

Impact Of A Government Shutdown

Monday, September 30, 2013 | The Washington Post

A government shutdown next week would interrupt some services and potentially jeopardize the paychecks of more than 800,000 federal workers. The Office of Management and Budget has asked



agencies to begin making contingency plans. Their first stop will be their plans from 2011. The federal government does not stop functioning completely, and by law, certain agencies must operate with unsalaried employees. They include those that deal with national security and the safety of people and property, as well as those that manage benefits such as Social Security payments.

Department of Commerce

Officials at the Commerce Department would not discuss their current plans for a

shutdown. A detailed plan prepared in 2011 indicated that about two-thirds of the agency's 46,000 employees would be idle. The major exceptions: Roughly 10,000 employees at the U.S. Patent Office would continue working because the agency would be able to draw on reserves generated by the fees it collects. If the shutdown is prolonged, the patent office would have to close. Some 5,700 employees at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration would stay on the job because their collection and dissemination of weather and other data are considered necessary "to protect life and property."

Federal Courts

According to Judge John D. Bates, Director of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Federal Courts could continue to operate for approximately two weeks with reserve funds. After reserve funds are depleted, only essential employees would continue to work. Each court would have flexibility in determining which employees are essential other than judges, who will work.

Department of Defense

The Defense Department would continue to conduct military operations and training exercises. All 1.4 million active-duty uniformed military personnel would stay on the job. As for the roughly 800,000 civilian employees, the Pentagon has not yet determined how many would be classified as essential. The most recent time a shutdown loomed, in 2011, about half of the civilians were deemed essential. All active-duty members are paid on the first and 15th of every month. In the event of a shutdown, they would be paid Oct. 1 for the previous two weeks of work, but the following paycheck would be at risk for delay if the government closure is prolonged.

Department of Education

The department would still distribute \$22 billion to public schools that is normally obligated on Oct. 1. This represents the second half of 2013 funding already appropriated by Congress to help educate poor and disabled K-12 students as well to fund career and technical education programs. This funding does not require further Congressional authorization. If the shutdown lasts a week, approximately 212 of the department's 4,225 full and part-time employees will be working. Another 30 employees may be called to work if the shutdown lasts longer than a week. Pell Grants and Federal Direct Student Loans would continue to be processed, although payments may slow if there are fewer employees to process them. Other grant programs that use dollars that have previously been appropriated will continue, including Race to the Top, Investing in Innovation, and Promise Neighborhoods.

Department of Energy

Most of the Department of Energy's activities would cease during the shutdown, with big exceptions for the office overseeing the safety of the nation's nuclear arsenal and the administrators in charge of dams and transmission lines around the country. The Department of Energy currently has 13,814 employees. During a shutdown, all but 1,113 would be sent home, according to a contingency plan the agency recently posted on its website. Some 343 employees would stay to work at the National Nuclear Security Administration, which oversees the nation's nuclear weapons and naval reactor programs. And more than 400 employees would stay on to work at the Southwestern Power Administration and the Western Area Power Administration, which are in charge of overseeing hydroelectric power and transmission lines in the South and Western United States. The agency would also keep on a few employees in each of its dozens of offices mainly to oversee "the protection of human life and property."

Environmental Protection Agency

On Monday, Gina McCarthy, administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, said her department would all but close in the event of a government shutdown. "EPA effectively shuts down, with only a core group that are there in the event of an emergency," McCarthy told reporters at a breakfast hosted by the

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Christian Science Monitor. Pressed on the number of people who would be furloughed, McCarthy offered no specifics but said the "vast majority of people" would not be paid if there were no government budget. McCarthy said the EPA would retain enough workers to "keep the lights on and respond in the event of a significant emergency."

The Federal Reserve

The Federal Reserve is self-funded and would remain open and operational.

Department of Health and Human Services

Furloughing 40,512 staff, while retaining 37,686. While the agency would be sending home more than half of its workers, the lack of funding would not affect various offices equally. For instance, HHS said "grant-making and employee-intensive agencies" such as the Administration for Children and Families and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration would have to furlough "the vast majority of their staff." Many parts of HHS would linger in a state between full functioning and total shutdown. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention would continue "minimal support to protect the health and well-being of U.S. citizens," but it would have a "significantly reduced capacity" to respond to outbreaks and would be unable to support its annual flu program.

Department of Homeland Security

According to 2011 contingency plans, most DHS employees would not be impacted. The Department of Homeland Security's 2011 contingency plan designated about 84 percent of the agency's roughly 230,000 employees as "essential," meaning they would have remained on the job for the "safety of human life or protection of property." Some of those workers would have also been part of an "emergency relocation group" that responds to possible emergency situations. Among DHS components, the Transportation Security Administration would have retained about 87 percent of its workforce under a 2011 shutdown, while about 74 percent of Federal Emergency Management Agency and 84 percent of both Coast Guard and Customs and Border Protection employees would have remained on the job. Topping the list with the highest percentage would have been U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, at 98 percent, followed by the Secret Service, with 89 percent.

Food and Drug Administration

The FDA would continue "limited activities" at programs that are funded through industry user fees, and would continue "select vital activities" such as handling high-risk recalls of tainted food or drugs. Officials said the FDA would be unable to keep up the majority of its food safety, nutrition and cosmetics oversight. The agency would be forced to furlough 6,620 workers, or about 45 percent of its 14,779-person workforce. The agency would have to cease routine inspections, monitoring of imports and "the majority of the laboratory research necessary to inform public health decision-making."

Department of Housing and Urban Development

The agency's contingency plan said that just 379 of 8,709 employees would be expected to work during a shutdown. The vast majority of HUD's agencies would be staffed by skeleton crews, with the exception of Ginne Mae, the mortgage guarantee agency, where 43 of 108 employees would be expected to report to work. While Ginne Mae and many of the department's homelessness programs would continue to operate, many other agencies functions would be suspended. HUD would not provide local housing authorities with additional money for choice housing vouchers. Meanwhile, the nation's 3,300 public housing authorities would not receive payments from HUD although most of those agencies have enough money to continue providing tenant rental assistance through October.

Department of Interior

The Department of the Interior oversees the nation's parks, wildlife and a host of issues focused on protecting the country's "natural resources and heritage." During a partial shutdown, it would be operating with a significantly smaller workforce and national parks would be closed to the public. Agencies under its authority: National Park Service; U.S. Geological Survey; Fish and Wildlife Service; Bureau of Indian Affairs; Bureau of Ocean Energy Management; Bureau of Land Management; Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement; and Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement.

The Department of Interior has a total of 72,562 employees. More than 58,000 employees would be facing furloughs, and those remaining on the job as exempted workers (6,306) have mostly law enforcement and security-related duties.

Department of Justice

The Department Of Justice is comprised of about 40 divisions that have a broad array of national security, law enforcement and criminal justice responsibilities. Because of that, the it has a high percentage of activities and employees that are excepted from a government shutdown. Of 114,486 employees, an estimated 96,744 will be excepted from furlough under the Justice Department plan. Approximately 17,742 employees would be subject to possible furlough. All Federal Bureau of Investigation agents and support personnel in the field are exempt from the furlough because the operations of the Bureau are focused on national security and investigations involving protection of life and property. All agents in the Drug Enforcement Administration field organization are exempt from the furlough because they are

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working on active counternarcotics investigations. All agents in the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives are also exempt, as are U.S. attorneys across the country, all staff at federal prisons and the chairman and commissioners of the U.S. Parole Commission.

Department of Labor

Officials at the Department of Labor would not discuss their current plans for a shutdown.

Impact on workers A detailed plan prepared in 2011 indicated that roughly 3,000 of the agency's 16,116 employees would work during a shutdown. Those employees largely work in public safety and health at the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the Mine Safety and Health Administration. Those furloughed include employees working at the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Employment and Training Administration. However, Job Corps centers, which train about 60,000 disadvantaged youth across the country each year, would remain open.

National Institutes of Health

NIH declined to share the details of their plans but according to the 2011 plan the NIH Clinical Center would continue to provide direct medical services and maintain research protocols for current patients but would not admit any new patients or initiate any new clinical trials. Under the 2011 plan, 2,564 staff NIH members would be excepted for the provision of patient care, 982 to protect property related to on-going medical experiments, 652 for maintenance of animals and protection of inanimate government property and 235 to maintain computerized systems to support research and clinical patient care.

Securities and Exchange Commission

The filings the SEC receives from corporations – everything from financial reports to initial public offerings – will still be automatically published on the agency's Website. But the staff will not be able to review the information or provide interpretive advice.

Smithsonian

Essentially, all Smithsonian institutions, museums and zoos will be closed every day the shutdown is in effect. "The only federal employees that can work are the exempted or previously approved which includes security, maintenance and the Zoo employees that are responsible for the care of the animals," Linda St. Thomas, Chief Spokesperson for the Smithsonian Institution said.

Department of State

The State Department, which receives funding in the annual State, Foreign Operations and Related Appropriations Act, will be able to operate for a limited time. Activities carried out by the Bureau of Consular Affairs, both domestically and abroad, are fee-funded and will continue operations. The Department will continue passport operations and visa issuance overseas. Some passport offices are located in federal buildings that may be forced to shut down during a lapse in appropriations, due to a lack of building support services. Embassies and consulates overseas will continue to provide American citizen services.

Supreme Court

A government shutdown is not likely to affect the Supreme Court, at least immediately, as the court's new term is scheduled to start Oct. 7. The court has made no official announcement, but it continued to operate during previous government shutdowns.

Department of Veteran Affairs

Medical services offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs would not be affected by a shutdown. Benefits programs would probably be affected. The VA's regional offices handling disability claims would have limited services, and the Veterans Benefits Administration would be unable to process education and rehabilitation benefits. The Board of Veterans' Appeals would be unable to hold hearings. The VA projects that 95 percent of its 332,000 employees are exempt from furlough, including the 289,000 employees who work for the Veterans Health Administration. The department estimates that 14,224 of its employees face furlough, including more than 7,200 who work for the Veterans Benefits Administration, 3,200 IT workers and more than 1,000 who work for the National Cemetery Administration. That is all.

1. In appropriate paragraph form, compare and contrast the differences and similarities of any two heavily impacted federally funded agencies in light of an impending government shutdown. Provided the preliminary proactive contingency plans established, do you believe our nation can withstand the inevitable repercussions of a federal shutdown provided the already sluggish economy? Thoroughly explain your reasoning and provide specific artifacts and evidence not limited solely to article above to support your response. Create and illustrate a Venn Diagram to effectively explore relationships and patterns and to make arguments about relationships between sets. **(LA.910.3.2.2; LA.910.1.6.2; MA.912.D.7.2; MA.912.A.10.1)**
2. Tommy Two Times is a disgruntled federal employee who initially encountered insurmountable overdraft fees provided a human resources data entry error and now involuntarily subjected to an undetermined number of unpaid furlough days. As a necessary supplemental means of income,

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- he is pursuing independent employment via the lawn care industry. Tommy purchases a John Deere D140 22 HP V-Twin Hydrostatic 48-in Riding Lawn Mower with Briggs & Stratton Engine for \$2075 and charges \$50 per lawn. Define a variable for the number of lawns mowed and another for profit. Write the equation in slope-intercept form. Identify the slope and y-intercept. Transform the equation to standard form. Design a table, which includes a domain, range, and function rule. Graph the results. Identify the rate of change and the type of correlation present. Is the equation a direct variation? Find the constant of the variation. Identify the domain and range of each relation. Identify the dependent and independent variables. Create a mapping diagram, and determine whether a function exists via the Vertical-Line Test. **(MA.912.A.3.7 – MA.912.A.3.13; MA.912.A.1.4; MA.912.A.2.13; MA.912.A.2.2 – MA.912.A.2.4)**
- The slope of a line describes its steepness. A higher slope value indicates a steeper incline. The slope is defined as the ratio of the "rise" divided by the "run" between two points on a line, or in other words, the ratio of the altitude change to the horizontal distance between any two points on the line. Given two points (x_1, y_1) and (x_2, y_2) on a line, the slope m of the line. Illustrate and example of each and determine whether each statement regarding slope is accurate. In the event it is incorrect, explain: A rate of change must be either positive or negative. All horizontal lines have the same slope. A line with slope 1 always passes through the origin $(0,0)$. The slope of a line that passes through Quadrant III must be negative. Two points with the same x-coordinate are always on the same vertical-line and therefore, a function exists. **(MA.912.A.1.4; MA.912.A.2.13; MA.912.A.10.1; MA.912.A.2.1 – MA.912.A.2.4, MA.912.A.3.7 – MA.912.A.3.12)**
 - The Secret Service is a federal law enforcement agency attached to the Department of Homeland Security. One of their primary objectives is to ensure the safety of current and former national leaders and their families. A critical task as an agent is to serve as a lookout. During his sequestration speech, the lookouts identify a suspicious individual, measure the angle of their perspective, and disseminate concerns electronically via a covert audio communication device. A strategically placed agent uses the angle to locate the suspect. Illustrate the diagram to determine specifically how many lookouts are required to locate the perpetrator. Classify the triangle formed by its sides, measure the angles formed, and classify the triangle by its angles. Thoroughly explain your reasoning via the applicable Congruence Postulate or Theorem. **(MA.912.G.1.2; MA.912.G.2.3; MA.912.G.4.1; MA.912.G.4.3; MA.912.G.4.4; MA.912.G.4.6)**
 - In America, the U.S. Treasury Department's Bureau of Engraving and Printing is charged with designing and manufacturing paper bills. The main facility comprises two adjacent buildings and the architectural style of what is generally considered the main structure is neoclassical. The main façade consists of stone columns spanning the 505-foot length. The building is 296 feet deep and 105 feet high with four wings. Illustrate *only* an applicable portion of the diagram and classify a triangular shape using the support beams by its sides and its angle measurements. Determine the measurements of each interior angle provided one of which equates to 70 degrees. What is the measure of exterior angle $(2x - 5)$? Explain your reasoning. Thoroughly explain your reasoning via the applicable Congruence Postulate or Theorem. **(MA.912.G.1.2; MA.912.G.2.3; MA.912.G.4.1; MA.912.G.4.3; MA.912.G.4.4; MA.912.G.4.6)**
 - Identify and thoroughly support your reasoning regarding which of the following that best describes the author's attitude toward the likelihood of a government shutdown: flippant disregard, mild frustration, passive resignation or an informed citizen. Explain the intended purpose of this article and identify any indicators or supporting evidence, which suggest the author may possess a bias for or against the shutdown. What is the central idea and what conclusion might one obtain? Provide an inference anyone employed via the federal government may derive from this material. The point of view employed is best described as first person, second person, third person, or a combination of first and third person. In what regard might the information in this article be referenced for an independent student research project analyzing the collaborative working relationships of politicians with opposing opinions. **(RI.9-10.1 – 10.6)**
 - Using contextual clues *only*, determine the most complete and accurate definitions of following italicized terms: *contingency*, *prolonged*, *dissemination*, *depleted*, *obligated*, *appropriated*, *furloughing*, *rehabilitation*, *consulates*, *inanimate*, and *tainted* as obtained from the passage above. Additionally, use each word in a complete sentence to demonstrate further comprehension. **(LA.910.1.6.3; LA.910.1.6.1)**
 - SARASOTA MILITARY ACADEMY WORD-OF-THE-WEEK** Create a concluding paragraph aligned with the passage above using the following italicized word: *Potentate* n. a powerful ruler; an important person mourn **(LA.910.1.6.1; LA.910.1.6.5)**

Lank lewe die Daughtry Times | Due Monday, October 7, 2013

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