



# ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

April 2014

## ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

### W.Va. Residents Still Wary About Their Drinking Water

The January chemical spill in West Virginia, which contaminated the drinking water of 300,000 residents, has changed how residents use public water. Authorities claimed the water was safe for consumption on 13 January, since MCHM levels had dropped below a federal safety threshold of one part per million. Residents remain skeptical, with some collecting rain water and others relying on clean water distributed by nonprofits.

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20140403-w-va-residents-still-wary-about-their-drinking-water>

### National 9-1-1 Education Month

The National 9-1-1 Education Coalition recognizes April as National 9-1-1 Education Month. This year's theme is "Be 9-1-1 Ready." April was first recognized as National 9-1-1 Education Month by the U.S. Congress in 2008, in support of the National 9-1-1 Education Coalition, an alliance of eight national organizations committed to advancing 9-1-1 public education across the country.

Key points to remember when calling 9-1-1:

- **Know Where You Are:** Where are you right now? Can you tell 9-1-1 exactly where to find you?
- **Use a Landline:** Whenever possible, use a landline to call 9-1-1. Cellphone calls aren't always routed to the closest call center and the time it takes to transfer your call to the call center is important in an emergency.
- **Stay Calm and Ready to Listen:** 9-1-1 will stay on the line to help you until help arrives. Be ready to listen and follow directions.
- **Never Hang Up** – Even if you called 9-1-1 by accident, or if you think the problem has gone away, it is important that you stay on the phone until the call taker tells you it is alright to hang up. It is the call taker's job to make sure that you are OK and that help has gotten to whoever needs it. In situations where you aren't able to talk or have to leave, keep the phone off the hook so that the 9-1-1 operator can hear what is going on in the room. Most times, they will be able to use the computers at the 9-1-1 Center to find your address.

The vision of the National 9-1-1 Education Coalition is to save lives and improve emergency response by creating a national 9-1-1 education and awareness effort to ensure the appropriate and responsible use of 9-1-1 resources and to embrace contemporary communications opportunities. Fairfax County's 9-1-1 Center is the primary 9-1-1 public safety answering point for Fairfax County, as well as the City of Fairfax and the towns of Herndon and Vienna. The Center provides the dispatch for all units of the Fairfax County Police Department and Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, including the City of Fairfax Fire Department and the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office. Fairfax County's 9-1-1 Call Center – located at the McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center (MPSTOC) and collocated on the operations floor with call takers and dispatchers from Virginia State Police and the Virginia Department of Transportation – is one of the 50 largest in the U.S. and the largest in Virginia. Call takers and dispatchers in Fairfax County answer approximately 2,200 calls for assistance daily; some 830,000 annually from the public, both 9-1-1 and non-emergency. For more information, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/911](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/911).



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## Navy Yard Shooting Report

Shortly after the tragic events that took place on 16 September 2013 at Naval Sea Systems Command headquarters in Washington, D.C., Navy Secretary Raymond “Ray” Mabus Jr. appointed ADM John M. Richardson to lead an official investigation into the shooting incident that killed 12 people and wounded four others. Richardson's declassified Department of Defense final report is now available to the public.

[http://www.defense.gov/pubs/Navy-Investigation-into-the-WNY-Shooting\\_final-report.pdf](http://www.defense.gov/pubs/Navy-Investigation-into-the-WNY-Shooting_final-report.pdf)

## Governor Signs SB381 Transferring Homeland Security Responsibilities

Early this month at the Virginia Department of Emergency Management's Emergency Operations Center, Governor McAuliffe signed State Bill 381, which transfers the responsibility for overseeing and coordinating efforts to strengthen homeland security from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security to the Secretary of Public Safety. The legislation renames the secretariats the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs and the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, and enables Virginia to better prepare for, evaluate, and respond to emergencies and disasters. The Governor's office, Secretary of Public Safety Brian Moran, and Secretary of Veterans Affairs Admiral



*Picture courtesy of VDEM*

John Harvey worked closely with a bipartisan coalition in the General Assembly to develop this legislation, which originated from recommendations from the Joint Legislative and Review Committee (JLARC).

Under the new law, the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security is charged with:

- Assigning planning responsibilities among state agencies and local jurisdictions to elevate the state of readiness in Virginia.
- Integrating the state homeland security strategy into the Secure Commonwealth Plan.
- Developing the annual Commonwealth Threat Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment Report.
- Ensuring development and implementation of plans for protecting public critical infrastructure.
- Directing the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) to assist localities and state agencies to develop top quality, realistic disaster plans.
- Directing VDEM to oversee all shelter, evacuation, traffic and refuge of last resort plans.

<https://governor.virginia.gov/news/newsarticle?articleId=3811>



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

### Home Flood Repairs

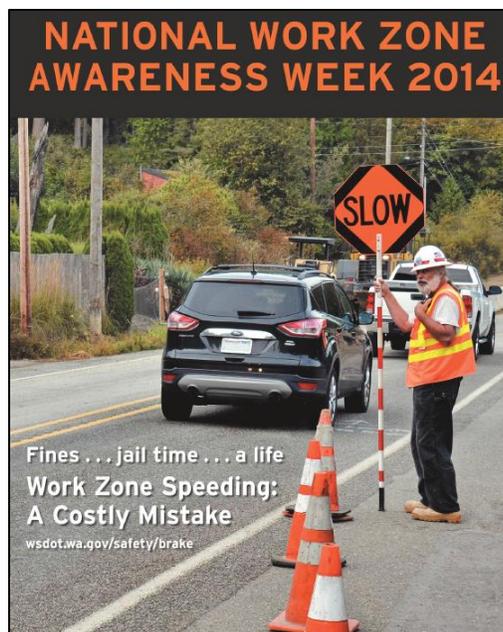
Repairing your home after a flood can be a stressful endeavor. That's why FEMA and the American Red Cross developed a comprehensive book to help get you started on the road to recovery. "Repairing Your Flooded Home" ([http://www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA\\_CustomProductCatalog/m4540081\\_repairingFloodedHome.pdf](http://www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA_CustomProductCatalog/m4540081_repairingFloodedHome.pdf)) gives step-by-step advice to make the process less overwhelming. Your home and its contents may look beyond repair, but many of your belongings can be restored. If you do things correctly, your flooded home can be cleaned up, dried out, rebuilt and reoccupied sooner than you think. Copies of this book are also available at your local Red Cross or by sending a written request to FEMA at P.O. Box 2012 Jessup, MD 20794-2012. This document explains how to protect yourself and your property, and details the steps to take now so that you can act quickly when you, your home, or your business is in danger.

*Reprinted from FEMA's "Individual and Community Preparedness e-Brief," April 4 edition*

### Work Zone Awareness Week

April 7-11 was National Work Zone Awareness Week, but it's never too late to remember the importance of safe driving in and around work zones. As you know, there are many roads in the area that have traffic work zones due to road construction. In recognition of National Work Zone Awareness Week, please review the follow tips for driving in work zones to help protect yourself, your passengers, other drivers and the workers in traffic work zones:

- Expect the Unexpected: Work zones can change overnight and throughout a work day. For instance, speeds limits may change, traffic lanes may have closed, shifted or narrowed and there may be workers and equipment near the road.
- Don't Speed: Pay attention to and obey posted speed limit signs at all times, even if it appears there are no workers on site.
- Don't Tailgate: Keep a safe distance between you, the vehicle ahead of you and construction workers and equipment. This will allow time to react if there is a sudden stop or other unexpected event. Rear-end collisions account for 30 percent of work zone crashes.
- Obey Road Signs and Road Crew Flaggers: Warning signs are posted to help you move through the work zone. The flagger knows when it is safe to move through a work zone.
- Don't Be Distracted and Stay Alert: Give your full time and attention to the road and avoid distractions!
- Keep Up with the Traffic Flow: Avoid slowing down and braking to look at the road work.
- Know Before You Go: Check local media for traffic information and schedule enough time to get to your destination safely. Expect that there may be delays in work zones.
- Be Patient: Work zones are not meant to be an inconvenience to you. The work crews are working to improve the road conditions to make it better in the future.
- Always Wear Your Seatbelt: If there is a collision, it may save your life!



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Remember: Work zone crews are made up of sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, moms, dads, family members and friends. By driving safely in work zones, you can help to make sure everyone gets home safely.

<http://www.virginia.gov/programs/prog-wzsa-default.asp>

### **Residential Building Electrical Fires (Updated Report)**

The U.S. Fire Administration has released an updated report on home electrical fires. From 2009-2011, an estimated 25,900 home electrical fires were reported to fire departments within the United States each year. These fires caused an estimated 280 deaths, 1,125 injuries and \$1.1 billion in property loss. Home electrical fires resulted in greater dollar loss per fire than nonelectrical fires. Here are key findings from this report:

- An estimated 25,900 residential building electrical fires were reported to fire departments within the United States each year. These fires caused an estimated 280 deaths, 1,125 injuries and \$1.1 billion in property loss.
- Residential building electrical fires resulted in greater dollar loss per fire than residential building nonelectrical fires.
- In 79 percent of residential building electrical fires, the fire spread beyond the object where the fire started.
- The leading items most often first ignited in residential building electrical fires were electrical wire/cable insulation (30 percent) and structural member or framing (19 percent).

Report: <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/statistics/v14i13.pdf>

### **April is National Safe Digging Month**

The Virginia Utility Protection Service, commonly called Miss Utility of Virginia, is the not-for-profit organization created by Virginia's utilities to protect their underground facilities. Virginia 811 is the free "one call" Virginia communications center for excavators, contractors, property owners and those planning any kind of excavation, digging or demolition. Miss Utility of Virginia notifies participating utilities of the upcoming excavation work so they can locate and mark their underground facilities in advance to prevent possible damage to underground utility lines, injury, property damage and service outages. Calling before you dig is a simple step, but one that can make your construction, planting or home improvement project safer while preventing utility outages that can be inconvenient or even dangerous for your neighbors. In addition, calling 811 before you dig is the law. To learn more visit [www.va811.com](http://www.va811.com).



### **NOAA: Slow Atlantic Hurricane Season Coming to a Close**

*No major hurricanes formed in the Atlantic basin – first time since 1994*

The 2013 Atlantic hurricane season, which officially ended on Nov. 30, had the fewest number of hurricanes since 1982, thanks in large part to persistent, unfavorable atmospheric conditions over the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea and tropical Atlantic Ocean. This year is expected to rank as the 10th least-active Atlantic hurricane season since 1950, in terms of the collective strength and duration of named storms and hurricanes. "A combination of conditions acted to offset several climate patterns that historically have produced active hurricane seasons," said Gerry Bell, Ph.D., lead seasonal hurricane forecaster at NOAA's Climate Prediction Center, a division of the National Weather Service. "As a result, we did not see the large numbers of hurricanes that typically accompany these climate patterns." Fourteen tropical and subtropical storms formed in the Atlantic basin this year, including the addition of a short-lived unnamed subtropical storm that formed over the eastern Atlantic Ocean in December. Two, Ingrid and Humberto, became hurricanes, but neither became major hurricanes. Although the number of tropical and subtropical storms was above the average of 12, the numbers of hurricanes and major hurricanes were well below their averages of six and three, respectively. Major hurricanes are categories 3 and above.

[http://www.noanews.noaa.gov/stories2013/20131125\\_endofhurricaneseason.html](http://www.noanews.noaa.gov/stories2013/20131125_endofhurricaneseason.html)

### **Growth of VOAD Movement Across the Commonwealth**

Virginia's outgoing president of Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) reflects on the growing and important role volunteer organizations play in disaster response and recovery. Today, Virginia VOAD has 38 active

member organizations, resulting in increased resources for all parts of the community.

<http://nvoad.org/voadvision/index.php/2-uncategorised/80-outgoing-virginia-voad-president-reflects-on-growth-of-voad-movement-across-the-commonwealth>

### 2014 FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Awards Application Period Now Open

FEMA has announced that the application period for the 2014 Individual and Community Preparedness Awards is now open. The awards highlight innovative local practices and achievements by recognizing individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions toward making their communities safer, stronger, better prepared, and more resilient. To be considered for this year's awards, all submissions must be received by May 30, 2014 at 11:59 p.m. EDT, and must feature program activities taking place between Jan. 1, 2013 and May 30, 2014. Winners will be announced this fall and will be FEMA's honored guests at a community preparedness roundtable event. The winner of the "Preparing the Whole Community" category will receive the John D. Solomon Whole Community Preparedness Award. Visit [www.ready.gov/citizen-corps/citizen-corps-awards](http://www.ready.gov/citizen-corps/citizen-corps-awards) for more information about the awards and instructions for submitting an application.

### 2014 Hurricane Season

The North Atlantic hurricane season begins June 1 and lasts through Nov. 30. The U.S. Census Bureau Infographic (below) is part of the bureau's "facts for features" series they do for special events during the year.

[www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts\\_for\\_features\\_special\\_editions/cb14-ff09.html](http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb14-ff09.html)



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## PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

### **Appallicious Preps for FEMA Disaster Dashboard Launch**

Appallicious, a California-based company known for its government open data app offerings, has revealed plans to create an online dashboard to aid recovering communities and local businesses during and after disasters. Early this month the company announced the dashboard – a collaboration with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) open data program – alongside the hire of Ashley De Smeth, its new director of development and government affairs. De Smeth, formerly the interagency liaison for the White House Office of Legislative Affairs, has been tasked with coordinating with FEMA on the dashboard's launch while also marketing it to states and localities. Appallicious CEO Yo Yoshida said that the company will likely pilot the dashboard with the city of San Francisco for 90 days before formerly offering it to communities. Officially called the Disaster Assessment and Assistance Dashboard, or DAAD, the dashboard's primary features will support residents and local businesses. For residents affected by a disaster, this will mean a suite of functions that include real-time mapping of disaster relief locations, requests for assistance, status updates on roadways, listings of aid-giving support facilities such as hospitals and first response centers, hazardous material locations and other latest developments around incidents. The mapping functions, Yoshida said, also will allow crowdsourcing of imagery – residents can upload photos of the disaster from their perspective.

<http://www.govtech.com/data/Appallicious-Preps-for-FEMA-Disaster-Dashboard-Launch.html>

### **Before the Storm ... Save Money**

*Hurricane Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday is May 25-31*

Before the tropical storms arrive, you can get ready and save money, too. Shop during Virginia's Hurricane Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday, May 25-31, and you won't pay sales tax on many supplies for protecting your home and business. Many useful items qualify. Shop for items on this list that have a price of \$60 or less:

- Artificial ice, blue ice, ice packs, reusable ice.
- Batteries, excluding car or boat batteries.
- Portable self-powered light sources, including flashlights and lanterns and glow sticks.
- First-aid kits.
- Cellphone chargers.
- Weather Band radios and NOAA Weather Radios.
- Portable self-powered radios, including radios with electrical power capability.
- Bottled water of any size, including flavored and carbonated.
- Two-way radios.
- Manual can openers.
- Tarps, plastic sheeting, plastic drop cloths.
- Bungee cords and rope.
- Ground anchor systems or tie down kits.
- Ratchet straps.
- Duct tape.
- Carbon monoxide and smoke detectors, fire extinguishers.
- Empty gas, propane or diesel fuel tanks or containers.
- Water storage containers such as buckets, barrels, canteens, coolers.

Shop for items on this list that have a sales price of \$1,000 or less:

- Portable generators and generator power cords.
- Inverters and inverter power cables.

Retail outlets will have information about the tax holiday. For more, visit

[www.tax.virginia.gov/site.cfm?alias=STHoliday](http://www.tax.virginia.gov/site.cfm?alias=STHoliday). For information about getting ready for hurricane and flooding season in Virginia, visit [www.ReadyVirginia.gov](http://www.ReadyVirginia.gov) and [www.ListoVirginia.gov](http://www.ListoVirginia.gov).



### **Hurricane Preparedness: Get Ahead of the Curve**

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), 2013 was a slow season for Atlantic hurricanes ([http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2013/20131125\\_endofhurricaneseason.html](http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2013/20131125_endofhurricaneseason.html)), with the fewest number of storms since 1982. However, it's never too early to get prepared for the upcoming 2014 Hurricane season, which begins June 1 and ends Nov. 30. Build your knowledge now on what to do before, during and after a hurricane with resources found at [www.ready.gov/hurricanes](http://www.ready.gov/hurricanes). This site provides you with useful information to build your awareness on hurricanes as well as other tips to prepare for a hurricane such as building an emergency kit and making a communications plan. The America's PrepareAthon! website also offers "How to Prepare for a Hurricane," a hazard-specific guide, which provides information on the basics of each hazard, how to protect yourself and your property, and what steps to take now. Be well informed and get the jump on hurricane season today.

"How to Prepare for a Hurricane": [http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1396459350530-e5eb2cc0c84a4aea8582a90953ea6f2f/How\\_To\\_Prepere\\_Guide\\_Hurricane.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1396459350530-e5eb2cc0c84a4aea8582a90953ea6f2f/How_To_Prepere_Guide_Hurricane.pdf)

PrepareAthon! Website: <http://community.fema.gov/connect.ti/AmericasPrepareathon/groupHome>

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

### **Free Preparedness Exercises**

Points of Light and the HandsOn Network are offering free Web-based exercises in May to help with disaster volunteer and preparedness needs. The "Operation Volunteer Placement" exercise will be held on May 21, and is intended for local agencies and organizations tasked with volunteer coordination during an emergency. Exercise participants will work through different scenarios dealing with the numerous challenges associated screening and placing spontaneous volunteers with various response agencies and organizations. For more information and to register, visit <http://www.drc-group.com/project/vrc.html>. The "Resilient Response" exercise is a disaster readiness and response activity discussing different scenarios related to natural disasters and how to respond. The next exercise is scheduled for May 30. For additional information and to register yourself or your organization to participate, visit <http://www.resilientresponseexercise.org>.

*Reprinted from FEMA's "Individual and Community Preparedness e-Brief," April 4 edition*

### **Best Practices in Local Mitigation**

"Beyond the Basics" is a new website designed to provide guidance through the process of developing or updating a local hazard mitigation plan that will meet FEMA approval requirements. It is the product of a five-year research study conducted by the Coastal Hazards Center and the Center for Sustainable Community Design at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. As part of this study, researchers at UNC systematically analyzed 175 local hazard mitigation plans drawn from six states to assess their content and quality. Each plan was evaluated using a hazard mitigation plan quality protocol that has been developed, tested, and applied over several projects across the country.

<http://mitigationguide.org/>

### **Arson Awareness Week**

Each year during the first full week in May, the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) and our partners work to raise awareness of arson and provide individuals with strategies to combat it in their community. This year, Arson Awareness Week is May 4-10 and focuses on vehicle arson. Here are some interesting vehicle arson statistics

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- From 2008-2010, 14 percent of all fires were vehicle fires. Of these fires, 7 percent were intentionally set. Source: USFA
- From 2004-2006, an estimated 27,900 intentionally set vehicle fires occurred each year in the U.S. These intentionally set fires resulted in an average of approximately 40 deaths, 75 injuries, and \$169 million in property loss each year. Source: USFA
- During 2007-2011, local fire departments responded to an average of 20,400 intentionally set vehicle fires, accounting for 7 percent of intentionally set fires and resulting in an average of 32 civilian deaths, 67 civilian injuries, and \$176 million in direct property damage. Source: National Fire Protection Association
- Two-thirds of intentionally set vehicle fires occur under the cloak of darkness (9 p.m.-6 a.m.). Source: National Fire Protection Association
- Over the last 10 years (2003-2012), there has been an average of 14,737 vehicle arsons reported, accounting for 26.5 percent of total arsons annually. Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation

Learn more at [www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/prevention\\_education/strategies/arson](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/prevention_education/strategies/arson).

### Food Safety During Power Outages

Weather emergencies can happen. When they do, the best strategy is to already have a plan in place. This includes knowing the proper food safety precautions to take if the power goes out. This quick video from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration offers several tips to remember in case you lose power.

<http://youtu.be/GkFqAbqO38Q>



### Congressional Report on Boston Bombings Critical of Information Sharing

U.S. law enforcement and intelligence agencies failed to effectively communicate and share intelligence on the two brothers who carried out the jihad terror attack on the Boston Marathon last spring, concluded the report of the House Committee on Homeland Security's investigation of the bombings. The highly anticipated report exposed shortcomings in interagency cooperation and information sharing on the brothers between the FBI, Customs and Border Protection (CBP,) and other U.S. agencies leading up to the bombings.

<http://www.hstoday.us/single-article/congressional-report-on-boston-bombings-critical-of-interagency-information-sharing/6afc8ffbb0a160f65afc8d93d8da9398.html>

### 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).

## When in Doubt, Throw it Out!

After flooding, identify and throw away food that may not be safe to eat. Throw away any food that may have come in contact with flood or storm water. Throw away food that has an unusual odor, color, or texture; If the power has been off for 4 hours or more, throw away foods in your refrigerator. Throw away any canned foods that are bulging, opened, or damaged. When in doubt, throw it out

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/ResourcesForYou/Consumers/ucm076881.htm>

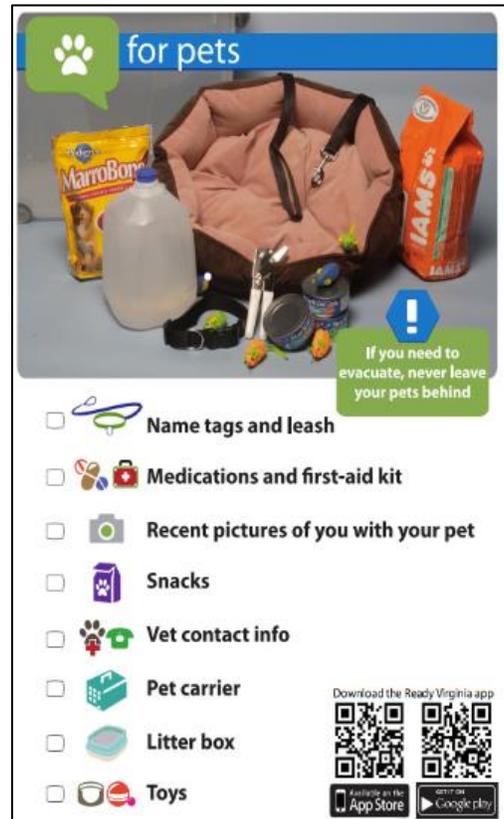
## Prepare Your Pets for Emergencies

In an emergency, you may need to stay in your home, or perhaps you'll have to leave. If you evacuate, do not leave your pets behind. Pets most likely cannot survive on their own. Plan now where your pet will stay if you have to evacuate: a friend's or relative's home, a pet-friendly hotel or motel, or a kennel or veterinarian's office. Talk to your vet or local humane society about an emergency plan for your pet. Make a pet emergency supply kit. Include:

- At least three days' food in airtight, waterproof container (include can opener, if necessary).
- At least three days' water specifically for your pet.
- Food and water bowls.
- Extra collar with ID tag and leash.
- Current photos of you and your pet together, in case you get separated.
- Crate or other pet carrier that is large enough for your pet to stand, turn around and lie down, with blankets or towels for bedding.
- Litter box and pet litter, if appropriate; also, newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags.
- Familiar items such as toys and treats.

One other thought – in an emergency, including severe weather, don't leave your pets outside. Bring them in.

<http://www.vaemergency.gov/readyvirginia/getakit/pets>



## New Book on Repairing Flooded Homes

Just in time for hurricane and flooding season, FEMA and the American Red Cross teamed up to develop "Repairing Your Flooded Home," a new book that gives step-by-step advice to help people get started on the road to recovery. Copies of the book are available at your local Red Cross or by sending a written request to FEMA at P.O. Box 2012, Jessup, Md. 20794-2012.

## Community Emergency Alert Network (CEAN)

Get emergency alerts by email, as well as by text or pager. Sign up at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean). Businesses can also register up to five people in their organizations – such as security officers – who can receive alerts and then share that information with their workforce.

## MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

### **First Responder Disaster Training**

When disaster strikes, every second counts. Emergency response crews from across the country are using a Georgia facility to get training for real-life events. About 100 miles south of Atlanta, are the Guardian Centers. It's a new training facility for first responders complete with signs of disaster everywhere. For these professionals, it's like a doomsday Disneyland. Built on the site of what once was a Cold War missile plant, the 830-acre property can recreate just about any disaster scenario imaginable.

[http://www.ktv1.com/shared/news/top-stories/stories/ktvl\\_vid\\_11784.shtml](http://www.ktv1.com/shared/news/top-stories/stories/ktvl_vid_11784.shtml)



### **Roadmap Outlines R&D Path to Reduce Storm Impacts**

A new measurement science research and development (R&D) roadmap, prepared for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) over the past two years by a private-sector group of hazard mitigation experts, provides a broad strategic approach and R&D objectives to reduce impacts from windstorms and coastal inundations, including storm surge during hurricanes and tsunamis.

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20140402-roadmap-outlines-r-d-path-to-reduce-storm-impacts>

### **There's an App for That**

Thanks to smartphones and the apps made for them, emergency managers and the public they serve now have a wealth of help at their fingertips for almost any disaster scenario. They can look up the effects of toxic chemicals, brush up on first aid, find the nearest shelters, or turn their phone into a flashlight.

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/training/Emergency-Management-App.html>

### **Chinese Cyberspies Use Malaysian Flight for Attacks**

Spies tied to some of China's largest cyberespionage campaigns are using the disappearance of Malaysian Flight MH 370 to infect computers of governments and think tanks. Two of the attacks were uncovered by researchers at security company FireEye, who did not immediately respond to requests for interview. FireEye found the attacks used a modified version of a hacking tool favored in Chinese state-sponsored attacks called Poison Ivy. They also traced the attacks to a group dubbed "Admin@338," which has been involved in previous Chinese espionage campaigns. The cyberspies leveraged the Malaysian Flight to gain access. They sent emails to specific targets with an infected file seemingly about the Malaysian flight. If the victim opened the file, it would infect the computer with their espionage tool.

<http://www.theepochtimes.com/n3/589269-chinese-cyberspies-use-malaysian-flight-for-attacks/>

### **Pentagon to Triple Cyber Staff to Thwart Attacks**

The Pentagon plans to more than triple its cybersecurity staff in the next few years to defend against Internet attacks that threaten national security, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said earlier this month. "The Department of Defense is on its way to building a modern cyberforce," Hagel said in a speech at the retirement of Gen. Keith Alexander as head of the U.S. Cyber Command and NSA. "This force is enhancing our ability to deter aggression in cyberspace, deny adversaries their objectives, and defend the nation from cyberattacks that threaten our national security." By 2016, the Pentagon should have 6,000 cyber professionals, Hagel said. That compares to some 1,800 by the end of this year.

[http://seattletimes.com/html/nationworld/2023248738\\_apxhageleyber.html](http://seattletimes.com/html/nationworld/2023248738_apxhageleyber.html)

### **Report Criticizes Corrections Policies**

A justice reform organization says Virginia is spending too much to keep too many people locked up for too long. In

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a report released early this month, the nonprofit Justice Policy Institute suggests Virginia should follow the lead of other states that are cutting costs and reducing prison populations without compromising public safety.

<http://www.nbc29.com/story/25139702/report-criticizes-virginia-corrections-policies>

### **NIST's Final Joplin Tornado Report Recommends New Building Standards, Codes**

The final report of the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) technical investigation into the impacts of the May 22, 2011, tornado that devastated a large area of Joplin, Missouri laid the groundwork for improved building codes and nationally accepted standards. The nearly 500-page report – which was conducted under the National Construction Safety Team Act -- is strengthened by clarifications and supplemental text that was suggested by organizations and individuals from across the nation in response to the request for comments on the draft report NIST released in November. The report outlined 47 findings and 16 “recommendations for action in areas of improved measurement and characterization of tornado hazards, new methods for tornado resistant design of buildings, enhanced guidance for community tornado sheltering and improved and standardized emergency communications,” NIST said.

<http://www.hstoday.us/single-article/nists-final-joplin-tornado-report-recommends-new-building-standards-codes/c52d0d88b2ca8a279f69f124f268519e.html>

### **Power Outages Due to Weather Have Doubled**

Climate Central released a report with a remarkable conclusion: the number of weather-related power outages has shot up since the 1980s, and doubled since 2003. The Princeton, NJ-based non-profit conducted a national analysis of the last 28 years of outage data and found a stunning ten-fold increase in outages over the period, spanning 1984-2012.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/capital-weather-gang/wp/2014/04/11/report-power-outages-due-to-weather-have-doubled-since-2003/>

<http://www.climatecentral.org/news/weather-related-blackouts-doubled-since-2003-report-17281>

### **Study: Climate Change to Blame for Worsening U.S. Wildfires**

Drought, heat and dry weather caused by climate change has dramatically increased the number of wildfires in the U.S., a new study shows. The number of sizable wildfires increased by a rate of seven fires a year between 1984 and 2011. Massive, destructive wildfires have increased over the past 30 years in the western United States due to rising temperatures associated with climate change, a new study shows, and could get worse over the coming decades.

<http://time.com/69211/wildfire-climate-change-study/>

### **Childhood Bullying Can Cause Problems Decades Later**

Chances are some people still remember the name of that bully who stole their lunch money or pushed them down the stairs 30 years ago. While the psychological effects of bullying in adolescence are well documented, a new study published Thursday in The American Journal of Psychiatry shows harmful effects can extend decades after the initial bullying. Researchers found those bullied in childhood had lower levels of education, greater physical and cognitive health problems and poor social functioning throughout their lives, compared to those who were not bullied.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/04/17/childhood-bullying-impacts/7838225/>

### **Hurricane Sandy Recovery has Been a Slow Process, Survey Shows**

A survey by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York says many small businesses affected by Hurricane Sandy are still struggling. About 4 in 10 respondents said they were affected by the storm, with most of them saying they're still searching for working capital. "[T]he data elucidate a core problem for Main Street borrowers: Loans for small dollar amounts are hard to come by," Patrick Clark writes.

<http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2014-04-22/hurricane-sandy-victims-highlight-main-street-lending-shortfalls>

## FLU

### **GAO: Too Soon to Rate Latest HHS Countermeasure Efforts**

The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has spent \$440 million in the past two years on contracts to strengthen the manufacturing base for defenses against pandemic flu and other public health threats, but it's too early to tell how well the efforts will pay off, according to a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report released this month. The report focuses on HHS's move to develop flexible manufacturing facilities to support the development of medical countermeasures against pandemic flu and other chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) threats. The effort stems from a reevaluation of U.S. medical countermeasures activities in 2010, following the 2009 flu pandemic, when most of the pandemic flu vaccine supply arrived after the epidemic's peak. <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2014/04/gao-too-soon-rate-latest-hhs-countermeasure-efforts>  
GAO Report: <http://www.gao.gov/assets/670/662120.pdf>

### **Sea Otters Test Positive for H1N1 Antibodies**

Federal researchers have found antibodies to the 2009 H1N1 (pH1N1) flu virus in almost three fourths of sea otters they tested that were from off the coast of Washington state, according to a letter this month in "Emerging Infectious Diseases." Researchers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and US Geological Survey collected samples from 30 sea otters captured in 2011 and found that 22 (73 percent) had hemagglutination inhibition antibody titers of 40 or higher against the pH1N1 virus. They also found that the serum from 21 otters (70 percent) had detectable Immunoglobulin G (higher than 200) for recombinant hemagglutinin (HA) of the A/Texas/05/2009 pH1N1 strain.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2014/04/flu-scan-apr-01-2014>

[http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/20/5/13-1890\\_article.htm](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/20/5/13-1890_article.htm)

<http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=3864#.U0RTUPDD8Ss>

### **Experiments Render H7N1 Virus More Contagious in Ferrets**

In research that prompted a special review because of "dual use" concerns, scientists conducted experiments that increased the transmissibility of an avian influenza H7N1 virus in ferrets, according to a recent report in the "Journal of Virology" (JVI). Aiming to identify mutations that might lead to a pandemic strain of H7N1, a subtype not known to infect humans, the scientists serially infected ferrets with the virus. After 10 "passages" in ferrets, the virus had acquired five mutations and was able to spread among them by air without losing any of its virulence along the way, according to the report.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2014/04/experiments-render-h7n1-virus-more-contagious-ferrets>

### **Antibody Titer Protection Less Than Believed for H3N2, H1N1**

An antibody titer of 1:40 was associated with significantly less than 50 percent protection against influenza A(H1N1) and influenza A(H3N2) within households, researchers from the University of Hong Kong have found. Previous data suggested this level measured by the hemagglutination inhibition (HAI) assay was associated with 50 percent protection compared with titers of less than 1:10, the researchers wrote. The researchers identified 297 individuals with PCR-confirmed seasonal influenza A(H1N1) or A(H3N2) for the study, then followed 558 of their household contacts for 7 to 10 days. They collected serum specimens from 198 contacts to measure antibody levels by HAI and microneutralization assays and compared protection among individuals with an HAI titer level of 1:40 and a reference group of people with titer levels of less than 1:10.

<http://www.healio.com/infectious-disease/influenza/news/online/%7B168a8594-40c5-434a-b593-1e756b037718%7D/antibody-titer-protection-less-than-believed-for-h3n2-h1n1>

### **Centers for Manufacturing Emergency Influenza Vaccine Ready in Next Few Years**

One of three organizations hired by the Health and Human Services Department for surge vaccine production in the event of a pandemic should be running at full capacity within three years, department officials say. HHS in 2012 awarded contracts collectively worth nearly \$400 million to Novartis, Emergent Manufacturing Operations, and Texas A&M University to establish centers capable of providing surge vaccine capacity by using methods allowing

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for quick production. For example, the centers might use disposable plastic bags to grow cell cultures rather than stainless steel tanks or resort to recombinant technologies rather than the traditional egg-based method. HHS anticipates that one of the centers will be ready in 2017 to produce 50 million doses of pandemic influenza vaccine within four months of receiving the virus strain. All the centers should be ready to do the same by the end of 2020. Under the program, the public is scheduled to receive the first doses of surge vaccine within 12 weeks.

<http://www.fierc homelandsecurity.com/story/centers-manufacturing-emergency-influenza-vaccine-ready-next-few-years/2014-04-07>

### **Deadly H5N1 Bird Flu Needs Just 5 Mutations to Spread Easily in People**

It's a flu virus so deadly that scientists once halted research on the disease because governments feared it might be used by terrorists to stage a biological attack. Yet despite the fact that the H5N1 avian influenza has killed 60 percent of the 650 humans known to be infected since it was identified in Hong Kong 17 years ago, the "bird flu" virus has yet to evolve a means of spreading easily among people.

<http://www.latimes.com/science/sciencenow/la-sci-sn-bird-flu-five-mutations-20140410,0,6818032.story>

### **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**

### **The U.S. Cyber Crime Conference 2014**

April 29-May 2; Leesburg, Va.

This event provides both hands-on digital forensics training and an interactive forum for cyber professionals to network. The conference covers the full spectrum of topics facing defenders as well as law enforcement responders. All aspects of computer crime will be covered, including intrusion investigations, cyber crime law, digital forensics, information assurance, along with research and development, and testing of digital forensic tools.

<http://www.usacybercrime.com/Home>

### **Fire-Rescue Med (FRM) 2014**

April 30-May 3; Arlington, Va.

Fire-Rescue Med (FRM) has moved to Arlington. Come to the national capital region as FRM takes the attendee experience to the next level. Look for exciting new format changes including focused education tracks, new general session formats, new presenters and expo hall events that combine learning and networking.

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

### **Philadelphia Emergency Management Summit 2014**

May 1; Philadelphia, Pa.

A rallying point for the entire community of first responders, these regional events gather the leaders in emergency management, public safety and homeland security and provide a forum to share best practices, renew relationships and work on new solutions for both the problems that are anticipated – and those that aren't. Whether emergencies

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are storm-related, man-made or just the day-to-day challenges in large urban and suburban areas, government organizations are expected to have the answers. Emergency Management Summits bring together the whole community of public and private-sector leaders to help predict, mitigate and better handle crisis situations in order to save lives and property. Emergency Management Summits bring together the whole community of public and private-sector leaders to help predict, mitigate and better handle crisis situations in order to save lives and property.  
<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/events/Philadelphia-Emergency-Management-Summit.html>

### **SPIE Defense + Security 2014**

May 5-May 9; Baltimore, Md.

This long-standing symposium includes conferences and courses on infrared systems, lidar and radar, laser technology, image processing, data analysis, intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance systems (ISR), display technologies, unmanned systems and robots, CBRNE, cyber sensing and security, biometric technology, law enforcement, energy harvesting, etc.

<http://spie.org/x94874.xml>

### **28th Annual Governor's Hurricane Conference**

May 11-16; Orlando, Fla.

This year's theme, "Rethink Risk" is a very important offering as attendees will be asked to re-focus on the very real threat tropical cyclones pose.

<http://flghc.org>

### **CPM 2014 Conference & Expo**

May 12-14; Washington, D.C.

CPM East is the premier event for COOP/DR/BC and emergency response professionals looking for proven strategies and cost effective technology to achieve your mission of preparing and planning for emergencies and disruptions of operations including response and recovery.

<http://contingencyplanning.com/events/cpm-2014/home.aspx>

### **GovSec 2014-Government Security Conference and Expo**

May 12-May 14; Washington, D.C.

GovSec is the nation's premier event for Government, Homeland Security, and Law Enforcement professionals looking for proven strategies and cost effective technology so they can achieve their mission of protecting our critical infrastructures, key assets, communities and the nation. This year's conference tracks include: Counter & Anti-Terrorism, Critical Infrastructure & Secured Cities, Cybercrime & Cyberterrorism, Campus Security & Life Safety, and Law Enforcement Strategies & Tactics.

<http://govsecinfo.com/events/govsec-2014/home.aspx>

### **FOSE 2014**

May 13-15; Washington, D.C.

FOSE is the nation's premier event for government technology professionals seeking tools and best practices to equip their agency for the 21st century. From policy updates - straight from the hill - to exclusive insights from today's leading authorities, as well as the most comprehensive showcase of technology in action.

<http://fose.com/Events/Government-Technology/Home.aspx>

### **National VOAD Conference**

May 13-15; Indianapolis, Ind.

Hundreds of leaders in the disaster preparedness and response sectors will convene in Indianapolis, Ind. for the 2014 National VOAD Conference May 13-15. Attendees will hear from dynamic speakers, learn from educational sessions and have the opportunity to make lasting connections with peers from the disaster response and emergency management industry.

<http://www.nvoad.org/events/>

### **2014 National Homeland Security Conference**

May 19-22; Philadelphia, Penn.

The National Homeland Security Association sponsors the National Homeland Security Conference, which is the annual meeting of local homeland security and emergency management professionals from the nations' largest metropolitan areas. This conference focuses on all emergency response disciplines at all levels of government.

<http://nationaluasi.com/dru/>

### **International Hazardous Materials Response Teams Conference & Expo 2014**

May 29-June 1; Baltimore, Md.

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

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

### **First Responders Communication Interoperability**

July 14-16; Washington, D.C.

First Responders Communication Interoperability will take an in depth look at the current and upcoming advances in technology, training, and strategy for all agencies and divisions, both civil and military, involved in disaster and emergency response. There will be hands on training workshops as well as solution oriented discussion on the current national and state level preparedness measures, current capability gaps and necessary procurements for future success.

<http://www.firstrespondersforum.com/default.aspx>

### **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)

## 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/)
- 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

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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 [NICCCReports@dhs.gov](mailto:NICCCReports@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 Radio**

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/radio](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/radio)

### **Emergency Management Magazine**

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

### **FEMA Private Sector**

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



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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 feel free to 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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