in the eastern half of the United States, particularly in Louisiana, Delaware and New Jersey.

The [Associated Press](#) reports hundreds of thousands of Louisiana homeowners, many of them still digging out of Hurricane Ida's destruction, will see rising flood insurance costs because of RR2 and the article says it's setting of alarm bells. The article says people could end up being billed thousands more annually after the full phase-in, and some key lawmakers suggest FEMA deliberately won't share information about how expensive premiums will get. Sen. Bill Cassidy says, "These are working families who are trying to make ends meet, and suddenly they're no longer able to protect themselves."

An editorial in the [Tampa Bay Times \(FL\)](#) reports area policy holders will see their flood insurance costs rise due to RR2. The editorial suggests there are still a lot of questions that need to be asked about our national flood insurance strategy to include whether there's a benefit to subsidizing catastrophic home insurance for Americans and the best approach to dealing with "repetitive loss properties." The article also brings up the idea of an umbrella federal insurance program that would include coverage for earthquakes, wildfires, floods and other disasters.

A [Quartz Media](#) article outlines the changes to NFIP and how flood insurance works. The article says that under RR2 77% of policyholders will see an increase in their rates, of which the majority will be \$10 per month or less. The rest will see no change or a decrease. The article says NFIP needs further reform and FEMA should establish an option buy-out program for low-income homeowners who would rather leave risky flood zones than accept higher rates. Some related articles include [AP](#), [Tampa Bay Times](#), [Daily Kos](#), [Hartford Courant \(CT\)](#) and others can be viewed in the NFIP section of the newsletter.

[Meteorologists eye the next possible tropical feature to impact the US](#)

Things are slowing down in the tropics as Sam continues to head into the North Atlantic as a Category 2 hurricane while Victor slowly fades over open water. However, the [Weather Channel](#) reports forecasters are watching an area of showers near the Bahamas that have a low chance of developing into a tropical system that would be named Wanda. In a worst-case scenario, [AccuWeather](#) says it's possible a strengthening tropical storm or hurricane could move northward along the Atlantic coast next weekend and into next week. That would be bad news for some areas because stormy, wet weather is expected throughout most of this week from Florida to D.C. Drenching rain will stretch well inland from the coast, bringing gusty winds, and locally strong thunderstorms.

['Crumbs:' Federal aid falls short for southwest Louisiana](#)

Lake Charles Mayor Nic Hunter has strong words for the federal disaster aid package that his state will be getting after multiple natural disasters. The [Associated Press](#) reports the \$1.6 billion in disaster block grant aid passed last week by Congress will be split among states for all 2020 disasters, with southwest Louisiana anticipated to get \$600 million for damage caused by multiple hurricanes. Hunter says, "When you look at other singular hurricanes over the last 20 years and the billions of dollars that have flowed down to those communities, \$600 million is crumbs." The article says estimated unmet needs for Hurricanes Laura, Delta and Zeta are around \$3 billion. [KPLC News 7 \(LA\)](#) reports Hunter went on to say, "This is our first bite at the apple, and it's a pretty rotten apple. I think when the history books look back on this chapter, it's going to be a pretty dark and ridiculous chapter in American history of natural disaster recovery."

[UPDATE: FEMA says Assumption Parish suspect is not their worker](#)

In Louisiana, FEMA is once again cautioning about disaster related scams after a man claiming to be a FEMA employee was telling residents in Assumptions Parish that he was working storm related claims for FEMA. [KATC News 3 \(LA\)](#) reports FEMA officials said Sunday the man "is not a FEMA Contractor or employee." The man provided a number to call but the first thing requested was a Social Security number. FEMA told KATC that you should always ask to see a FEMA worker's ID badge noting, "All FEMA representatives carry an identification badge with a photograph. A FEMA shirt or jacket is not proof of identity." FEMA reiterated it has a FEMA Fraud Hotline for these types on incidents.

[Three Maine firefighters honored during national event](#)

The 40th Annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Emmitsburg, Maryland, was the site of a ceremony Sunday as the names of 215 firefighters that died in the line of duty were added to the memorial. [WABI News 5 \(ME\)](#) reports the event was not held last year due to the pandemic. FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell attended the event and said, "This memorial is a symbol of a reminder of the life and service of our fallen firefighters. They will live forever in our hearts." [KTBC News 7 \(TX\)](#) reports the names were added to the seven-foot, stone monument with an eternal flame that honors the spirit of all firefighters. Criswell said, "The people we honor today are missing from this realm, but they are not gone. They live within us through memories, the ways they made you smile, and through all they touched along the way."

AFGHAN ARRIVALS MISSION

- [Military Bases Turn Into Small Cities as Afghans Wait Months for Homes in U.S.](#) (New York Times)
- [93 Afghan refugee students start new life in U.S. at Fairfax County Public Schools](#) (WUSA9)
- [Local restaurant partners with Philabundance to provide meals for Afghan refugees](#) (FOX29)

COVID-19

- [Covid surge appears to be declining](#) (NBC News)
- [Fauci Says U.S. Is Turning the Corner on Latest Covid Surge](#) (Bloomberg)
- [COVID-19: 90% of population may need to be vaccinated to end pandemic](#) (FOX News)
- [Children of color lack access to COVID-19 vaccines, and that's sadly 'not a surprise,' experts say](#) (USA Today)
- [Johnson & Johnson will seek F.D.A. authorization for a booster shot.](#) (New York Times)
- [Merck COVID-19 treatment pill could be available by end of year, Dr. Adalja predicts](#) (FOX News)

- [Fauci: "False narrative" to think COVID vaccine obsolete if Merck drug approved](#)
(Axios)

FEDERAL REGISTER

- Meetings: Technical Mapping Advisory Council, [FR Document: 2021-21515](#)

CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS

Senate: [In Session](#)

House: [Not In Session](#)

(Click on links for status/updates)

Hearings/Briefings/Other Events: N/A