

Federal Emergency Management Agency, DHS

§ 5.20

§ 5.4 Availability of records.

(a) FEMA records are available to the greatest extent possible in keeping with the spirit and intent of FOIA and will be furnished promptly to any member of the public upon request addressed to the office designated in § 5.26. The person making the request need not have a particular interest in the subject matter, nor must he provide justification for the request.

(b) The requirement of 5 U.S.C. 552 that records be available to the public refers only to records in being at the time the request for them is made. FOIA imposes no obligation to compile a record in response to a request.

§ 5.5 Exemptions.

Requests for FEMA records may be denied if disclosure is exempted under the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, as outlined in subpart E. Usually, except when a record is classified, or when disclosure would violate any other Federal statute, the authority to withhold a record from disclosure is permissive rather than mandatory. The authority for nondisclosure will not be invoked unless there is compelling reason to do so.

§ 5.6 Congressional information.

Nothing in this part authorizes withholding information from the Congress except when executive privilege is invoked by the President.

§ 5.7 Records of other agencies.

If a request is submitted to FEMA to make available current records which are the primary responsibility of another agency, FEMA will refer the request to the agency concerned for appropriate action. FEMA will advise the requester that the request has been forwarded to the responsible agency.

§ 5.8 Records involved in litigation or other judicial process.

Where there is reason to believe that any records requested may be involved in litigation or other judicial process in which the United States is a party, including discovery procedures pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or Federal Rules of Criminal Pro-

cedure, the request shall be referred to the Chief Counsel.

§ 5.9 Inconsistent issuances of FEMA and its predecessor agencies superseded.

Policies and procedures of any of FEMA's predecessor agencies inconsistent with this regulation are superseded to the extent of that inconsistency.

Subpart B—Publication of or Availability of General Agency Information, Rules, Orders, Policies, and Similar Material

§ 5.20 Publication of rules and general policies.

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(1), there are separately stated and currently published, or from time to time there will be published, in the FEDERAL REGISTER for the guidance of the public, the following general information concerning FEMA:

(a) Description of the organization of the Headquarters Office and regional and other offices and the established places at which, the employees from whom, and the methods whereby the public may obtain information, make submittals or requests, or obtain decisions.

(b) Statement of the general course and method by which FEMA functions are channeled and determined, including the nature and requirements of all formal and informal procedures available.

(c) Rules of procedure, descriptions of forms available or the places at which forms may be obtained, and instructions as to the scope and contents of all papers, reports, or examinations.

(d) Substantive rules of general applicability adopted as authorized by law, and statements of general policy or interpretations of general applicability formulated and adopted by FEMA.

(e) Each amendment, revision, or repeal of the materials described in this section. Much of this information will also be codified in this subchapter A.