



# ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

April 2015

## ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

### Virginia to Receive Homeland Security Grant Funds

*National Capital region will receive a \$1 million increase from the previous year*

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has allocated \$7.4 million in Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) funds to Virginia for fiscal year 2015. These grants are provided to strengthen the commonwealth's ability to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters and other emergencies. They are vital to the homeland security and emergency management community to help build, sustain and deliver programs to achieve a secure and resilient Commonwealth. In addition, the National Capital region will receive \$54 million for fiscal year 2015 as part of the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI), a \$1 million increase from the previous fiscal year. Virginia's proposal for the federal grants is developed with input from local and state governments, nonprofit organizations and others from throughout the commonwealth. The proposal identifies statewide and regional projects that will improve Virginia's capabilities to plan for and respond to manmade and natural emergencies. Project submissions will open in June and funds will be distributed to localities for projects selected on a competitive basis by fall 2015. Further information on DHS's preparedness grant programs is available at [www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov) and <http://www.fema.gov/grants>.

### Thunderstorms and Lightning

Did you know lightning continues to be one of the top three storm-related killers in the United States? And did you know that all thunderstorms produce lightning?

#### Before:

- If you hear thunder roar, go indoors!

#### During:

- Don't touch anything metal outside.
- Stay away from open fields, hills or beaches.
- Don't lie on concrete floors or lean against concrete walls – they conduct electricity.

#### After:

- Stay away from loose or dangling power lines.
- Stay away from areas damaged by the storm or flood waters.

Get tips to be prepared before, during and after thunderstorms and lightning!

<http://www.ready.gov/thunderstorms-lightning>



## Thunderstorms and Lightning



### Now Available: Third Edition of FEMA's Publication, Safe Rooms for Tornadoes and Hurricanes: Guidance for Community and Residential Safe Rooms

FEMA's Building Science Branch recently updated FEMA P-361, "Safe Rooms for Tornadoes and Hurricanes: Guidance for Community and Residential Safe Rooms." The publication was featured at this year's National Hurricane Conference March 30-April 2, in Austin, Texas. FEMA P-361 provides the most current, up-to-date guidance on constructing a safe room that provides near-absolute protection from the deadly winds and windborne debris associated with extreme-wind events for its occupants. The information presented in FEMA P-361 is the culmination of many years of post-disaster investigations into the performance of safe rooms and storm shelters during tornadoes and hurricanes. FEMA grant programs have provided approximately \$985 million in federal funds towards the design and construction of nearly 25,000 residential and 2,000 community safe rooms in 25 states, tribes and territories. This investment aligns with FEMA's strategic goal to support disaster resilience and the ability of our

local communities to withstand and recover rapidly from disasters. All safe rooms constructed with FEMA grant funds must adhere to the FEMA recommended criteria described in FEMA P-361 and the requirements as described in the most current edition of FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Unified Guidance. To review or download the most current HMA Unified Guidance, visit [www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance](http://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance). FEMA's Building Science Branch develops guidance that supports communities in becoming safer by reducing loss of life and property and becoming more disaster-resilient. For more information, visit [www.fema.gov/building-science](http://www.fema.gov/building-science). <https://www.fema.gov/fema-p-361-safe-rooms-tornadoes-and-hurricanes-guidance-community-and-residential-safe-rooms>

### **National Flood Insurance Program Rate Changes Effective April 1**

As part of the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act (HFIAA) and Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (BW-12), FEMA continues to take important steps to implement changes to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) as called upon by the 2012 and 2014 flood insurance reform legislation. These reforms slow some flood insurance rate increases and offers relief to some policyholders who experienced steep flood insurance premium increases in 2013 and early 2014. In October of 2014, the NFIP's flood insurance rate structure and business practices were further revised to implement certain provisions of the new reforms and take effect for new business and renewals beginning on and after April 1. Through the NFIP, FEMA provides the opportunity for homeowners, renters, and business to purchase flood insurance for financial protection from flooding. FEMA also works with communities to update and develop flood maps to inform the community of their current flood risk. These actions allow community members to take important steps to prepare for flooding risk in their area. For detailed information on program changes please see the April 1, 2015 Program Changes Fact Sheet at <http://1.usa.gov/1AYFv5Q> or visit [www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program/flood-insurance-reform](http://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program/flood-insurance-reform).

### **National Safe Digging Month**

April is National Safe Digging Month – dedicated to bringing attention to the importance of calling 811 before beginning any digging or demolishing project to avoid damaging underground utility lines. Virginia has thousands of miles of underground utility lines providing residents of communities and businesses with essential public services such as natural gas, electricity, telecommunications, water and sewer. Preventing damage to these utility lines is a responsibility shared by all. The State Corporation Commission (SCC) is responsible for enforcing Virginia's Underground Utility Damage Prevention Act (Act). Virginia has a nationally recognized damage prevention program and the SCC has been enforcing the Act for 20 years. When the requirements of the Act are properly followed, it can help in preventing damage to underground utility lines. Virginia's program is summed up in the message, "Dig With C.A.R.E. Keep Virginia Safe!" C.A.R.E. means:

- Call 811 before you dig.
- Allow the required time for marking.
- Respect and protect the marks.
- Excavate carefully.

Calling 811 connects you to VA811, the state's one-call notification center (formerly Miss Utility) which operates Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., excluding legal state and national holidays. Emergency notification service is available 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. When VA811 receives a call concerning digging or a demolition, trained staff will ask for important information about the planned work and then notify member utility operators that may have underground utility lines in your project area. Utility operators will respond by sending locators to your project area within the time allowed by law to mark the approximate horizontal location on the ground within two feet of the underground utility lines by means of paint, stakes or flags. There is no cost for this service. Once marked, hand digging is required within 24 inches of these marks plus the width of the utility line if known; this area is referred to as the tolerance zone. To learn more about Virginia's damage prevention program, contact the SCC Division of Utility and Railroad Safety at (804) 371-9980, or visit the Division's website at [www.scc.virginia.gov/urs/mutility/index.aspx](http://www.scc.virginia.gov/urs/mutility/index.aspx). [http://www.scc.virginia.gov/newsrel/u\\_digmo\\_15.aspx](http://www.scc.virginia.gov/newsrel/u_digmo_15.aspx)

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**What is Severe Weather?**

In preparation for an increase in severe weather this week, the Storm Prediction Center has worked closely with National Weather Service (NWS) offices, social scientists, communication specialists, FEMA, forecasters and the general public, to arrive at this description of severe thunderstorm risk categories. The National Weather Service defines a severe thunderstorm as any storm that produces one or more of the following elements:

- A tornado.
- Damaging winds or speeds of 58 mph (50 knots) or greater.
- Hail 1 inch in diameter or larger.

The NWS Storm Prediction Center (SPC) further defines significant severe thunderstorms as any storm that produce one or more of the following elements:

- A tornado that produces EF2 or greater damage.
- Wind speeds of 75 mph (65 knots) or greater.
- Hail 2 inch in diameter or larger.

Learn more from the Storm Prediction Center at [www.spc.noaa.gov/misc/about.html#Severe](http://www.spc.noaa.gov/misc/about.html#Severe).

<b>Understanding Severe Thunderstorm Risk Categories</b>					
<b>THUNDERSTORMS</b> (no label)	<b>1 - MARGINAL</b> (MRGL)	<b>2 - SLIGHT</b> (SLGT)	<b>3 - ENHANCED</b> (ENH)	<b>4 - MODERATE</b> (MDT)	<b>5 - HIGH</b> (HIGH)
No severe* thunderstorms expected	Isolated severe thunderstorms possible	Scattered severe storms possible	Numerous severe storms possible	Widespread severe storms likely	Widespread severe storms expected
Lightning/flooding threats exist with all thunderstorms	Limited in duration and/or coverage and/or intensity	Short-lived and/or not widespread, isolated intense storms possible	More persistent and/or widespread, a few intense	Long-lived, widespread and intense	Long-lived, very widespread and particularly intense
					
• Winds to 40 mph • Small hail	• Winds 40-60 mph • Hail up to 1" • Low tornado risk	• One or two tornadoes • Reports of strong winds/wind damage • Hail ~1", isolated 2"	• A few tornadoes • Several reports of wind damage • Damaging hail, 1 - 2"	• Strong tornadoes • Widespread wind damage • Destructive hail, 2" =	• Tornado outbreak • Derecho
* NWS defines a severe thunderstorm as measured wind gusts to at least 58 mph, and/or hail to at least one inch in diameter, and/or a tornado. All thunderstorm categories imply lightning and the potential for flooding. Categories are also tied to the probability of a severe weather event within 25 miles of your location.					

**Final Snowfall Total Map for 2014-2015 in the D.C. Area**

Getting to above average snowfall in the D.C. area is often a tough battle. Two winters in a row is something to marvel at, especially of late. Despite a very slow start, the winter of 2014-2015 will probably be remembered as long, cold and snowy. From mid-February through the first half of March, winter took hold and wouldn't let go. Snowfall totals ended up either near or above normal around the entire area.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/capital-weather-gang/wp/2015/04/09/final-snowfall-total-map-for-2014-2015-another-overachieving-winter-in-the-d-c-area/>



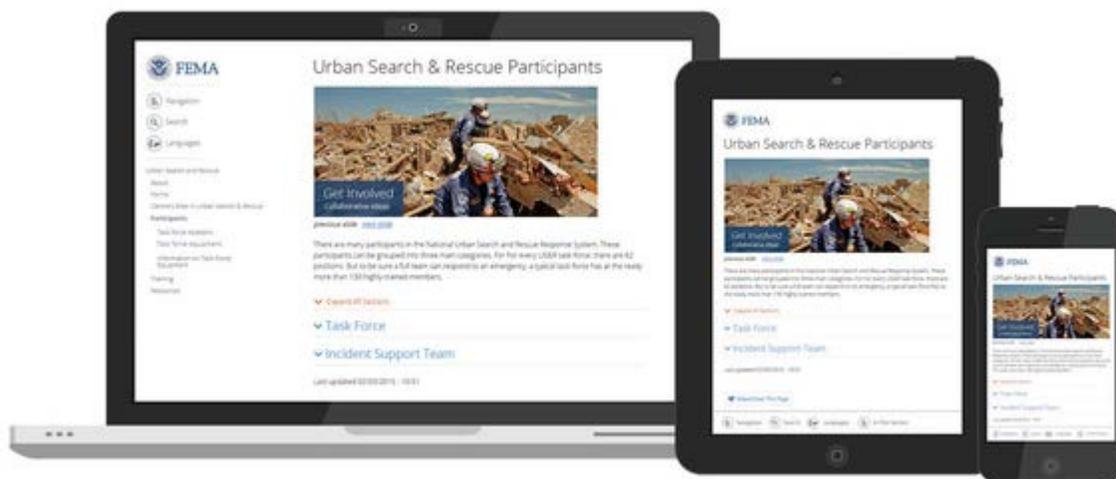
[www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov](http://www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov)

### **FEMA Launches BETA Version of FEMA.gov**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has launched a new BETA version of [www.FEMA.gov](http://www.FEMA.gov). As part of the redesign, the following changes were made:

- Focused on getting the content in front of the reader without any distractions.
- Added mobile compatibility so the content can be read on any screen size.
- Increased the font size.
- Made it easier to identify the sections of content on each page.
- Limited the duplication of navigation links on each page.

FEMA is continuing to work on the BETA site. Comments and feedback are welcome on the FEMA blog or via email at [fema-new-media@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:fema-new-media@fema.dhs.gov).



### **State Action to Protect Against Cybersecurity Threats**

Governor Terry McAuliffe announced earlier this month that the Commonwealth of Virginia is establishing the nation's first state-level Information Sharing and Analysis Organization. "Virginia's ISAO is our logical next step in building on the outstanding work of the Virginia Cyber Security Commission, Virginia Cyber Security Partnership, Virginia Information Technologies Agency, and the cybersecurity efforts of so many other public- and private-sector partners throughout the Commonwealth," Governor McAuliffe said. ISAOs are intended to complement existing structures and systems that are used to share critical cybersecurity threat information across levels of government and industry sectors.

<https://governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/newsarticle?articleId=8210>

## PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

### **Hurricane and Emergency Preparedness Equipment Sales Tax Holiday**

Legislation enacted by the 2015 General Assembly combines three existing sales tax holidays into one, three-day holiday in August. In 2015 only, the Hurricane Sales Tax holidays and the Emergency Preparedness Equipment Sales Tax holiday will be held May 25-31 and Aug. 7-9, respectively. In subsequent years, there will be just one sales tax holiday held in August. During both sales tax holidays this year, purchases of certain supplies and equipment needed for hurricane preparedness will be exempt from sales tax. Retailers may also choose to absorb the tax on other items during the holiday period, but they are responsible for paying the tax on those items to the Department of Taxation. Learn more at <http://www.tax.virginia.gov/content/hurricane-preparedness-equipment-holiday>.

### **DHS S&T Selects University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as Coastal Resilience Center of Excellence**

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) recently announced the selection of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as the lead institution for a new DHS Coastal Resilience Center of Excellence (COE). S&T will provide the Coastal Resilience COE with an initial \$3 million grant for its first operating year. The DHS Coastal Resilience COE will bring together university students and professors, DHS and other federal agencies, private sector partners, the first responder community and other COEs to collaboratively address the unique challenges facing communities across the United States that are vulnerable to coastal hazards, including hurricanes and flooding. For more information about OUP and the COEs, please visit [www.dhs.gov/st-oup](http://www.dhs.gov/st-oup). <http://www.dhs.gov/science-and-technology/news/2015/04/09/dhs-st-selects-university-north-carolina-chapel-hill-coastal>

### **Federal Flood Risk Management Standard Draft Implementing Guidelines Open Comment Period Deadline**

On Jan. 30, the President issued Executive Order 13690, "Establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard and a Process for Further Soliciting and Considering Stakeholder Input." Prior to implementation of the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard, additional input from stakeholders is being solicited and considered on how federal agencies will implement the new Standard. To carry out this process, a draft version of Implementing Guidelines is open for comment until May 6. Questions may be submitted to [FEMA-FFRMS@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-FFRMS@fema.dhs.gov). <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/02/05/2015-02284/guidelines-for-implementing-executive-order-11988-floodplain-management-as-revised>



#### **Turn Around. Don't Drown**

Did you know that 1 foot of water is enough to make most cars float?  
NEVER drive through flooded roads. "Turn Around. Don't Drown."

#### **Turn Around, Don't Drown**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), flooding is the second leading cause of weather-related fatalities in the United States. Most of these deaths occur when a vehicle is driven through flooded roadways. Other lives can be lost when people walk into flood waters. This happens because many people underestimate the power of water. According to the CDC, it only takes six inches of fast-moving water to knock over an adult and 18 inches of flowing water to carry away most vehicles, including SUVs. Also, it is



impossible to tell the exact depth of water covering a road or the condition of road beneath the water, especially at night when vision is limited. Play it safe! When you come to a flooded road, path or walkway, follow this rule: Turn Around, Don't Drown. The National Weather Service (NWS) developed the "Turn Around, Don't Drown" campaign to educate people about the dangers of driving or walking through flood waters. To learn more, visit [www.nws.noaa.gov/os/water/tadd/](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/water/tadd/).

*Reprinted from FEMA's "Individual and Community Preparedness e-Brief," April 10 edition*

### **Know the Risks and Prepare Your Home and Family**

Spring can bring about a mix of wild weather as it's a time of transition; and depending on where you live you could be affected by: tornadoes, thunderstorms, hail, floods, lightning, heat, wildfires and even tsunamis if you live by the coast. A few precautionary steps now can help you prepare for weather changes:

- Know the potential hazards in your area and stay abreast of your local forecast at [weather.gov](http://weather.gov).
- Prepare or restock your disaster supplies kit.
- Make sure your mobile phone can receive wireless emergency alerts, or sign up for e-mail or text message alerts through Fairfax Alerts ([www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts)).
- Download the free severe weather preparedness guide (<http://publications.usa.gov/USAPubs.php?PubID=956>) to learn more about thunderstorms, related hazards and life-saving actions you can take. A plan will prepare you and your family to act in time and help you and those you care about be safe.

### **Vienna Health and Wellness Fair**

The Office of Emergency Management's Outreach team participated in the Vienna Health and Wellness Fair for senior residents on Saturday, April 11. Pictured is Bruce McFarlane (left), outreach supervisor for OEM. Many of the attendees stopped by the booth to learn and ask questions about the new Fairfax Alerts system as well as planning ahead for emergency events. It was a well-attended community event with several county agencies involved, including the Police and Health Departments. The Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management is available to deliver emergency preparedness presentations to community organizations and homeowners associations. If you or your organization is interested in a presentation, contact OEM at 571-350-1000, TTY 711, or via email at [oem-outreach@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:oem-outreach@fairfaxcounty.gov).



*Submitted photo by Kathy Blevins.*

### **2015 Hurricane Season Expected to be Less Active than Average**

Colorado State University researchers are predicting a below average 2015 Atlantic hurricane season, with seven named storms, leaving Henri, the possible eighth named storm, out of the alphabetical running. Of the seven storms, three are expected to become hurricanes and one is forecast to reach major hurricane strength with winds of 111 mph or more, researchers reported in their annual forecast released earlier this month. The report comes with a caution: "It just takes that one storm to make it an active season," said Phil Klotzbach, the lead author of the report put out by CSU's Tropical Meteorology Project since 1984. Take 1992, which also was supposed to be a quiet year for hurricanes. That held true until Aug. 24, when Hurricane Andrew slammed into South Florida with 175 mph winds. The storm killed 23 people in the U.S. and caused \$26 billion in damage.

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/disaster/2015-Hurricane-Season-Expected-Less-Active-than-Average.html>

Colorado State University Tropical Meteorology Project: <http://hurricane.atmos.colostate.edu/Forecasts/>

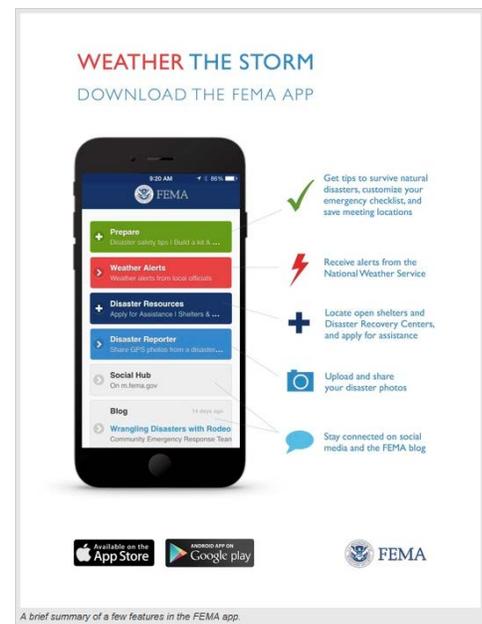
### **First Aid for Your Finances**

Being ready for a disaster is more than storing extra water and supplies. It is equally important for you and your family to be financially ready for disasters. April is Financial Literacy Month. Now is a good time to ensure you have adequate insurance, a plan to pay bills, and an alternate way to access financial and personal records. Taking

these preparedness steps will help with disaster recovery. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Operation HOPE created the Emergency Financial First Aid Kit (EFFAK) – found online at <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/96123>. Use the EFFAK to identify important documents, medical records, and household contracts. When completing the kit, you will be guided to include pictures or a video of your home and belongings, and to store them in a safe place. Storing critical documents is also one of the ten ways to participate in America’s PrepareAthon! so be sure to register your actions on the campaign website: <http://www.community.fema.gov/connect.ti/AmericasPrepareathon/view?objectId=1870019>. The 2014 EFFAK is available in English, Spanish, and reader enabled English versions that can be filled out online. To learn more about the EFFAK and other tools you can use to prepare your finances, check out this blog post from Gwen Camp, director of FEMA’s Individual and Community Preparedness Division: <https://www.fema.gov/blog/2015-04-14/why-all-your-work-tax-day-worth-more-refund-check>.  
*Reprinted from FEMA’s “Individual and Community Preparedness e-Brief,” April 15 edition*

## FEMA Launches New Feature to Mobile App Empowering Users to Follow Weather Alerts Across the Country

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has launched a new feature to its free app that will enable users to receive weather alerts from the National Weather Service for up to five locations across the nation. This new feature allows users to receive alerts on severe weather happening anywhere they select in the country, even if the phone is not located in the area, making it easy to follow severe weather that may be threatening family and friends. According to a recent survey by Pew Research, 40 percent of Americans have used their smartphone to look up government services or information. Additionally, a majority of smartphone owners use their devices to keep up to date with breaking news, and to be informed about what is happening in their community. The new weather alert feature adds to the app’s existing features to help Americans through emergencies. In addition to this upgrade, the app also provides a customizable checklist of emergency supplies, maps of open shelters and Disaster Recovery Centers, and tips on how to survive natural and manmade disasters. The FEMA app also offers a “Disaster Reporter” feature, where users can upload and share photos of disaster damage. Some other key features of the app include:



- Safety Tips: Tips on how to stay safe before, during, and after over 20 types of hazards, including floods, hurricanes, tornadoes and earthquakes.
- Disaster Reporter: Users can upload and share photos of damage and recovery efforts.
- Maps of Disaster Resources: Users can locate and receive driving directions to open shelters and disaster recovery centers
- Apply for Assistance: The app provides easy access to apply for federal disaster assistance.
- Information in Spanish: The app defaults to Spanish-language content for smartphones that have Spanish set as their default language.

The latest version of the FEMA app is available for free in the App Store for Apple devices and Google Play for Android devices. Users who already have the app downloaded on their device should download the latest update for the weather alerts feature to take effect. The new weather alerts feature in the FEMA app does not replace Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) function available on many new smartphones. WEAs have a special tone and vibration and are sent for emergencies such as extreme weather, AMBER alerts, or Presidential Alerts.

<https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2015/04/14/fema-launches-new-feature-mobile-app-empowering-users-follow-weather-alerts>

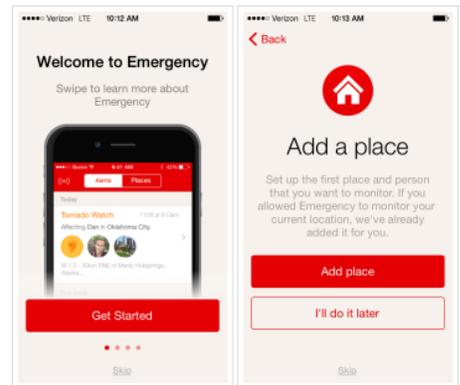
Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BxBdhLtNuxM>

## How to Set Emergency Alerts on the New Red Cross App

The ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update is designed to provide information about Emergency Support Function 15 (External Affairs) along with news articles and informational updates relating to Homeland Security and emergency management to ESF 15 partners. Inclusion of any resource, information or Web link is not an endorsement of the product, service or organization. The ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update is produced by Fairfax County’s Office of Public Affairs – the lead agency for ESF 15.

Emergencies are stressful. We lose sleep when dangerous thunderstorms, tornadoes, earthquakes or wildfires hit close to home, but also when they threaten areas of the country where our loved ones live. Luckily, a new app, Emergency by the American Red Cross, includes a helpful tool to monitor multiple locations for watches and warnings of all kinds. The app can alert you with an alarm when hazards or potential emergencies may impact where you live as well as regions of the country where your loved ones call home. Here's a quick step-by-step guide to setting up alerts on your phone.

<http://redcrosschat.org/2015/04/23/set-emergency-alerts-new-app/>



### **National Terrorism Advisory System**

The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) is a robust terrorism advisory system that provides timely information to the public about credible terrorist threats and replaces the former color-coded alert system. Under NTAS, DHS will coordinate with other federal entities to issue detailed alerts to the public when the federal government receives information about a credible terrorist threat. NTAS alerts provide a concise summary of the potential threat including geographic region, mode of transportation, or critical infrastructure potentially affected by the threat, actions being taken to ensure public safety, as well as recommended steps that individuals, communities, business and governments can take to help prevent, mitigate or respond to a threat. NTAS Alerts will include a clear statement on the nature of the threat, which will be defined in one of two ways:

- "Elevated Threat": Warns of a credible terrorist threat against the United States.
- "Imminent Threat": Warns of a credible, specific, and impending terrorist threat against the United States.

Depending on the nature of the threat, alerts may be sent to law enforcement, distributed to affected areas of the private sector, or issued more broadly to the public through both official and social media channels – including a designated DHS webpage ([www.dhs.gov/alerts](http://www.dhs.gov/alerts)), Facebook and via Twitter @NTASAlerts. NTAS alerts and posters will also be displayed in places such as transit hubs, airports and government buildings. NTAS threat alerts will be issued for a specific time period and will automatically expire. Alerts may be extended if new information becomes available or as a specific threat evolves. For more information on the National Terrorism Advisory System or to receive NTAS alerts, visit [www.dhs.gov/alerts](http://www.dhs.gov/alerts).

### **Emergency Alerts (Fairfax Alerts) – In the Know, On the Go**

Get emergency alerts by email, as well as by text or pager. Sign up at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts).

#### **You Choose the Type of Alerts**

- Pick the types of weather alerts you wish to receive, along with traffic and public safety alerts.
- Create a "do not disturb" timeframe when you don't want to receive weather alerts.
- Learn about county government non-emergency notices such as taxes and elections.

#### **Alerts for Many Different Devices**

- Choose up to 10 delivery methods like home phone, cell phone, email, text messaging and more.
- Manage your Fairfax Alerts profile from your phone by downloading the iPhone or Android app.
- Mobile app allows for two-way conversations with emergency managers and does not use text messaging service.

#### **Alerts for Your Locations**

- Customize your Fairfax Alerts with up to five addresses, i.e., school, work and home.
- Get geo-targeted weather alerts based on the addresses you define.
- Weather advisories for you, your family, home, business, school, child care and more.

If we can't reach you, we can't alert you. Sign up for free emergency alerts today at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts).



## MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

### **How Prepared Is Your Community for an Emergency?**

A new survey shows the extent to which Americans around the country have taken measures to prepare for natural disasters or other emergencies. The Census Bureau and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development released data this week showing the extent to which Americans in different parts of the country have taken measures to prepare for natural disasters or other emergencies. Disaster preparedness questions were a new addition to the 2013 American Housing Survey, intended to assist policymakers and emergency responders with planning. Nationwide, just over half of households had prepared an emergency evacuation kit. Only a third had communication plans in place, while 37 percent had established emergency meeting locations.

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/disaster/How-Prepared-Is-Your-Community-Emergency.html>



### **Smartphones Could be Used for Earthquake Early Warning**

Smartphones and other personal electronic devices could, in regions where they are in widespread use, function as early warning systems for large earthquakes according to newly reported research. This technology could serve regions of the world that cannot afford higher quality, but more expensive, conventional earthquake early warning systems, or could contribute to those systems. The researchers found that the sensors in smartphones and similar devices could be used to issue earthquake warnings for earthquakes of approximately magnitude 7 or larger, but not for smaller, yet potentially damaging earthquakes.

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20150414-smartphones-could-be-used-for-earthquake-early-warning>

### **Study Finds More People Could Survive Tsunami if They Walk Faster – Duh**

Don't write off this story just yet. The solutions to preventing or managing disasters are often multi-layered, complex strategies, usually with a lot of technical elements thrown in. But sometimes the solutions have very simple components: case in point – people's walking speed. An Associated Press story published by ABC News discusses the results of a new study: "about 5,500 more people could survive a major tsunami hitting the Pacific Northwest if they just walk a little faster to higher ground after roads are knocked out." Published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, the report analyzed 73 communities along 700 miles of coastline in Oregon, Washington and Northern California – an area considered most at risk from the next major earthquake and tsunami in the Cascadia Subduction Zone.

[http://www.disaster-resource.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=2525](http://www.disaster-resource.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2525)

### **Global Pandemic of Fake Medicines Poses Urgent Risk, Scientists Say**

Poor quality medicines are a real and urgent threat that could undermine decades of successful efforts to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, according to the editors of a collection of journal articles published today. Scientists report up to 41 percent of specimens failed to meet quality standards in global studies of about 17,000 drug samples. Among the collection is an article describing the discovery of falsified and substandard malaria drugs that caused an estimated 122,350 deaths in African children in 2013. Other studies identified poor quality antibiotics, which may harm health and increase antimicrobial resistance. However, new methodologies are being developed to detect problem drugs at the point of purchase and show some promise, scientists say.

<http://www.nih.gov/news/health/apr2015/fic-20.htm>

### **The Evolution of Planning for Animals in Disasters**

A man runs into an evacuation zone to rescue his dog. A woman refuses to leave her home in the face of danger

because she cannot find her cat. A family is turned away from a shelter because they do not want to leave their pets behind. In all of these cases, people are willing to sacrifice themselves and, in some cases, endanger responders for the good of their pets, so related emergency plans must be in place.

[http://www.domesticpreparedness.com/First\\_Responder/Emergency\\_Management/The\\_Evolution\\_of\\_Planning\\_for\\_Animals\\_in\\_Disasters/](http://www.domesticpreparedness.com/First_Responder/Emergency_Management/The_Evolution_of_Planning_for_Animals_in_Disasters/)

## FLU / EBOLA

### **Ebola Vaccine Effective in a Single Dose**

An interdisciplinary team from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston and Profectus BioSciences, Inc. has developed a quick-acting vaccine that is both safe and effective with a single dose against the Ebola strain that killed thousands of people in West Africa last year. These findings are detailed in the new edition of Nature.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/04/150408133050.htm>

### **Experimental Ebola Vaccine Safe, Prompts Immune Response**

An early-stage clinical trial of an experimental Ebola vaccine conducted at the National Institutes of Health and the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR) found that the vaccine, called VSV-ZEBOV, was safe and elicited robust antibody responses in all 40 of the healthy adults who received it. The most common side effects were injection site pain and transient fever that appeared and resolved within 12 to 36 hours after vaccination. A report describing preliminary results of the NIH-WRAIR study appears online today in The New England Journal of Medicine. The VSV-ZEBOV candidate is one of two experimental Ebola vaccines now being tested in the phase 2/3 PREVAIL clinical trial that is enrolling volunteers in Liberia.

<http://www.nih.gov/news/health/apr2015/niaid-01.htm>

### **Ebola Researchers Take New Look at Risk of Sexual Transmission**

At least a few Ebola cases in the West African outbreak may have resulted from sexual transmission. World health officials are studying how long the disease may remain active in semen and are warning Ebola survivors to practice safe sex indefinitely. While sexual transmissions of the disease are considered rare, such outliers must be considered as the region works towards its goal of zero Ebola cases. Experts studying the issue, mindful of pushback against safe burial practices, are aware of a potential cultural backlash in intruding into survivors' personal lives.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/17/world/africa/ebola-researchers-take-new-look-at-risk-of-sexual-transmission.html>

### **How to Respond to an Outbreak – Success Factors for Fighting off Ebola**

Over a year has passed since the Ebola outbreak in West Africa began. In that narrow window of time, the disease has claimed more than 10,000 lives, stalled economic growth, and hampered – if not reversed – gains the region had made in strengthening public health infrastructure and service delivery. And yet, as dire as the crisis has been, hope is emerging. The pace of new cases is slowing. The fear of a truly global pandemic has subsided. We are transitioning from emergency response to longer-term recovery – a very welcome sign.

Source: Huffington Post

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/yana-watson-kakar/infographic-how-to-respon\\_b\\_7081246.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/yana-watson-kakar/infographic-how-to-respon_b_7081246.html)

### **Bird Flu Outbreak Spreads to Three More Midwest Turkey Farms**

A bird flu outbreak that has puzzled scientists spread to three more Midwest turkey farms, bringing the number of farms infected to 23 and raising the death toll to more than 1.2 million birds killed by the disease or by authorities scrambling to contain it. The U.S. Department of Agriculture confirmed earlier this month that the H5N2 strain of avian influenza was found among 38,000 birds at a commercial farm in Kandiyohi County in west-central Minnesota. It's the third confirmed outbreak in Kandiyohi, which is the top turkey producing county in the country's top turkey

producing state.

[http://www.richmond.com/news/latest-news/ap/article\\_635179fe-8d55-5a85-ab4f-cd693cb55dbb.html](http://www.richmond.com/news/latest-news/ap/article_635179fe-8d55-5a85-ab4f-cd693cb55dbb.html)

### **Bird Flu Outbreak Could Head Eastward with Fall Migration**

Eastern U.S. poultry producers are bracing for the potential arrival of a deadly bird flu virus outbreak that farmers in the Midwest have struggled to stop. The fear is that if the virus isn't already lurking undetected somewhere in the Atlantic Flyway, it could spread there this fall when wild ducks fly south for the winter or fly back north next spring. Eastern poultry producers have had tight biosecurity measures and response plans in place for several years. Now they're preparing for the worst, according to Donna Carver, extension veterinarian at North Carolina State University.

[http://www.richmond.com/news/latest-news/ap/article\\_7c1cdcae-11a1-5455-a8f3-b8f245294307.html](http://www.richmond.com/news/latest-news/ap/article_7c1cdcae-11a1-5455-a8f3-b8f245294307.html)

### **Canine Flu Outbreak Sickens Hundreds of Dogs in Midwest**

A canine flu outbreak has sickened many dogs in the Midwest, and veterinarians are cautioning pet owners to keep their dogs from going nose-to-nose with other four-legged friends.

[http://www.richmond.com/news/latest-news/ap/article\\_c7131192-1119-5523-9aae-ee9f31fa4f28.html](http://www.richmond.com/news/latest-news/ap/article_c7131192-1119-5523-9aae-ee9f31fa4f28.html)

### **With Bird Flu Spreading, USDA Starts on Potential Vaccine**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is working on a vaccine to counter a deadly strain of bird flu, as losses to poultry producers mount. The process, though, is fraught with questions about which birds would get the vaccine, how it might affect exports, and whether it would be effective against the rapidly spreading strain.

<http://wavy.com/2015/04/22/with-bird-flu-spreading-usda-starts-on-potential-vaccine/>

### **Fairfax County Pandemic Flu Preparedness**

Be sure to visit the county's flu Web page for information and news on flu and flu preparedness.

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/flu>



## TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES

### **ICISF 13TH World Congress on Stress, Trauma & Coping**

May 11-May 16; Baltimore, Md.

Experience a whole new World Congress with more opportunities to “Engage, Learn, Share.” This theme does not just summarize the 13th World Congress on Stress, Trauma, and Coping mission and purpose. It also strives to create an environment where solutions evolve in order to address the ongoing challenges facing crisis interventionists.

<http://icisf13thworldcongress.org/>

### **Richmond Forum on Cybersecurity**

May 22; Richmond, Va.

The program will cover issues like what does a cyberthreat look like and how agencies can use the tools and technologies at their disposal while still protecting the rights of citizens.

<https://www.richmondforum.org/bio-alexander-mueller.aspx>

### **International Hazardous Materials Response Teams Conference & Expo 2015**

May 29-June 1; Baltimore, Md.

The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) Hazmat Conference provides the latest classroom, hands-on, and fieldtrip-based training covering all aspects of hazmat - highlighting topics such as transportation, safety, weapons of mass destruction, protective gear and equipment, terrorism, mass decontamination, bioterrorism, and much more.

<http://www.iafc.org/hazmat>

### **Biodefense World Summit**

June 22-26, 2015; Bethesda, Md.

This international meeting brings together Biodetection Technologies: Biothreat and Pathogen Detection, Biodetection Technologies: Point-of-Care for Biodefense, and Biosurveillance Integration: Integrated Management of Threats to Public Health & Safety to present the latest research within the pathogen detection, point-of-care and integrated threat response communities.

<http://www.biodefenseworldsummit.com/>

### **APCO 2015 Conference & Expo**

Aug. 16-19; Washington, D.C.

The Association of Public-safety Communications Officials (APCO) annual conference will bring together leading public safety communications professionals from all across the United States. This year's theme is "Explore, Inspire, Achieve."

<http://www.apco2015.org/>

### **National Capital Region Homeland Security Events**

[http://www.mwcog.org/committee/committee/events\\_homeland.asp?COMMITTEE\\_ID=134](http://www.mwcog.org/committee/committee/events_homeland.asp?COMMITTEE_ID=134)

### **Virginia Emergency Management Courses**

<http://www.vaemergency.com>

### **FEMA Independent Study Courses**

<http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/>

### **American Red Cross Disaster Services Training**

[http://www.redcrossnca.org/Online/disaster\\_registration.php](http://www.redcrossnca.org/Online/disaster_registration.php)

**"EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS" NEWSLETTER** **Check It Out!**

*Published monthly by the Office of Emergency Management*

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/outreach/newsletter.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/outreach/newsletter.htm)

## LINKS

### **Fairfax County Web Resources**

- Fairfax County Emergency Information Blog - [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog)
- Fairfax County Emergency Information Web page - [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/)

The ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update is designed to provide information about Emergency Support Function 15 (External Affairs) along with news articles and informational updates relating to Homeland Security and emergency management to ESF 15 partners. Inclusion of any resource, information or Web link is not an endorsement of the product, service or organization. The ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update is produced by Fairfax County's Office of Public Affairs – the lead agency for ESF 15.

- Fairfax County CERT - <http://fairfaxcountycert.blogspot.com/>
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Web Page - [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/citizencorps/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/citizencorps/)
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Blog - <http://citizencorps.blogspot.com/>

#### Additional Web Resources

- Capital Region Updates - [www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov](http://www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov)
- Virginia Citizen Corps - [www.vaemergency.com/citcorps/index.cfm](http://www.vaemergency.com/citcorps/index.cfm)

#### DHS Science & Technology Directorate Newsletter

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Science & Technology Directorate has a free newsletter, “S&T Snapshots,” featuring stories about current research projects and opportunities with laboratories, universities, government agencies, and the private sector. The newsletter is produced monthly by the DHS Science and Technology Directorate in partnership with the Homeland Security Institute, a Studies and Analysis Federally Funded Research and Development Center.

<http://www.homelandsecurity.org/snapshots/>

#### DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report (OSIR)

The Department of Homeland Security provides a Web-based “Daily OSIR,” which is posted on the DHS public Web site. Accessing the report via the Web enables readers to retrieve the current Daily Report as well as 10 days of archived DHS Daily Reports. Once you arrive at the Web page you will find the most recent Daily OSIR at the top of the page, under the title “Current Report.” This report is posted each morning, except for weekends and holidays. Simply click on the title “DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report.” This will launch the current days report in PDF format. You can submit content comments or make suggestions by contacting the DHS Daily Report Team by telephone at 202-312-3421 or by e-mail at [NICCRReports@dhs.gov](mailto:NICCRReports@dhs.gov). You can access the Daily OSIR at: [http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/editorial\\_0542.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/editorial_0542.shtm).

#### Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Line

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/infoline.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/infoline.htm)

#### Emergency Management Magazine

<http://www.govtech.com/em/toc.php>

#### FEMA Private Sector

<http://www.fema.gov/privatesector/>



[www.ReadyNOVA.org](http://www.ReadyNOVA.org)

#### ESF 15 Contact Information

Tony Castrilli, Director  
Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs

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In accordance with NIMS – the National Incident Management System – the Fairfax County Emergency Operations Plan states that Emergency Support Function 15 (External Affairs) is led by the Office of Public Affairs. This ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update is part of the county's outreach efforts for our business and nonprofit partners as a way to provide information about the county's ESF 15, Homeland Security and emergency management.

Please forward this ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update to other contacts you have inside or outside your organization. Should someone you know like to be added to our distribution list, have them send an e-mail to [jim.person@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:jim.person@fairfaxcounty.gov) and ask to be subscribed to the ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update.

If you have any suggestions on how to improve this update or other communications between Fairfax County and the business/nonprofit community, contact Tony Castrilli, Director of the Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs, at 703-324-3187, TTY 711, or by e-mail at [anthony.castrilli@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:anthony.castrilli@fairfaxcounty.gov).



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