

National Aeronautics and Space Administration



NASA Shutdown Furlough Guide for Employees

Version 6

**Office of Human Capital Management
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Document History Log

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Basic (Version 1)	December 4, 2014	Basic Release
Revision (Version 2)	September 24, 2015	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Removed broken direct link to the OPM Shutdown Furlough page. Retained the navigation instructions. 2. Replaced the internal-facing NASA Shutdown Furlough guidance page references with the new link and title, NASA Plan for a Potential Government Shutdown. 3. Updated the Workers' Compensation information to remove references to outdated Center procedures, directing readers to the NSSC as needed. 4. Clarified information regarding state unemployment office requirements for unemployment compensation paperwork required. 5. Added paragraph 4.4, Employment Not Requiring Prior Approval. 6. Updated Appendix A, Acronyms and Abbreviations. 7. Updated reference in Attachment 2, 5 CFR § 6901, Supplemental Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. 8. Fixed minor punctuation.
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		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. In Appendix B: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Added note regarding eOPF no longer being available outside the NASA network and removed any information indicating otherwise. b. Added information on academic education to the item discussing the status of training already scheduled. c. Clarified examples of types of shutdown activities that will take less than 15 minutes in the item discussing when and how you perform shutdown activities. d. Added this guide to the list of items to save and/or print related to the shutdown. 5. In paragraph C.2, Additional NASA-specific FAQs, added question #1 regarding a Web site with NASA-specific information. 6. In paragraph D.2, SF 8, Notice to Federal Employee About Unemployment Insurance, added clarifications about downloading the SF 8 to ensure you locate the most updated information.
Revision (Version 5)	January 25, 2017	Updated format and styles for consistency with other similar documents and enable better conversion to PDF for accessibility.
Revision (Version 6)	August 27, 2018	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Corrected minor typos and format. b. Updated Web addresses throughout, including Department of Labor (DOL) sites/references and the eOPF direct link. c. Changed Workers' Compensation to Federal Workers' Compensation throughout. d. Updated EAP contact information throughout. e. Added references to using the Employee Notification System (ENS) throughout. f. Changed references from Telework/Work From Anywhere (WFA) to Telework throughout. g. Deleted references to intermittent status or work schedule throughout. 2. Paragraph 2.2.3, NASA Information: clarified who is authorized to use NASA Webmail during a Shutdown Furlough and only on authorized devices. 3. Paragraph 2.2.5, Systems and Programs Information: updated ENS location information. 4. Paragraph 2.2.6, Federal Workers' Compensation Information:

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Added information on who may need this information. b. Clarified the contents of the DOL ECOMP page. 5. Paragraph 2.2.7, Help/Assistance Information: added information on using either EAP phone number or the Center's local EAP phone number. 6. Section 4, Outside Employment, paragraph 4.1, Overview: provided additional information regarding political appointees. 7. Appendix B, Basic Checklist Before a Shutdown Furlough: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Added IT at NASA item. b. Clarified excepted status descriptions in the Know and understand your Shutdown Furlough status item. c. Added items 6 and 7 on the Gather information if you will or may be required to work item. d. Clarified several items in the Understand your rights and responsibilities regarding Federal Workers' Compensation item. 8. Paragraph C.2, Additional NASA-specific FAQs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Added FAQ regarding if an SES/ST/SL employee is affected by the furlough. b. Added FAQ regarding shutdown activities occurring on an employee's Regular Day Off (RDO). c. Clarified details regarding an EAP toll-free number being available during a Shutdown Furlough. d. Added FAQ regarding return-to-work notification methods.

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Section 1 – Introduction

This section provides an overview of the document content, as well as how the information is arranged.

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) employees regarding Government Shutdown Furloughs. This guide includes basic information, a checklist, and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). Your Center and your supervisor will provide additional information as it becomes available.

Important: BEFORE A SHUTDOWN FURLOUGH, it is critical that you download and save this document and any other furlough resources to a non-Government personal computer/device. You should also carefully review the information to ensure you have everything you need before a furlough. During a partial or full Shutdown Furlough, the Web sites, phone numbers, and other resources listed in this document may not be available. It is important that you download all the content you need from all sources BEFORE A SHUTDOWN FURLOUGH. This means not just saving Web addresses; it means saving the content to a non-Government personal computer/device.

1.2 Background

It is critical that supervisors and employees prepare for and communicate with each other to effectively implement a Shutdown Furlough. This guidance provides helpful information as well as a checklist of key Human Resources (HR) considerations in the event of a shutdown.

1.2.1 Understanding the Types of Furloughs

The United States Office of Personnel Management (OPM) provides definitions of the two types of furloughs on the [OPM Pay & Leave Furlough Guidance](#) Web page. There are a few main differences between a Shutdown Furlough and an Administrative Furlough:

- Shutdown Furlough:
 - Occurs when there is a lapse in appropriations.
 - Not a planned event with very little time for agencies to prepare. Note that even though Shutdown Furloughs may be widely covered in the media for a period of time leading up to the event, it is not a “planned” event to help an agency like an Administrative Furlough is defined.
 - Also called a Shutdown, a Government Shutdown, or an Emergency Furlough.

- Administrative Furlough:
 - Used to help an agency absorb reductions that are not related to a lapse in appropriations.
 - An agency-planned event.

Since the circumstances related to a Shutdown Furlough and an Administrative Furlough are very different, this guide provides information on Shutdown Furloughs only.

1.2.2 Understanding Excepted vs. Furloughed Activities and Employees

During a Shutdown Furlough, there are laws that govern which activities may continue to be performed (i.e., excepted activities) and which may not (i.e., non-excepted or furloughed activities). Per Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidelines and in consultation with our Office of General Counsel (OGC), NASA has worked to determine which of our activities may continue under the legal restrictions that govern a Shutdown Furlough (i.e., lapse in appropriations). The following are very brief explanations of these terms:

- Excepted:
 - Excepted Activities: The activities that may legally continue to be performed.
 - Excepted Employees: Based on this legal determination about the excepted activities, NASA has determined which employees would continue to report to work to perform the excepted activities.
- Non-excepted/Furloughed:
 - Furloughed Activities: The activities that may not legally continue to be performed.
 - Furloughed Employees: All employees who are not assigned to perform excepted activities must legally be placed on furlough.
 - If you are furloughed, please note that you may **not** volunteer to work in a nonpay status for NASA during a Shutdown Furlough. We understand that it may be difficult to stop working on your many important projects, deadlines, e-mails, etc. However, provisions of the Antideficiency Act (i.e., 31 United States Code (U.S.C.) §1342, Limitation on Voluntary Services) specifically prohibit this.
- Changes in Furlough Status:
 - Your status may change over time as circumstances evolve (e.g., you may be non-excepted then be called in to work).
 - If a change in your status occurs, you will be informed directly.

Note: Your categorization as excepted or non-excepted is not a reflection on the quality of your work nor is it an indication of your importance to our Agency. It is merely a reflection of the legal requirements under which we must operate should a lapse in funding occur.

1.3 Applicability

This desk guide is applicable to NASA Headquarters (HQ) and NASA Centers, including Component Facilities, the NASA Shared Services Center (NSSC), and the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). Unless otherwise stated, the use of the word Center(s) in the text of this document includes NASA Headquarters, the NSSC, and OIG, and any reference to Center Director(s) includes the Executive Director, Headquarters Operations and the Executive Director, NSSC. This desk guide is for use by all NASA Civil Service employees.

1.4 About This Document

This document contains information on regulations and processes relating to Government Shutdown Furloughs. The following appendices and attachment are included in this document:

- Appendix A, Acronyms and Abbreviations
- Appendix B, Basic Checklist Before a Shutdown Furlough
- Appendix C, Shutdown Furlough FAQs
- Appendix D, Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees
- Attachment 1, SF 8, Notice to Federal Employee About Unemployment Insurance, Prefilled for NASA Employees
- Attachment 2, 5 CFR § 6901, Supplemental Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Section 2 – References

This document contains references that, in some cases, are for specific subparagraphs; however, this section generally lists the primary document or code. For your convenience, when a Web link is available, this document provides it embedded into the instructions. Since Web links may “break” or become invalid, this section provides instructions for navigating to the sites.

2.1 References

The following references were used in the preparation of this desk guide:

- a. Administrative Personnel, 5 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).
 - Location:
 - Visit www.ecfr.gov.
 - Click the drop-down arrow and select the **Title 5 – Administrative Personnel** option. Then click the **Go** button.
 - Click to select the desired link.
 - Note that there are numerous parts of the 5 CFR that are referenced in this guide.
- b. United States Code (U.S.C.).
 - Location:
 - Visit <http://uscode.house.gov>.
 - Use the search fields or click the desired link in the list.
 - Note that there are numerous parts of the U.S.C. that are referenced in this guide.

2.2 Shutdown Furlough Resources

This document also contains important resources you will need to prepare for a Shutdown Furlough. Please thoroughly review this document and these resources **BEFORE** a Shutdown Furlough.

Important: Since we cannot predict which Web sites and resources will be available during a Shutdown Furlough, we **strongly** recommend that you **download all the content you need from all sources listed here and in this document** **BEFORE A SHUTDOWN FURLOUGH**. This means not just saving Web addresses; it means **saving the content** to a non-Government personal computer/device.

Your Center may provide other specific guidance and resources. For your convenience, basic resources found in this guide are consolidated in the following list:

2.2.1 OPM Information

As noted previously, Government Web sites and resources may not be available during a Shutdown Furlough. Please review and save any content you need before a Shutdown Furlough.

- a. [OPM Pay & Leave Furlough Guidance Page](#)
 - Location:
 - Visit www.opm.gov.
 - Click the **Policy** tab.
 - In the left navigation pane, click the **Pay & Leave** drop-down arrow and then click the **Furlough Guidance** link.
 - This page contains an overview of the two different types of furloughs.
- b. OPM Shutdown Furlough Page
 - Location: From the [OPM Pay & Leave Furlough Guidance page](#), click the **Shutdown Furlough** tab.
 - This page contains a great deal of information, including guidance and sample letters for creditors.
 - Please review and save, at a minimum, the **“Guidance for Shutdown Furloughs”** document containing:
 1. FAQs dealing with working during a furlough, pay, leave, benefits, retirement, etc.
 2. Sample Shutdown Furlough notice.
- c. OPM Unemployment Insurance Resources Page
 - Location: From the [OPM Pay & Leave Furlough Guidance page](#), click the **Unemployment Insurance Resources** tab.
 - This page contains important information and links for unemployment insurance. Please review and save the information contained in the links under the **Unemployment Insurance Information for Federal Workers** heading.

2.2.2 Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) Information

As noted previously, Government Web sites and resources may not be available during a Shutdown Furlough. Please review and save any content you need before a Shutdown Furlough.

TSP Web Page

- Location: <https://www.tsp.gov>.
- To locate the “Effect of Nonpay Status on Your TSP Account TSP” publication:
 - Visit the [TSP Forms & Publications: All Publications](https://www.tsp.gov/forms/allPublications.shtml) Web page at: <https://www.tsp.gov/forms/allPublications.shtml>.
 - In the **Jump to** alphabet links, click the **N** link.
 - Click the **Effect of Nonpay Status on Your TSP Account** PDF link.

2.2.3 NASA Information

As noted previously, Government Web sites and resources may not be available during a Shutdown Furlough. Please review and save any content you need before a Shutdown Furlough.

a. [NASA Operating Status and Furlough Information Page](#)

- Location: <https://nasapeople.nasa.gov/shutdown/shutdown.htm>.
- This page will be updated with Shutdown Furlough information as it becomes available. Please review and save all information on this page.
- Note that the **Frequently Asked Questions** link on this page accesses the “Operations and Furloughs Under a Government Shutdown – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)” document.

b. [NASA Webmail](#)

- Location: <https://webmail.nasa.gov>
- If you are an excepted employee and given permission to access your NASA e-mail during a Shutdown Furlough, you may use the Outlook Web Application (OWA) at <https://webmail.nasa.gov> to access your work e-mail only from a Government-issued computer/device. Please note that all NASA Information Technology (IT) Security rules must be followed.

Only validated users on authorized IT devices and software can connect to the internal NASA network via a NASA Virtual Private Network (VPN). Authentication is limited to Personnel Identity Verification (PIV), Agency Smart Badge, or RSA Token.

- c. “Operations and Furloughs Under a Government Shutdown – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)”
 - Location:
 - Visit the [NASA Operating Status and Furlough Information Page](#).
 - Click the **Frequently Asked Questions** link.
 - This document contains general information related to a Shutdown Furlough, including some NASA-specific information.

2.2.4 Unemployment Compensation Information

As noted previously, Government Web sites and resources may not be available during a Shutdown Furlough. Please review and save any content you need before a Shutdown Furlough.

- a. OPM Shutdown Furlough Web Page
 - Location: From the [OPM Pay & Leave Furlough Guidance Overview page](#), click the **Unemployment Insurance Resources** tab.
 - Under the **Unemployment Insurance Information for Federal Workers** heading, review and save the information for each of the links.
- b. [Department of Labor \(DOL\) CareerOneStop Service Locator Page](#)
 - Location: <http://www.servicelocator.org/OWSLinks.asp>.
 - This page contains links to each state.
- c. [DOL State Unemployment Insurance Benefits Page](#)
 - Location: <https://workforcesecurity.doleta.gov/unemploy/uifactsheet.asp>.
 - This page contains an overview of state unemployment insurance information.
- d. [DOL Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees Page](#)
 - Location: <https://workforcesecurity.doleta.gov/unemploy/unemcomp.asp>.
 - This page contains an overview of unemployment compensation.
- e. [DOL Unemployment Insurance Page](#)
 - Location: <https://www.dol.gov/general/topic/unemployment-insurance>.
 - This page contains an overview of unemployment insurance information and links to additional information.

f. [NSSC Unemployment Compensation Page](#)

- Location: <https://www.nssc.nasa.gov/unemployment-compensation>.
- This page contains important information for NASA employees, including links to forms and state unemployment offices.

2.2.5 Systems and Programs Information

As noted previously, Government Web sites and resources may not be available during a Shutdown Furlough. Please review and save any content you need before a Shutdown Furlough.

a. [Electronic Official Personnel Folder \(eOPF\)](#)

- Location:
 - Direct Link: <https://eopf.opm.gov/nasa/>.
 - Through the [Human Resources Portal](#) at <https://hr.nasa.gov/>. Click the **System Launcher** tab, then click the **eOPF – Official Personnel Folder** link.
- Your Standard Form (SF) 50s and other important personnel documents are kept in your eOPF.
- Note that eOPF is **only** available when using the NASA network (i.e., at a NASA location or using the NASA VPN). It is not expected to be available during a Shutdown Furlough. Please ensure you access and print any needed information **before** a Shutdown Furlough.

b. [Employee Express](#)

- Location:
 - Access within the NASA network is through the [Human Resources Portal](#) at <https://hr.nasa.gov/>. Click the **System Launcher** tab, then click the **Employee Express** link.
 - Access outside of the NASA network (i.e., from a non-Government personal computer/device) is gained by visiting <https://www.employeeexpress.gov> and logging in using your Employee Express credentials.
- Employee Express Help Desk:
 - E-mail Address: EEXHelp@opm.gov.
 - Contact the Employee Express Help Desk by sending a detailed e-mail message with the following information:
 - Your Name

- Your Employing Agency Name
 - Your Daytime Phone Number
 - A detailed description of your problem (for security reasons, **DO NOT** include your Social Security Number (SSN), Login ID, or Password in your message)
- c. Employee Notification System (ENS)
- Location:
 - In [Employee Express](https://www.employeeexpress.gov) at: <https://www.employeeexpress.gov>.
 - Under the **Miscellaneous** heading, click the **Emergency Contact Information** link, update all information, then click the **Save** button.
 - Employees are encouraged to update their emergency contact information in Employee Express at least 2 weeks prior to an anticipated Shutdown Furlough to allow for high usage traffic in Employee Express immediately prior to a furlough.

2.2.6 Federal Workers' Compensation Information

As noted previously, Government Web sites and resources may not be available during a Shutdown Furlough. Please review and save any content you need before a Shutdown Furlough. Employees who may need this information include (1) those who have already submitted an injury/illness claim; (2) supervisors of those who have filed a claim; (3) those who are required to work during a Shutdown Furlough and wish to file a claim after sustaining an injury/illness; and (4) supervisors of employees who opt to file a claim during a Shutdown Furlough.

- a. [NSSC Federal Workers' Compensation Page](#)
- Location: <https://www.nssc.nasa.gov/workers-compensation>.
 - This page contains important information for NASA employees, including links to applicable forms.
- b. [DOL Division of Federal Employees' Compensation \(DFEC\) Page](#)
- Location: <http://www.dol.gov/owcp/dfec/FECA-benefits-furlough.htm>.
 - This page contains information specifically related to furloughs.
- c. [DOL Employees' Compensation Operations & Management Portal \(ECOMP\) Page](#)
- Location: <https://www.ecomp.dol.gov/>.
 - This site contains claimant and claimant-supervisor tutorials, guidance, forms, and claim status regarding a work-related injury or illness.

2.2.7 Help/Assistance Information

As noted previously, Government Web sites and resources may not be available during a Shutdown Furlough. Please review and save any content you need before a Shutdown Furlough.

Please note that if your Center provides contact information for help or assistance, you should use that information. If you need other assistance, please refer to the following:

- a. Employee Assistance Program (EAP): 1-888-728-1404.
Please note that the EAP phone number will be active during a Shutdown Furlough. Some NASA Centers' local EAP providers may also furnish contact numbers. It is the employee's choice to use the 1-888-728-1404 phone number or their Center's local EAP phone number.

- b. [NASA Operating Status and Furlough Information Page](#)

- Location: <https://nasapeople.nasa.gov/shutdown/shutdown.htm>.
- This page will be updated with Shutdown Furlough information as it becomes available. Please review and save all information on this page.
- Note that the **Frequently Asked Questions** link on this page accesses the "Operations and Furloughs Under a Government Shutdown – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)" document.

- c. NSSC Customer Contact Center:

- Web Site: www.nssc.nasa.gov
- Phone: 1-877-677-2123 (1-877-NSSC123); Option 3
- E-mail: nssc-contactcenter@nasa.gov

The NSSC Customer Contact Center supports NSSC-provided services, including Financial Management, HR, Procurement, IT, and Agency Business Services. Please note that the NSSC phone number will be active during a Shutdown Furlough for urgent/emergency issues.

- d. Enterprise Service Desk (ESD):

- Web Site: <https://esd.nasa.gov>
 - Access within the NASA network is automatic through eAuth.
 - Access outside of the NASA network (i.e., from a non-Government personal computer/device) is gained by logging in using your Launchpad credentials (Agency User ID (AUID) and password).
- Phone: 1-877-677-2123 (1-877-NSSC123); Option 2
- E-mail: nasa-esd@mail.nasa.gov

The ESD supports NASA's IT Infrastructure Integration Program (I3P) services. Please note that depending on each Shutdown Furlough situation, the ESD may or may not remain open for limited service support.

Section 3 – Preparing for a Shutdown Furlough

3.1 Impact to NASA Employees

When a Shutdown Furlough occurs, it is tempting to recall previous furloughs, determine how those previous furloughs affected employees, and try to predict the impact of a current furlough.

However, since each Shutdown Furlough is driven by different issues related to a lapse in appropriations (i.e., funding gaps), it is impossible to assume that the impact will remain the same. Some things to know:

- a. **Pay and/or back pay for a Shutdown Furlough event is not guaranteed. Each event requires Congressional approval for any pay or back pay.**
- b. Every event is different with different variables, including which agencies are affected, length of time of the event, etc.
- c. The impact to you will be determined by Congressional legislation, by OPM regulation, and by NASA implementation rules.
- d. The activities and personnel included in the requirement to stop working are determined by law.
- e. Government services, including Web sites, are affected. Which services are affected varies depending on the event.
- f. If an activity is “excepted” from a Shutdown Furlough, it means that by law, the work may continue to be performed. Employees who perform an excepted activity may be put on a full-time, part-time, or “on call” status as determined by the Agency legal counsel and senior management.
- g. Employees who are participating in the Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) or on details should contact their Center HR Office for guidance relating to the Shutdown Furlough.

3.2 Important Steps Before a Shutdown Furlough

We want you to be prepared with important information you may need during a Shutdown Furlough. To do that, you must do a number of things **BEFORE A SHUTDOWN FURLOUGH**.

Important: Since we cannot predict which Web sites and resources will be available during a Shutdown Furlough, we **strongly** recommend that you **download all the content you need from all sources** **BEFORE A SHUTDOWN FURLOUGH**. This means not just saving Web addresses; it means **saving the content** to a non-Government personal computer/device.

Please complete the following steps **BEFORE A SHUTDOWN FURLOUGH** to ensure you have the information you need:

1. Read Materials BEFORE a Possible Shutdown Furlough:

- a. Review the information in this document.
- b. Review the other resources identified in this document.

2. Gather Needed Information BEFORE a Possible Shutdown Furlough:

BEFORE any Shutdown Furlough begins, it is important that you gather any information and forms you may need. A partial or full Shutdown Furlough usually means that some or all Government Web sites will not be available.

- a. At a minimum, you should have this document and the relevant checklist items printed or saved on a non-Government personal computer/device in the event you cannot access your Government computer.
- b. Additionally, since many Web sites are unavailable during a shutdown, we recommend that you print all relevant documents/content found on Web sites or download information found in links prior to a shutdown.

3. Complete the Checklist Items BEFORE a Possible Shutdown Furlough:

For helpful checklists and information you need prior to a Shutdown Furlough, please refer to Appendix B, Basic Checklist Before a Shutdown Furlough.

3.3 Shutdown Furlough Questions

Understandably, you will have many questions regarding a Shutdown Furlough. Keep in mind that each one is a separate event with unique circumstances. Some of your questions may be answered prior to a Shutdown Furlough, but others will be answered in time, either by Congressional legislation or by Agency decision based on OPM guidance.

Many of your questions may be answered by reviewing/saving the following **before** a furlough:

1. Appendix C, Shutdown Furlough FAQs, in this document.
2. [OPM Pay & Leave Furlough Guidance Page](#), including the **Overview** and **Shutdown Furlough** tabs.
3. [NASA Operating Status and Furlough Information Page](#), including the **Frequently Asked Questions** link.

If you have questions not answered by these resources, you may contact your Center HR Office before a Shutdown Furlough or the NSSC at 1-877-677-2123 (1-877-NSSC123) or by e-mail at nssc-contactcenter@nasa.gov.

Section 4 – Outside Employment

Note: The NASA OGC provided the content for this section.

4.1 Overview

NASA's outside activities regulations in 5 CFR § 6901, Supplemental Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, prohibit some kinds of outside employment and specify certain outside activities for which employees need prior approval. To ensure you refer to the most current version of the regulations, we strongly recommend accessing the official source at www.ecfr.gov. If you are unable to do so, a copy of the regulations has been provided for your convenience in Attachment 2, 5 CFR § 6901, Supplemental Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Certain political appointees are also subject to additional restrictions on outside activities, including, but not limited to, those found in 5 CFR § 2636.

Federal ethics requirements for employees, including outside employment restrictions, remain in force during a furlough. Since NASA ethics officials and approving supervisors are furloughed during a Shutdown Furlough, if you are interested in engaging in outside activities during the furlough, you should request and obtain any necessary approvals prior to a furlough. Similarly, if you require ethics advice for matters taking place during a furlough, you should seek ethics advice prior to a shutdown.

4.2 Prohibited Employment

NASA employees are prohibited by 5 CFR § 6901 from outside employment with:

1. A NASA contractor, subcontractor, grantee, or recipient of a cooperation agreement in connection with work performed by that entity for NASA; or
2. A party to a Space Act agreement, Commercial Launch Act agreement, or other agreement to which NASA is a party, if the employment is in connection with work performed under that agreement.

4.3 Employment Requiring Prior Approval

NASA employees may engage in the following kinds of outside employment with prior approval under the regulation:

1. Teaching, speaking, writing, or editing, unless the subject matter pertains to the private interests of the employee, such as a hobby, cultural activity, or professional pursuit unrelated to the employee's official duties;
2. The practice of a profession or the rendering of professional consulting services;

3. The management or conduct of a business in which the employee or the employee's spouse has an ownership interest, if that business performs, or may seek to perform, work (other than routine consumer transactions) for the Federal Government or for a NASA contractor, grantee, or other party to an agreement with NASA;
4. Holding State or local public office, whether by election or appointment;
5. Employment with a NASA contractor, subcontractor, grantee;
6. Employment with a party to a Space Act agreement, Commercial Launch Act agreement, or other agreement to which NASA is a party pursuant to specific statutory authority;
7. Serving as an officer, trustee, or member of a board, directorate, or other such body of a for profit organization or of a nonprofit organization that does or seeks to do business with NASA; or
8. Employment which involves the practice of a NASA-owned invention or the performance of experimental, developmental, research, design or engineering work that relates to the official duties of such employee.

These areas require prior approval because they implicate other legal restrictions, including but not limited to the Federal conflict of interest prohibition, 18 U.S.C. § 208, Acts Affecting a Personal Financial Interest; and the Hatch Act.

4.4 Employment Not Requiring Prior Approval

NASA employees do not need to obtain prior approval for outside activities that are not prohibited or require approval as described in this section. However, employees pursuing outside activities remain responsible for complying with all U.S. Government ethics requirements and should exercise care to do so.

Appendix A – Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronyms that are used in this desk guide are identified upon first use in this document. Thereafter, the acronym is used. In cases where the first or only instance of the use of an acronym is in a table or graphic, it may not be spelled out on first reference. Since many acronyms and abbreviations have multiple meanings, the following list includes those used in this guide and the applicable meaning:

ACRONYM/ ABBREVIATION	MEANING
AUID	Agency User ID
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DFEC	Division of Federal Employees' Compensation
DOL	Department of Labor
EAP	Employee Assistance Program
ECOMP	Employees' Compensation Operations & Management Portal
ENS	Employee Notification System
eOPF	Electronic Official Personnel Folder
ESD	Enterprise Service Desk
ETDY	Extended Temporary Duty
FAQ	Frequently Asked Question
FEDVIP	Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program
FEGLI	Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance
FEHB	Federal Employees Health Benefits
FLTCIP	Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program
FSAFEDS	Federal Flexible Spending Account
HQ	Headquarters
HR	Human Resources
HRMES	Human Resources Messaging System
I3P	IT Infrastructure Integration Program
IBC	Interior Business Center
IPA	Intergovernmental Personnel Act
IT	Information Technology
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NEBA	NASA Employees Benefit Association
NSSC	NASA Shared Services Center
OGC	Office of General Counsel
OIG	Office of the Inspector General
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
OPM	Office of Personnel Management
OWA	Outlook Web Application
PIV	Personnel Identity Verification
POC	Point of Contact
SF	Standard Form
SSN	Social Security Number
TDY	Temporary Duty

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ACRONYM/ ABBREVIATION	MEANING
TSP	Thrift Savings Plan
UCFE	Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees
U.S.C.	United States Code
VPN	Virtual Private Network
WebTADS	Web-based Time and Attendance Distribution System

Appendix B – Basic Checklist Before a Shutdown Furlough

This appendix includes a **basic** checklist that is a **starting point** for you to use **before** a Shutdown Furlough to make sure you are well prepared. Please review this information thoroughly, complete the checklist, and have all materials printed or saved to a non-Government personal computer/device. We cannot stress enough how important it is for you to complete this **BEFORE** a Shutdown Furlough. Please **do not** wait until the day a Shutdown Furlough is announced or confirmed to begin working through this checklist. The checklist includes a description of each item with Web links to more information, when available.

You will receive a great deal of information regarding the Shutdown Furlough from the Agency, your Center, and your supervisor. We have attempted to capture some of this important information; however, our list is not all inclusive. We recommend making a list of important phone numbers and e-mail addresses to supplement our checklist so you have the information readily available in one place.

√	Basic Checklist Before a Shutdown Furlough	Description
	Provide your personal contact information to your supervisor	<p>During a Shutdown Furlough, furloughed employees may not be able to use their Government-owned resources (e.g., cell phones, e-mail accounts, etc.). Provide the following information to your supervisor:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Home and/or personal cell phone number(s) where you can be reached during the furlough Personal e-mail addresses you will have access to during the furlough
	<p>Obtain and save on a non-Government personal computer/device the personal contact information for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your supervisor and/or Any other Points of Contact (POCs) as directed by your supervisor(s) 	<p>During a Shutdown Furlough, Government-owned resources (e.g., cell phones, e-mail accounts, etc.) may not be authorized to be used. Obtain the following information:</p> <p>Supervisor Name: _____</p> <p>Personal Phone: _____</p> <p>Alternate Phone: _____</p> <p>Personal E-mail: _____</p> <p>Other POC Name: _____</p> <p>Personal Phone: _____</p> <p>Alternate Phone: _____</p> <p>Personal E-mail: _____</p> <p>Other POC Name: _____</p> <p>Personal Phone: _____</p> <p>Alternate Phone: _____</p> <p>Personal E-mail: _____</p>

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✓	Basic Checklist Before a Shutdown Furlough	Description
	Update your personal contact information in the Employee Notification System (ENS) <i>before</i> a Shutdown Furlough.	<p>Since NASA may use ENS to share important messages during a Shutdown Furlough, you should validate/update your contact information before an event. In addition to other methods, NASA Centers will use ENS to send return-to-work notifications, so it is critical that your information is correct before a Shutdown Furlough begins.</p> <p>Note: NASA also uses ENS during emergencies; so, you should always update your information any time there is a change in your personal contact information.</p> <p>To update your contact information in ENS, you must use Employee Express. Complete the following steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Go to Employee Express at https://www.employeeexpress.gov. 2. Enter your Login ID and Password. 3. Click the Continue to Main Menu button. 4. Scroll down to the Miscellaneous section on the left side of page. 5. Within the Miscellaneous section, click on the Emergency Contact Information link. 6. Complete the Personal Information and Work Information sections. 7. Click the Save button (and continue to next slide).

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✓	Basic Checklist Before a Shutdown Furlough	Description
	Save and/or print copies of your latest and/or important personnel documents.	<p>We recommend you have several important documents readily available on a non-Government personal computer/device or in hard copy form. While your individual situation may require other documents, the following list includes some of the most important ones we recommend you gather relating to your Federal employment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Standard Form (SF) 50, Notification of Personnel Action (located in your eOPF) Be sure to save/print the most recent year of SF 50s, including the one with your most recent pay information. Note that eOPF is only available when using the NASA network (i.e., at a NASA location or using the NASA Virtual Private Network). It may not be available during a Shutdown Furlough. Please ensure you access and print any needed information before a Shutdown Furlough. 2. Earnings and Leave Statement (located in Employee Express) Be sure to save/print your most recent Earnings and Leave Statements. If you believe you will be interested in unemployment compensation, please remember each state unemployment office has requirements as to what period of time your Earnings and Leave Statements must cover (e.g., 1 month, 3 quarters, 1 year, etc.). BEFORE a furlough, contact your servicing unemployment office to determine what you need. 3. Form W-2, Wage and Tax Statement (located in Employee Express) 4. SF 8, Notice to Federal Employee About Unemployment Insurance (provided to employees before a Shutdown Furlough and prefilled with NASA information) Please note that if you are eligible for Unemployment Compensation and decide to apply for it, you will need this SF 8 and other documentation as listed on the SF 8 and as required by the state in which you work. Please refer to Appendix D, Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees. Note that Attachment 1, SF 8, Notice to Federal Employee About Unemployment Insurance, Prefilled for NASA Employees, contains a prefilled SF 8 that is accurate <u>as of the date of this guide</u>. Please access the latest one on the NSSC Unemployment Compensation page. 5. Formal furlough notice issued by your Center.

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✓	Basic Checklist Before a Shutdown Furlough	Description
	IT at NASA	<p>NASA laptop computers, smart phones and other resources used for remote access must be turned off and may not be used while you are furloughed. If you are recalled to duty, you are not furloughed during the period you are performing authorized excepted work, and may access/use these resources to perform the duties you have been assigned.</p> <p>All Employees: Personally owned IT devices, technology, and applications are prohibited from connecting to any NASA network or system in addition to any network or system that stores or processes NASA data.</p> <p>Non-Excepted Employees: You may keep your Government-issued mobile devices (e.g., iPhones, Androids, BlackBerrys, laptops, etc.), but you MUST turn them off after completion of your shutdown activities when you are first furloughed.</p> <p>Non-Excepted Employees are not permitted to use their Government-issued IT equipment during the shutdown.</p> <p>Excepted Employees (Full-Time, Part-Time, and On Call): You can keep your Government-issued IT devices on during the shutdown.</p> <p>Excepted employees will still have limited IT support during the furlough from the Enterprise Service Desk (ESD). Excepted individuals in need of assistance, should still continue to call 1-877-677-2123 (1-877-NSSC123). Additionally, the Virtual Private Network (VPN) will be left up during this timeframe.</p>
	From your NASA computer, check system passwords and account information for all systems and programs you may need to access.	<p>In some instances during a Shutdown Furlough, you may be able to access NASA systems for important excepted information. So, we recommend resetting passwords for systems such as NDC, profile, etc.</p> <p>You should also review password expiration dates and reset any passwords that may expire in the next 30 days to ensure you are not locked out.</p> <p>NOTE: ALL password resets should be done from your NASA computer BEFORE a Shutdown Furlough. Be sure you maintain compliance with security regulations (e.g., do <u>not</u> record that information in this document).</p>

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✓	Basic Checklist Before a Shutdown Furlough	Description
	Collect the system links you may need from a non-Government personal computer/device.	<p>In <u>some</u> instances, systems/sites may not be affected by a Shutdown Furlough. Since you will not have access to your Government equipment and will not be able to use Launchpad credentials or eAuth into your accounts, be sure you have the links, usernames, and passwords required to access the systems and sites from a non-Government personal computer/device. Be sure you maintain compliance with security regulations (e.g., do not record that information in this document).</p> <p>The following are some of the sites you may need to access (if they are available):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Employee Express (for Earnings and Leave Statement, W-2, ENS): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Go to Employee Express at https://www.employeeexpress.gov. b. Sign in with your Employee Express Login ID and Password. 2. NASA Operating Status and Furlough Information Page at https://nasapeople.nasa.gov/shutdown/shutdown.htm 3. A list of some commonly referenced sites can be found in paragraph 2.2, Shutdown Furlough Resources. We recommend adding to this checklist any other sites that you may need access to during a furlough.
	Test the system links using a non-Government personal computer/device.	After collecting the links, usernames, and passwords (in the previous item), test all of them from a non-Government personal computer/device. It is critical to complete this test BEFORE a Shutdown Furlough so you know you can access the systems and sites. Keep in mind that during a furlough, some or all of the sites may not be available, but that is determined by each event's circumstances.

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✓	Basic Checklist Before a Shutdown Furlough	Description
	Determine the status of any training or academic education already scheduled for you.	<p>If you have training scheduled during a time when a Shutdown Furlough is possible or anticipated, do the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the training information in the NASA “Operations and Furloughs Under a Government Shutdown – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)” (the Frequently Asked Questions link on the NASA Operating Status and Furlough Information Page). 2. Typically the following applies to academic education: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Employees who are in a pay status and attend academic programs on a full-time basis, will NOT be allowed to continue with their scheduled courses during a shutdown. b. Employees who attend academic courses during normal work hours (and are compensated for time spent in class) will NOT be allowed to continue with their scheduled courses during a shutdown. c. Employees who attend academic courses outside normal work hours (and are not compensated for time spent in class) will be allowed to continue with their scheduled courses during a shutdown. d. Use of Government-issued computers is NOT permitted for these purposes as it is considered a non-excepted activity. 3. Contact your Center Training POC and supervisor for additional information.
	Determine what happens if you are scheduled to travel, if you are on travel, or if you are on Temporary Duty (TDY)/Extended Temporary Duty (ETDY).	<p>If you are on travel or are scheduled to be on travel during a time when a Shutdown Furlough is possible or anticipated, do the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the travel information in the NASA “Operations and Furloughs Under a Government Shutdown – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)” (the Frequently Asked Questions link on the NASA Operating Status and Furlough Information Page). 2. Contact your supervisor for additional information.

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✓	Basic Checklist Before a Shutdown Furlough	Description
	<p>Know and understand your Shutdown Furlough status (i.e., full-time, part-time, on-call excepted or non-excepted).</p>	<p>Determining Furlough Status for Activities and Employees: In consultation with our Office of General Counsel (OGC), NASA has worked to determine which of our activities may continue under the legal restrictions that govern a Shutdown Furlough (i.e., lapse in appropriations). The activities that may legally continue are called “excepted” activities. The activities that may not legally continue are called “non-excepted” or “furloughed” activities.</p> <p>Excepted Status: Based on the legal determination about the excepted activities, NASA has determined which employees would continue to report to work to perform the excepted activities. If excepted, you may work on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Time Activities • Part Time Activities for which you are required to work only for the duration of specific, named activities or during specific time periods. • On-call Activities for which you may be called to work (at home or in the office) to perform specific excepted work. <p>Non-excepted/Furloughed Status: All employees who are not assigned to perform excepted activities must legally be placed on furlough. Note that you may not volunteer to work in a nonpay status for NASA while furloughed.</p> <p>Changes in Status: Your status may change over time as circumstances evolve (e.g., you may be non-excepted then be called in to work); if this occurs, you will be informed directly.</p> <p>What Your Status Means: Your categorization/status as excepted or non-excepted (i.e., furloughed) is <u>not</u> a reflection on the quality of your work nor is it an indication of your importance to our Agency. It is merely a reflection of the legal requirements under which we must operate should a lapse in funding occur.</p> <p>Receiving Shutdown Furlough Status Notifications: If you will perform full-time, part-time, or on-call excepted activities during a Shutdown Furlough, you will receive individual notification of your excepted status. After excepted status notifications are issued, a general notice will be sent to all employees informing them that, unless they have already received excepted status notifications, they will be furloughed. Note that this general notice is not the formal furlough notice that is normally delivered on the day the Shutdown Furlough begins.</p>

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✓	Basic Checklist Before a Shutdown Furlough	Description
	Gather information if you will or may be required to work.	<p>If you will or may be required to work during the shutdown (i.e., excepted), you should have the following information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The specific days and hours work is to be performed, if known. If you are on call, how you will be contacted. 2. What work you are permitted to perform. 3. Any specific security requirements. 4. How you will record and report time performing excepted work. 5. How you will be notified if you are required to work (e.g., Are you required to check e-mail at particular intervals? Will you receive a phone call?). 6. Guidance on filing a Federal Workers' Compensation claim if you sustain a work-related injury/illness while you are on duty/performing excepted work. 7. If you are working internationally or are scheduled to travel internationally as part of excepted work during a Shutdown Furlough, guidance on NASA's international medical evacuation benefits and notification process. <p>Please take note of the following information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You may perform only the identified excepted work. 2. You will be furloughed during all time you are not performing the excepted work.

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✓	Basic Checklist Before a Shutdown Furlough	Description
	Determine when and how you will perform shutdown activities.	<p>Shutdown activities can be done either in person or via Telework (e.g., at home or at an alternate location). You should work with your supervisor to determine which method works best. Telework may be an alternative to performing shutdown activities at an official worksite when you and your supervisor concur shutdown activities can be done remotely and if both you and your supervisor are comfortable doing so. This may be a special consideration in metropolitan areas where transportation will be significantly impacted by Federal employees reporting to work then leaving shortly thereafter. You should work with your supervisor to determine if you need a Telework Agreement.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Typically, if shutdown activities will take <u>less than</u> 15 minutes (e.g., acknowledging the furlough agreement, setting out-of-office messages, etc.) and you and your supervisor want to be able to utilize Telework as an option in the event of a shutdown, you do not need a Telework Agreement. b. Typically, if shutdown activities will take <u>more than</u> 15 minutes and you and your supervisor agree that the activities may be done at an alternate Telework location, you may need to have a Telework Agreement previously approved. Employees who need Telework Agreements must submit a Telework request with an effective date prior to the Shutdown Furlough. Supervisors should approve requests promptly and execute a Telework Agreement with you well in advance of the shutdown. If Telework is not part of your regular tour of duty, you can fill out a situational Telework Agreement.
	Determine if you need a Telework Agreement and get it approved, if needed.	If you will be performing any excepted activities via Telework during the Shutdown Furlough, you must have an approved Telework Agreement on file prior to the shutdown.

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✓	Basic Checklist Before a Shutdown Furlough	Description
	Save and/or print copies of information, guidance, and communications related to the shutdown.	<p>Before a Shutdown Furlough, a great deal of information will be sent out or made available. During a furlough, many Web sites will be down and Government computer access may be prohibited. So, we recommend that you save the information on a non-Government personal computer/device or print out relevant information and have it readily available. Examples of information and communications to save/print include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This NASA Shutdown Furlough Guide for Employees. • Leadership messages. • Agency and Center Human Resources Messaging System (HRMES) messages. • Office of Personnel Management’s (OPM’s) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). (From the OPM Pay & Leave Furlough Guidance Page, click the Shutdown Furlough tab and the Guidance for Shutdown Furloughs link.) • NASA “Operations and Furloughs Under a Government Shutdown – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)” (the Frequently Asked Questions link on the NASA Operating Status and Furlough Information Page).
	Ensure your timesheet in the Web-based Time and Attendance Distribution System (WebTADS) is accurate before a Shutdown Furlough.	You will receive guidance on updating WebTADS for the days prior to the shutdown effective date. For you to receive an accurate accounting of benefits and entitlements, you must enter your time in accordance with guidance received. We recommend you print/save the instructions and have them handy because you may be asked to complete this information shortly before a shutdown.
	Obtain any advice on your Federal ethics requirements you will need during the Shutdown Furlough.	Federal ethics requirements remain in force during a Shutdown Furlough, and certain kinds of outside work must be approved by NASA beforehand. Because NASA ethics officials and supervisors who approve outside employment requests will also be furloughed, you should obtain any ethics advice and outside activity approvals you need prior to shutdown.

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✓	Basic Checklist Before a Shutdown Furlough	Description
	<p>Know the procedures established by your Center/organization for shutdown activities, which will include at a minimum:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Open/ Acknowledge your Shutdown Furlough notice 2. Activate your out-of-office for your phone and e-mail 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Open, acknowledge, and save/print your Shutdown Furlough notice. Should a shutdown occur, you will be contacted and either provided a written or verbal notification of your Shutdown Furlough notice. You must acknowledge Shutdown Furlough notices in accordance with Center procedures and your supervisor's direction. Since you may not be able to access your NASA e-mail during the shutdown, we recommend that you print out or save your Shutdown Furlough notice and any attachments on a non-Government personal computer/device. 2. Activate your out-of-office messages according to your excepted or furloughed status. Be sure you have your Center's procedures for doing this remotely, if needed. <p>If you are an excepted employee during a Shutdown Furlough, work with your supervisor to develop appropriate messages.</p> <p>NASA recommends the following template verbiage for out-of-office messages for furloughed employees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voice Mail Template – Furloughed Employee You have reached the voice mail of <name>. NASA is currently closed due to a lapse in Government funding. I am in furlough status; therefore, I am unable to respond to your message at this time. • E-mail Out of Office Template – Furloughed Employee NASA is currently closed due to a lapse in Government funding. I am in furlough status; therefore, I am unable to respond to your message at this time.
	Understand your “return to work” procedures.	Before shutting down, discuss with your supervisor how you will be notified to return to work.

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✓	Basic Checklist Before a Shutdown Furlough	Description
	Understand your rights and responsibilities regarding Federal Workers' Compensation.	<p>If you are currently receiving or have an approved Federal Workers' Compensation claim, you will continue to work with DOL regarding your claim.</p> <p>If you have applied for Federal Workers' Compensation or your claim is pending approval, you will need to contact the NSSC Customer Contact Center for assistance.</p> <p>If during a Shutdown Furlough you are an excepted employee and are injured on the job:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Obtain medical treatment if needed. 2. Contact the supervisor you are reporting to during the furlough to report the injury. 3. If you choose to file an injury/illness claim for compensation, access the DOL Employees' Compensation Operations & Management Portal (ECOMP) page. 4. If you have additional questions, please contact the NSSC Customer Contact Center.
	Understand your rights and responsibilities regarding Unemployment Compensation.	<p>Access the NSSC Unemployment Compensation page to download the updated SF 8.</p> <p>Please refer to the following appendix and attachment in this document for more information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix D, Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees • Attachment 1, SF 8, Notice to Federal Employee About Unemployment Insurance, Prefilled for NASA Employees <p>Please note that if you receive Unemployment Compensation for the Shutdown Furlough and then receive retroactive pay, you will be required to repay the Unemployment Compensation funds.</p>

Appendix C – Shutdown Furlough FAQs

This appendix includes information on locating OPM and NASA guidance to assist you in understanding a Shutdown Furlough. It also includes limited, other NASA-specific information. As previously noted, since each Shutdown Furlough is driven by different issues related to a lapse in appropriations (i.e., funding gaps), it is impossible to predict the answers to many of your questions. The impact to you (and your benefits, pay, etc.) will be determined by Congressional legislation, by OPM regulation, and by NASA implementation rules.

The information in this appendix is meant to supplement the official guidance provided by OPM and NASA. As noted previously, Government Web sites and resources may not be available during a Shutdown Furlough. Please review and save any content you need before a Shutdown Furlough.

C.1 OPM and NASA FAQs

Please review the following documents for additional FAQs:

- OPM “Guidance for Shutdown Furloughs” (On the [OPM Pay & Leave Furlough Guidance Page](#), click the **Shutdown Furlough** tab, then the **Guidance for Shutdown Furloughs** link.)
- NASA “Operations and Furloughs Under a Government Shutdown – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)” (On the [NASA Operating Status and Furlough Information Page](#), click the **Frequently Asked Questions** link.)

C.2 Additional NASA-specific FAQs

1. **I have questions about the Shutdown Furlough. Is there a Web site where I can get NASA-specific information?**

Yes. You may visit the [NASA Operating Status and Furlough Information Page](#) for information such as the Shutdown Plan, unemployment compensation, Points of Contact (POCs) during a Shutdown Furlough, etc.

2. **I am an SES/ST/SL employee, am I affected by the furlough?**

The only NASA employees not subject to the requirements of a Shutdown Furlough are NASA Presidential appointees (i.e., NASA’s Administrator, Deputy Administrator and Chief Financial Officer). Processes and procedures for other SES/ST/SL employees, regardless of appointment type, are identical to those that apply to all other employees.

3. **I am scheduled for my Regular Day Off (RDO) on the day I am to perform shutdown activities. Will I be expected to report to work to complete the shutdown activities?**

Yes. If you are scheduled for an RDO on the expected shutdown date and are otherwise available to perform shutdown activities, you are expected to report for duty long enough to conduct those shutdown activities. Your supervisor may allow you to perform shutdown

activities at an alternate location. If you are not available for shutdown activities (e.g., out of town) for the purposes of shutdown activities, talk to your supervisor.

4. I have questions about what happens to my benefits during a Shutdown Furlough, including if I have to pay out of pocket to keep my benefits. Where can I find answers?

All of the benefits programs have different rules and regulations governing how long you may continue to be covered during a Shutdown Furlough, if out-of-pocket payments are needed, etc. The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) provides guidance. Please visit the [OPM Pay & Leave Furlough Guidance Page](#), click the **Shutdown Furlough** tab, and click the **Guidance for Shutdown Furloughs** link for information on the following:

- Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program
- Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance (FEGLI) Program
- Federal Flexible Spending Account (FSAFEDS) Program
- Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP)
- Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP)

5. I have a Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) account and have questions about how the Shutdown Furlough will affect my TSP. Where can I find answers?

There are many factors to consider regarding your TSP and a Shutdown Furlough, including the length of time you are in a nonpay status, loan repayments, etc. There are very specific laws about what can and cannot be done. BEFORE a Shutdown Furlough, we recommend that you review the TSP publication titled "Effect of Nonpay Status on Your TSP Account" and gather any paperwork and forms applicable to your situation. To locate this TSP publication, do the following:

- a. Visit the [TSP Forms & Publications: All Publications](https://www.tsp.gov/forms/allPublications.shtml) Web page at: <https://www.tsp.gov/forms/allPublications.shtml>.
- b. In the **Jump to** alphabet links, click the **N** link.
- c. Click the **Effect of Nonpay Status on Your TSP Account** PDF link.

6. I have questions about what happens to my NASA Employees Benefit Association (NEBA) benefits during a Shutdown Furlough, including if I have to pay out of pocket to keep my benefits.

Once MetLife (on behalf of NEBA) does not receive a payment from the Interior Business Center (IBC), MetLife will send you a letter to make the payment.

7. What happens if an employee or a spouse needs Survivor Benefits Counseling during a Shutdown Furlough?

Please contact the NSSC Customer Contact Center at 1-877-677-2123 (1-877-NSSC123). A counselor will be on call to handle any Survivor Benefits Counseling.

8. Will an EAP toll-free number be available during a Shutdown Furlough?

Yes. NASA provides a toll-free number (1-888-728-1404) that will be available. This number is answered by licensed and certified mental health clinicians. If you only wish to schedule a non-urgent appointment to see your local Center's EAP clinician, please do so after the Shutdown Furlough is over. Note that your Center's local EAP provider may also furnish a number to call during the Shutdown Furlough, and the choice of number to call is up to the employee.

9. How will I know when I am supposed to return to work after a Shutdown Furlough?

In addition to other methods determined by each Center, the Employee Notification System (ENS) will be used to notify employees of return-to-work information after a Shutdown Furlough.

Appendix D – Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees

As a Federal employee, you may be eligible for Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) during a Federal Government Shutdown Furlough. This appendix contains information regarding possible unemployment benefits for Federal employees during a Shutdown Furlough. Additional information may be found on the [NASA Operating Status and Furlough Information Page](#) under the **Unemployment Compensation Information** heading.

D.1 Overview

The UCFE program is administered by state Unemployment Insurance agencies acting as agents of the Federal Government. The program is operated under the same terms and conditions that apply to regular state Unemployment Insurance. In general, the law of the state in which your last official duty station in Federal civilian service is located will be the state law under which your eligibility for benefits is determined, even if your residence is in a different state. Please note that you will need to check with your applicable state Unemployment Insurance office to determine their rules and requirements, including when you may first file for benefits. If you receive Unemployment Compensation for the Shutdown Furlough and then receive retroactive pay, you will be required to repay the Unemployment Compensation funds.

D.2 SF 8, Notice to Federal Employee About Unemployment Insurance

If you choose to apply for Unemployment Compensation while on furlough, you will need to bring with you the latest SF 8, Notice to Federal Employee About Unemployment Insurance. We strongly recommend that you obtain the latest version on the [NSSC Unemployment Compensation page](#) just prior to a Shutdown Furlough event. The Department of Labor (DOL) advises that in addition to the SF 8, you should provide the state unemployment office with a copy of your most recent Earnings and Leave statement.

It is important for you to have the SF 8 in case you need to apply for UCFE benefits. When you receive/download it, **immediately** save it to a non-Government personal computer/device or print it. Since the SF 8 is a Federal Government form, if you lose it, you may not be able to retrieve another one online during a Shutdown Furlough.

Note that for your convenience, we have provided an SF 8 that is prefilled for NASA employees that is current as of the date of publication of this guide. Please refer to Attachment 1, SF 8, Notice to Federal Employee About Unemployment Insurance, Prefilled for NASA Employees. It is important to note that if there are last minute changes to the SF 8 for NASA employees, the most updated information will be located on the [NASA Operating Status and Furlough Information Page](#).

D.3 General Information

When preparing for a Shutdown Furlough, it is important to understand the rules and requirements regarding UCFE. We recommend you review the links provided here before a furlough and save all relevant information to a non-Government personal computer/device. The following are several resources with related information:

1. [OPM Pay & Leave Furlough Guidance](#) Web page
 - a. Click the **Shutdown Furlough** tab to locate the **Guidance for Shutdown Furloughs** link.
 - b. Click the **Unemployment Insurance Resources** tab to locate several links for Federal employees.
2. [DOL Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees](#) Web page
3. [DOL CareerOneStop](#) Web page with links to each state
4. [DOL State Unemployment Insurance Benefits](#) Web page

As a reminder, many Government Web sites are inaccessible during a Shutdown Furlough. Before a Shutdown Furlough, we recommend you print or save to a non-Government personal computer/device all relevant documents found on the Web sites and links provided in this guide.

Note: To obtain specific information for your state, please contact the state Unemployment Insurance agency directly. You may also review the [DOL CareerOneStop](#) Web page with links to each state.

Attachment 1 – SF 8, Notice to Federal Employee About Unemployment Insurance, Prefilled for NASA Employees

Important: Use the information on the SF 8 for employment verification. This is the **official** information you are to use if you apply for UCFE benefits. You should **not** use your Center's address and phone number to apply for UCFE benefits or to verify your employment.

Please do not share the NASA SF 8 with employees from other agencies since their form will require different information to be processed correctly.

TAKE THIS FORM WITH YOU IF YOU GO TO FILE A CLAIM

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES (UCFE) PROGRAM

NOTICE TO FEDERAL EMPLOYEE ABOUT UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

This form has been given to you because (1) you have been separated from your job, or (2) you were placed in a nonpay status, or (3) your records have been transferred to a different payroll office.

Unemployment insurance (UI) for Federal workers. When unemployed, Federal workers may be entitled to UI benefits similar to those of workers in private industry. If you become unemployed or are in a nonpay status and want to FILE A CLAIM, go to the nearest LOCAL PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OFFICE of the STATE EMPLOYMENT SECURITY AGENCY to register for work and file your claim for UI. Your ELIGIBILITY for UI CANNOT be determined until AFTER you file a claim. DO NOT DELAY filing a UI claim; if you wait, your unemployment benefits may be reduced or you may not qualify for any benefits.

To help EXPEDITE your claim, take THIS FORM with you, your SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NUMBER CARD, the OFFICIAL NOTICE of your most recent employment by a Federal agency, SEPARATION or of your present NONPAY status (Standard Form 50 if available), EARNINGS and LEAVE statements, or similar documents that indicate you were employed by a Federal agency.

FEDERAL AGENCY will insert in the box:

1st line - Parent Federal Agency

Name and 3 digit code number

2nd line - Major Component (if any)

3rd and 4th line - complete address to which all forms pertaining to a claim should be sent (ES-931, 931A, 934, 936, and notices of appeal, hearings, and determinations)

3 Digit Identification FEDERAL AGENCY		To be completed by the Federal Agency:
U. S. Department of the Interior Equifax Workforce Solutions UC Express P. O. Box 66945 St Louis, MO 63166	CODE NO. 631	Contact Name/Office Equifax Workforce Solutions
	Telephone No. (include area code)	
	1-800-366-6660 Ext 2598	

KEEP THIS FORM and TAKE IT WITH YOU if you file a UCFE/UI claim for unemployed Federal workers provided by Federal law (U.S. CODE, Title 5, Chapter 85). For more information about UCFE/UI, read the REVERSE SIDE of this form.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES (UCFE) PROGRAM

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (UI) FOR FEDERAL WORKERS

TAKE THIS FORM WITH YOU IF YOU GO TO FILE A CLAIM

GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. WHO WILL PAY UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS?

If you are eligible, you will be paid by a State employment security agency under the provisions of its unemployment insurance (UI) law. The amount of your regular weekly benefits and the period for which benefits will be paid will generally be determined by the law of the State in which you had your last Official Duty Station. This Duty Station will be printed on your final "Notification of Personnel Action", SF-50. If you have received all the regular benefits for which you are eligible, you may, under certain circumstances, become eligible for additional weeks of extended benefits; check with a State local office official. If your last duty station was outside the United States, you will not be eligible until you return to the United States, including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands. Your benefit rights will then be determined under the law of your State of residence.

UCFE/UI for unemployed Federal workers is paid from U.S. Government funds. No deductions were taken from your pay to finance these benefits.

2. UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS WILL I BE ELIGIBLE?

All State UI laws require that:

- a. You must be unemployed, able to work, and available for suitable work; (In some cases, you may be eligible if you are employed less than full time);
- b. You must register for work and file a claim at a local public employment service/UI claim office;
- c. You must continue to report to the office as directed; and
- d. You must have had a certain amount of employment/wages within a base period of 1 year specified in the State law and have been separated through no fault of your own.

All State UI laws will deny you benefits for such reasons as:

- a. Quitting your job voluntarily without good cause or being discharged for misconduct connected with work, or
- b. Refusing an offer of a suitable job without good cause.

Some State UI laws deny or reduce UI benefits for certain types of payments you may receive (retirement, severance, and/or lump-sum amount for unused, accrued annual leave).

3. DO I HAVE THE RIGHT OF APPEAL?

Yes. If a determination is made denying you benefits, you have the right to appeal as provided in the applicable State law.

4. ARE THERE ANY PENALTIES?

Yes. If you willfully make a false (fraudulent) claim, you may be fined, imprisoned, or both. If you make a mistake in giving information when you file your claim, notify the local UI claim office as soon as you discover the mistake: prompt notification may avoid a penalty.

(The above statements are issued for general information; they do not have the effect of law, regulation, or ruling.)

IF YOU BECOME REEMPLOYED and have been collection UCFE/UI benefit payments, it is your RESPONSIBILITY to notify the local office, in writing, to discontinue paying benefits now that you are employed. Failure to do so may result in a *penalty such as a fine, imprisonment, or both.*

Attachment 2 – 5 CFR § 6901, Supplemental Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Note: The content in this attachment is current as of August 20, 2014. Please refer to the official source for CFRs for the most updated information.

PART 6901—SUPPLEMENTAL STANDARDS OF ETHICAL CONDUCT FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 7301; 5 U.S.C. App. (Ethics in Government Act of 1978); 51 U.S.C. 20113(a); E.O. 12674, 54 FR 15159, 3 CFR, 1989 Comp., p. 215, as modified by E.O. 12731, 55 FR 42547, 3 CFR, 1990 Comp., p. 306; 5 CFR 2635.105, 2635.403(a), 2635.802(a), 2635.803.

SOURCE: 59 FR 49336, Sept. 28, 1994, unless otherwise noted.

§6901.101 General.

In accordance with 5 CFR 2635.105, the regulations in this part apply to employees of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and supplement the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch contained in 5 CFR part 2635. In addition to the standards in 5 CFR part 2635 and this part, employees are subject to the executive branch financial disclosure regulations contained in 5 CFR part 2634, and to additional regulations regarding their conduct contained in 5 CFR part 735 and 14 CFR part 1207.

§6901.102 [Reserved]

§6901.103 Outside employment.

(a) *General.* A NASA employee shall not engage in outside employment prohibited by paragraph (c) of this section and shall obtain approval before engaging in the outside employment activities specified in paragraph (d) of this section.

(b) *Definitions.* Unless a term is otherwise defined in this part, the definitions set forth in 5 CFR part 2635 apply to terms used in this section. In addition, for purposes of this section:

(1) *Outside employment* means any form of compensated or uncompensated non-Federal employment or business relationship involving the provision of personal services by the employee. It includes, but is not limited to, personal services as an officer, director, employee, agent, attorney, consultant, contractor, general partner, trustee, teacher, or speaker. It includes writing when done under an arrangement with another person for production or publication of the written product. It does not, however, include participation in the activities of a nonprofit charitable, religious, professional, social, fraternal, educational, recreational, public service, or civic organization, unless the organization is a prohibited source or unless such activities involve the provision of professional services or advice, or are for compensation other than reimbursement of expenses.

(2) *Profession* has the meaning set forth in 5 CFR 2636.305(b)(1).

(3) *Student intern* means a student employed through a student internship program implemented by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM).

(c) *Prohibited outside employment.* A NASA employee, other than a special Government employee or a student intern, shall not engage in outside employment with the following:

(1) A NASA contractor, subcontractor, or grantee in connection with work performed by that entity for NASA; or

(2) A party to a Space Act agreement, Commercial Launch Act agreement, or other agreement to which NASA is a party pursuant to specific statutory authority, if the employment is in connection with work performed under that agreement.

(d) *Prior approval for outside employment.* A NASA employee, other than a special Government employee, shall request and obtain approval before engaging in the following outside employment activities:

(1) Teaching, speaking, writing, or editing, unless the subject matter pertains to the private interests of the employee, such as a hobby, cultural activity, or a professional pursuit unrelated to the employee's official duties;

(2) The practice of a profession or the rendering of professional consulting services;

(3) The management or conduct of a business in which the employee or the employee's spouse has an ownership interest, if that business performs, or may seek to perform, work (other than routine consumer transactions) for the Federal Government or for a NASA contractor, grantee, or other party to an agreement with NASA;

(4) Holding State or local public office, whether by election or appointment;

(5) Employment with a NASA contractor, subcontractor, or grantee;

(6) Employment with a party to a Space Act agreement, Commercial Launch Act agreement, or other agreement to which NASA is a party pursuant to specific statutory authority;

(7) Serving as an officer, trustee, or member of a board, directorate, or other such body of a for profit organization or of a nonprofit organization that is a prohibited source; or

(8) Employment which involves the practice of a NASA-owned invention or the performance of experimental, developmental, research, design, or engineering work that relates to the official duties of such employee.

(e) *Prior approval requested by employee.* Even when not required by paragraph (d) of this section, a NASA employee may request prior approval using the procedures set forth in this section.

(f) *Form of request for approval.* A request for approval of outside employment shall be in writing and shall include the following:

(1) The employee's name and occupational title;

(2) The nature of the employment, including a full description of the specific duties or services to be performed and a statement explaining any relationship between the outside activity and the official duties of the employee;

(3) The name and address of the person or organization for which work will be done;

(4) The estimated total time that will be devoted to the activity. If the employment is on a continuing basis, indicate the estimated number of hours per year; for other employment, indicate the anticipated beginning and ending date;

(5) A statement as to whether the work can be performed entirely outside of the employee's regular duty hours and, if not, the estimated number of hours of absence from work that will be required;

(6) Whether the employee will receive compensation for the outside activity, and, if the employee is a covered noncareer employee as defined by 5 CFR 2636.303, the amount of compensation to be received; and

(7) A statement that the employee currently has no official duties involving a matter that affects the outside employer and will disqualify from future participation in matters that could directly affect the outside employer.

(g) *Approval of requests*—(1) When required to obtain approval prior to commencing outside employment pursuant to paragraph (d) of this section, a NASA employee shall receive approval from the employee's immediate supervisor. Additional authority to approve requests is as follows:

(i) Center Directors and Deputy Center Directors shall receive approval by the Associate Administrator;

(ii) Center employees shall receive approval from the Center Director or a person designated to act for the Center Director; and

(iii) Headquarters employees shall receive approval from the employee's Official-in-Charge.

(2) Prior to approval, the Office of the General Counsel shall review requests by Headquarters employees, Center Directors, Deputy Center Directors, and Center Chief Counsel. All other requests shall be reviewed by the Center Chief Counsel's office, and for Office of Inspector General employees, by the Counsel to the Inspector General.

(3) *Standard for approval*. Approval will be granted unless a determination is made that the prospective outside employment is expected to involve conduct prohibited by statute or Federal regulation, including 5 CFR part 2635 and this part.

(4) *Scope of approval*. Approval will be for a period not to exceed five years. Upon a significant change in the nature or scope of the outside employment or in the employee's NASA position, the employee shall submit a revised request for approval.

(5) *Notification of approval or disapproval*. Employees will be notified in writing of the action taken on their requests.

(6) *Records of requests*. All requests for approval will be maintained in the local human resources/personnel office where the requesting employee works, or alternatively by the local NASA legal office upon the determination of the Center Chief Counsel and by the Office of the General Counsel upon the determination of the General Counsel.

[59 FR 49336, Sept. 28, 1994; 79 FR 7566, Feb. 10, 2014; as confirmed at 79 FR 49225, 49226, Aug. 20, 2014]

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