

From: FEMA-ActionOffice-Resilience <fema-actionoffice-resilience@fema.dhs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2019 10:55 AM
To: civildefensebook@gmail.com
Cc: FEMA-ActionOffice-Resilience
Subject: Your letters to FEMA
Attachments: Signed response - Mabee 1st letter.pdf

Flag Status: Flagged

Good afternoon Mr. Mabee,

Thank you for your correspondence with FEMA Deputy Administrator, Dan Kaniewski, dated March 28, 2019. In your last communication, you mentioned that you did not receive a response to your original letter. I have attached our previous response to your letter dated March 7, 2018. This email addresses your concerns from the letter dated March 29, 2019.

In your most recent letter, you addressed the Building Cultures of Preparedness Report and Electromagnetic Pulse. The FEMA Higher Education Program facilitates the development of works of independent scholarship by researchers and educators from across the nation's emergency management higher education programs. These works do not represent FEMA's official stance or perspective, and FEMA includes a disclaimer on all reports of this nature that the work is a product of the academic community and does not reflect FEMA's official position. One recent product, the **Building Cultures of Preparedness Report**, has sparked a vigorous and frequently positive dialogue across the nation on new, potentially more effective approaches in achieving the FEMA Strategic Goal 1. FEMA did not authorize the article with the attention-grabbing headline in *Emergency Management Magazine* that is mentioned in your letter.

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) serves as the Nation's risk advisors for critical infrastructure owners and operators. We lead the national effort to secure and protect critical infrastructure from all threats and hazards, to include EMP and GMD. CISA's primary role in managing EMP and GMD risks is through cross-sector coordination and information sharing, to ensure stakeholders have access to current information on risks and any resources to assist with mitigation efforts.

All critical infrastructure sectors are, to some degree, at risk from EMP and GMD events due to the potential loss of critical functions. However, the precise extent of critical infrastructure vulnerabilities to such events remain uncertain. CISA acknowledges that sectors like energy and communications are of greatest concern due to their vulnerabilities to EMP, however, other sectors are also at risk due to their dependencies on these two sectors. For those reasons, relative to other sectors, there have been a lot of energy and communications sector activities to mitigate EMP and GMD threats.

In an effort to broaden the focus on EMP risk, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) finalized a strategy to protect and prepare the Nation's critical infrastructure against EMP events in October 2018. The Strategy sets strategic goals that promote risk awareness, outlines preparedness actions to reduce the impacts from EMP and GMD events, and lists activities to facilitate response and recovery should an EMP or GMD incident occur.

DHS is reviewing the Executive Order (EO) and will review, modify, or create any plans, procedures, and guidance to enact the EO.

If you have any questions or concerns on community resilience, please feel free to reach out to the contact referenced in the first response – Matthew Lyttle (matthew.lyttle@fema.dhs.gov) in the National Preparedness Directorate's Individual Community Preparedness Division.

Resilience Action Office

Resilience/ FEMA

FEMA-ActionOffice-Resilience@fema.dhs.gov



December 26, 2017

Dear Mr. Mabee:

Thank you for your correspondence to FEMA Administrator Brock Long regarding community preparedness and resilience. Administrator Long asked that I respond on his behalf.

I appreciate you sharing your book, [The Civil Defense Book](#). Involving community groups in the preparedness of their families, homes, businesses, and schools is a central tenet of FEMA's work. The Whole Community approach to emergency management remains a critical component of the National Preparedness System designed to do just as you state: achieve a more prepared and resilient United States. To that end, FEMA provides a great deal of information on how individuals and families can get prepared for emergencies on the www.ready.gov website.

Your letter also mentions the importance of "grassroots, bottom-up" efforts in building resilient communities. I also believe this to be a critical component of developing local capabilities to handle likely hazards. In fact, the 2017 National Preparedness Report (www.fema.gov/national-preparedness-report) highlights many of these types of efforts that made a difference in recent disasters. One of the most inspiring, in my opinion, relates to housing disaster survivors after the August 2016 flooding in Louisiana:

During the August flooding in Louisiana, FEMA created a Multi-Agency Shelter Transition Task Force to transition survivors from shelters into temporary housing. Task force teams comprised representatives from Federal and nongovernmental organizations, including FEMA, the American Red Cross, and Catholic Charities. Teams reviewed survivor cases as a group, which increased coordination of resources across agencies and organizations to best support the needs of disaster survivors, including maintaining the health, independence, and self-determination of individuals with disabilities. (p.70)

Through your efforts and ours, as well as the work of all emergency managers, I believe we can build these kinds of collaborations across the country. We can prepare communities to manage the hazards and threats they face. Together, we can address this challenge and move the nation forward.

If you would like to discuss community resilience with some of our FEMA professionals, I encourage you to contact Matt Lyttle (matthew.lyttle@fema.dhs.gov) in the National Preparedness Directorate's Individual and Community Preparedness Division. That Division manages many of the FEMA programs and activities designed to build grassroots community resilience. Again, I thank you for your commitment to community preparedness and your efforts to build a stronger nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathleen M. Fox".

Kathleen M. Fox, Acting Deputy Administrator
Protection and National Preparedness
Federal Emergency Management Agency