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Federal Agencies Lay Out Contingency Plans for Possible Shutdown

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WASHINGTON — As Congress continued to spar on Saturday over a stopgap spending measure to keep the government running, federal agencies made contingency plans for a potential shutdown.

Each [cabinet-level department and federal agency](#) was required to identify essential personnel and determine which operations would continue if no deal were reached by Tuesday, the first day of the new fiscal year.

Although huge parts of the federal bureaucracy [could be forced to close](#), many government functions would continue.

Senior Pentagon officials said on Friday that the more than 1.3 million active military personnel would remain on duty during a shutdown but would probably not receive their paychecks until a spending agreement was reached. The service members and civilians who stay on the job would be categorized as essential to the protection of life and property and to national security.

About half of the Defense Department's approximately 800,000 civilian employees would be furloughed without pay.

There is little question that troops deployed to Afghanistan would continue their missions, as would warships now off the coast of Syria to pressure President Bashar al-Assad's government to adhere to a plan to surrender its chemical weapons stockpile.

[Documents released on Friday by the Pentagon](#) listed essential duties that would be carried out during a government shutdown, including recruitment, intelligence and surveillance, fire protection, counseling and other services for sexual assault victims, operations of mortuary facilities for fallen service members, and a broad range of medical care.

The military is one of several departments whose employees are considered essential for national security purposes. The Department of Homeland Security, which comprises organizations like the Secret Service, Customs and Border Protection and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, would have to furlough roughly 14 percent of its employees, far lower than many other cabinet-level agencies.

Nearly all of the F.B.I.'s roughly 16,000 agents and analysts at its headquarters and its 56 field offices across the country would continue to work because they are considered essential to

protecting the country. “Nonessential” employees like carpenters and dock employees who unload shipments would be told to stay home.

Most employees of the State Department would continue to report to work, domestically and abroad. Most overseas employees, and many of the people working in Washington to support them, would be considered essential because of their diplomatic and national security functions.

Much of the State Department operates outside the normal Congressional appropriations process, meaning many bureaus and offices would remain open. Most passport offices, for example, would continue to process applications normally because the department’s consular function is financed largely through fees.

Although more than half of the Department of Health and Human Services would be furloughed, [Medicare](#) and [Medicaid](#) beneficiaries would continue to receive services. Retirees would continue to get checks from the Social Security Administration.

The rollout of President Obama’s [health care law](#), with the first insurance marketplaces to go online starting on Tuesday, would continue because most of the money for that program was provided by the Affordable Care Act and other laws.

The Food and Drug Administration would continue some vital activities, like product recalls and the inspection of imports, but would curtail many other [food safety](#) activities.

National parks and their visitor centers would be closed, but other Interior Department operations would carry on. Approximately 500 Fish and Wildlife Service employees, whose salaries are paid by a permanent appropriation, would continue caring for animals at parks and hatcheries. At the United States Geological Survey, employees would continue to monitor equipment to forecast floods or detect earthquakes and volcano activity. Native Americans would continue to receive benefits payments, and the Bureau of Indian Education would operate its schools.

The District of Columbia, whose budget is approved by Congress, would normally be required to send home all but its most essential employees, shuttering services like public libraries and the Department of Motor Vehicles.

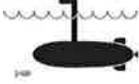
But in protest of Congress’s inability to agree on a spending measure, Mayor Vincent C. Gray informed the Office of Management and Budget that he had deemed all district employees to be essential.

While Mr. Gray’s gambit seemed legally tenuous, the chairman of the City Council, Phil Mendelson, was expected to hold a vote on Tuesday on legislation that would allow the city, during a federal shutdown, to pay its employees from a contingency reserve fund.

Robert Pear contributed reporting.

Who Goes to Work? Who Stays Home?

If the federal government shuts down on Tuesday, some employees will continue reporting to their departments and agencies, while others will be furloughed. [Related Article »](#)

	TOTAL EMPLOYEES	PCT. WHO WILL BE FURLOUGHED	Stays Home	Must Work
NASA	18,134	97%	NASA TV employees	International Space Station scientists 
Environmental Protection Agency	16,205	94%	Pesticide regulators 	Superfund project managers 
Commerce	46,420	87%	Census Bureau economists	National Weather Service meteorologists
Labor	16,304	82%	Labor statisticians	Mine inspectors
Interior	72,562	81%	National park visitor center employees 	Fish hatchery employees 
Treasury	112,461	80%	Winery permit processors 	Money printers and engravers
Energy	13,814	69%	Renewable energy researchers	Nuclear submarine engineers 
Health and Human Services	78,198	52%	Food inspectors 	National Institute of Health staff who work with lab animals 
Defense	800,000	50%	Environmental engineers	Military recruiters
Transportation	55,468	33%	Inspectors who work on auto recalls 	Air traffic controllers 
Social Security Administration	62,343	29%	Actuaries 	Claims representatives
Justice	114,486	15%	Pardon attorneys	Drug enforcement agents 
Homeland Security	231,117	14%	New employee trainers 	Secret Service agents 
Veterans Affairs	332,025	4%	Public affairs officers	V.A. hospital nurses 

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Source: Office of Management and Budget