

November 24, 2021

NATIONAL NEWS

[See what it's like for former Free Soil resident as the FEMA admin](#)

FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell is back in her hometown of Manistee in Northern Michigan for the holidays. Criswell spent time talking to reporters this week about her path to becoming the first female to head FEMA and her priorities for the agency. The [Manistee News Advocate \(MI\)](#) has published part two of their interview with Criswell with a focus on how COVID has impacted the agency, the role of climate change in disasters and the need to equitably deliver aid to underserved communities. Criswell also talked about the growing role of mitigation and the importance of taking care of FEMA employees who are passionate to serve. [9and10 News \(MI\)](#) also published a 15 minute audio interview with Criswell where she talked with Eric Lloyd about some of the same issues as above and how growing up in a small town helped her understand that disaster aid is not a one-size-fits-all approach.

[Whatcom County flood losses could reach \\$50 million from last week's atmospheric river; Another deluge on the way](#)

In Washington, the [Spokesman-Review \(WA\)](#) reports damages from flooding in Whatcom County could reach as high as \$50 million according to local officials during a briefing Tuesday. Last week, a Pineapple Express storm drenched Whatcom County for three days with the Nooksack River inundating the communities of Everson, Nooksack and Sumas. The breakdown is \$15 to \$20 million in damage to houses in the area, “tens of millions of dollars” in damage to public infrastructure and another \$15 to \$20 million in damage to area business centers. Damage assessments are continuing and will be added to losses in 13 other Western Washington counties that Gov. Jay Inslee declared as disaster areas in hopes of getting federal aid.

[Santa Ana winds to raise Southern California fire danger](#)

The [Associated Press](#) reports red flag warnings are in effect Wednesday through Friday afternoon for portions of Southern California as the Santa Ana winds increase wildfire risks. Utility companies have announced possible public safety power shutoffs over the next few days. [AccuWeather](#) says wind gusts could reach 80 mph at times as a critical fire risk stretches from San Diego to north of Los Angeles. Forecasters warn the combination of low humidity, high winds and drought means residents and visitors should familiarize themselves with several potential escape routes should a fire ignite.

[At least 1,800 Lafourche Parish residents still without temporary housing after Ida](#)

Thousands of Louisiana families are still without a home to celebrate Thanksgiving. [WVUE News 8 \(LA\)](#) reports as the state continues rolling out its temporary housing program, created because FEMA’s was moving too slow, leaders in hard hit areas like Lafourche say there’s not much to tout. “It’s just been as slow, you know, as FEMA’s program,” Lafourche Parish President Archie Chaisson said. State officials say the temporary housing initiative has helped hundreds of families with over 1,300 trailers deployed and 820 families housed. Chaisson says he and other local leaders have a conference call every Wednesday with state and FEMA officials and the Terrebonne Director of Homeland Security and all they hear is a myriad of

reasons on why the program is not moving faster. Chaisson says, “We just beat them up every Wednesday because it’s a shame, again, that it’s taken this long. So, just know that we’re fighting that we’re trying to get them here as fast as we can.”

COVID-19

- [Virginia Congressman pushing back against federal vaccine mandates](#) (13 News)
- [Calvert County COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic Site to Relocate](#) (Southern Maryland Chronicle)
- [Coronavirus: State reports 5,186 new cases; 73.7% of Pa. adults fully vaccinated](#) (Your Erie)
- [Bowser’s decision to lift indoor mask mandate has DC parents feeling left behind](#) (WTOP)
- [Holiday Recommendations](#) (Delaware.gov)

REGIONAL NEWS

- [Ida swamped their home — now they're thankful for the volunteers who helped them recover](#) (Yahoo)
- [Operation Holiday fundraising begins to help local families in need](#) (Times Herald)
- [Chester County, the wealthiest in the state, launches new homelessness initiative](#) (PhillyVoice)
- [Homeowners Continue to Struggle to Rebuild 3 Months After Hurricane Ida](#) (NBC10 Philadelphia)
- [Thousands Raised For Ida Flood Victims At Phoenixville Concert](#) (Patch)
- [Proof of COVID-19 vaccine will be required for all US land border crossers](#) (Fox 5 DC)
- [Turkey emergency? We're here to help you keep your holiday cool](#) (Delaware Online)
- [Biden taps emergency oil reserves as Thanksgiving travel looms](#) (Delaware Public Media)
- [Pennsylvania Surpasses 15 Million Vaccine Doses, Hospitalizations Continue to Rise](#) (WKOK)
- [Pa. Attorney General's office files emergency petition to keep school mask mandate in place](#) (Action News 4)
- [8 Civilian Employees of the Philadelphia Police Department Indicted on Theft and Fraud Charges For Collecting Pandemic Unemployment Assistance](#) (US Attorney’s Office)
- [Sensors will soon be put on roadways throughout Hampton Roads to measure flooding](#) (Virginia Pilot)
- [Governor-elect vows to strike down vaccine, mask mandates in January](#) (Times News)
- [Four Sentenced this Week for Roles in Pandemic Unemployment Fraud, Mail Fraud Scheme](#) (US Attorney’s Office)
- [D.C. Enacts Paid COVID-19 Vaccine Leave and Extends Public Health Emergency Leave Under DC FMLA](#) (JD Supra)
- [The best things to do in the D.C. area the week of Nov. 24-Dec. 1](#) (Washington Post)

- [Hospitalizations up, active cases down in new COVID numbers](#) (MetroNews-Radio)
- [West Virginia officials report drop in active COVID-19 cases](#) (The Parkersburg News and Sentinel)
- [Additional Kanawha County COVID-19-related death reported](#) (WCHS-TV)

CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS

Senate: Not [In Session](#) Adjourned until 11/29/21 at 3pm.

House: [Not In Session](#) Adjourned until 11/30/21 at noon

Hearings/Briefings/Other Events: None

FEDERAL REGISTER

Implement Pandemic Response Voluntary Agreement Under Section 708 of the Defense Production Act

FR Document: [2021-25650](#)