

THE EXTREME REPUBLICAN SHUTDOWN SUSPENDS DISASTER RELIEF

A government shutdown would be devastating for hundreds of communities attempting disaster happens during a shutdown. A Republican shutdown would hamstring disaster recovery efforts, leaving families with little or no help to rebuild until the government is funded.

- **Our critical disaster recovery funding lifeline is almost empty.** Without additional funding, the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) – which supports all disaster response and recovery efforts overseen by FEMA – will run out. FEMA will have to stop providing money to states, critical services non-profits, and individuals trying to rebuild after a disaster.
- **Already stressed state and local governments would face further pressure if the government shuts down.** A shutdown would halt most regulatory, legislative, public, and intergovernmental affairs, unless those functions are justified by an exception like saving lives. This would place a substantial burden and great uncertainty on state, local, and tribal governments when managing recent or new disasters.
- **Disaster response staff will be furloughed.** The government has never shutdown while also allowing the DRF to run dry – a likely outcome if extreme Republicans refuse to fund the government. While it is hard to know how long a shutdown would last and if any catastrophic disasters will occur during that period, FEMA could burn through the remaining funds within a fairly short period of time. If this happens, it would increase the number of FEMA personnel furloughed, further decreasing FEMA's ability to complete DRF related support activities. Under a shutdown, 15.8% of FEMA's total staff would be furloughed. If those out of work employees find new jobs during the shutdown, it could be difficult to reconstitute the federal disaster workforce, undermining disaster response and recovery capabilities.
- **Funding for firefighters and emergency response managers will dry up.** In the case of a shutdown, FEMA will have to stop administering critical grants, like those that support fire fighters and emergency managers.

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