



# ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

August 2010

## ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

### Emergency Preparedness Month in Fairfax County

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, at its July 27 meeting, designated **September as Emergency Preparedness Month in Fairfax County**, to coincide with the annual National Preparedness Month celebration. Dave McKernan, coordinator of emergency management and director of the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management, represented OEM during the recognition. Also attending were other OEM staff, as well as representatives from partner organizations and agencies. For more information about emergency preparedness in Fairfax County and how you can become better prepared, contact the Office of Emergency Management at 571-350-1000, TTY 711;

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem) or [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency).



FEMA Administrator W. Craig Fugate speaks at a Red Cross seminar on using social media during disasters. FEMA/Bill Koplitz

### FEMA Administrator Use of Social Media in Emergency Management

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator Craig Fugate this month addressed the American Red Cross Emergency Social Data Summit on the growing use of social media in emergency management. Fugate discussed ways social media can be used by emergency managers and the public alike to communicate during a disaster. Fugate has made the use of social media and mobile technology a priority in FEMA's outreach to the public. This includes the launch of a mobile version of FEMA's website, [m.fema.gov](http://m.fema.gov), earlier this year as well as the capability for disaster survivors to register for federal assistance directly on their smart phones. Also on the program was Merni Fitzgerald, director of the Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs and county spokesperson. She was on a panel representing local governments and the use of social media in emergencies. The American Red Cross released a survey earlier this month, highlighting the public's use of social

media during emergencies. According to the survey, an increasing number of people turn to social media for updated information during an emergency, and nearly three out of four users believe that posting an urgent request for help via a social media site would be an effective way to reach local authorities and receive a response within an hour.

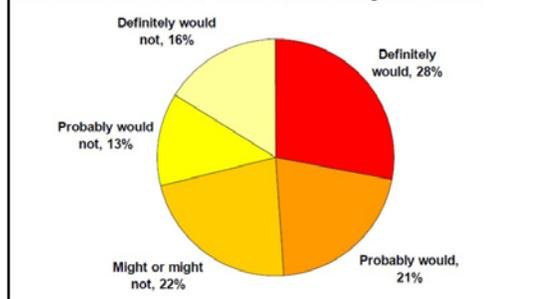
Read more about the American Red Cross survey:

[http://1.pr/a41hlo/red\\_cross\\_survey](http://1.pr/a41hlo/red_cross_survey)

### Web Users Increasingly Rely on Social Media to Seek Help in a Disaster

A new American Red Cross survey shows many Web users would turn to social media to seek help for themselves or others during emergencies – and they expect first responders to be listening. The online survey asked 1,058 adults about their use of social media sites in emergency situations. It found that if they needed help and couldn't reach 9-1-1, one in five would try to contact responders through a digital means such as e-mail, Websites or social media. If Web users knew

**During an emergency, nearly half would use social media to let loved ones know they are safe.**



of someone else who needed help, 44 percent would ask other people in their social network to contact authorities, 35 percent would post a request for help directly on a response agency's Facebook page and 28 percent would send a direct Twitter message to responders. Web users also have clear expectations about how first responders should be answering their requests. The survey showed that 69 percent said that emergency responders should be monitoring social media sites in order to quickly send help – and nearly half believe a response agency is probably already responding to any urgent request they might see. And the survey respondents expected quick response to an online appeal for help – 74 percent expected help to come less than an hour after their tweet or Facebook post.

<http://1.pr/a41fo0/>

<http://www.redcross.org/www-files/Documents/pdf/other/SocialMediaSlideDeck.pdf>

### **FEMA's Craig Fugate on Twitter and Preparedness**

FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate spoke Thursday with John Solomon for his In Case of Emergency Blog after a brief speech to the Red Cross Emergency Data Summit. Fugate is the only senior Obama administration official The Eye knows of that's not afraid of a FlipCam-wielding blogger, especially Solomon, who's a close observer of Homeland Security policy not affiliated with a major news organization. (Fugate later told The Eye that he regularly reads Solomon's blog for its frank, outside assessment of FEMA's work.) Fugate, the former head of Florida's emergency management team, also has his own Twitter handle, @CraigatFEMA, and clarified that he writes his own Tweets. It helps "get rid of the mystique of being an administrator of a federal agency," Fugate told Solomon. "There always seem to be these barriers between you and interacting with people everyday." But his bigger point to Solomon and the conference was that social media should help emergency management agencies get two-way input from disaster survivors that can help them better shape crisis response.



[http://voices.washingtonpost.com/federal-eye/2010/08/femas\\_craig\\_fugate\\_on\\_twitter.html](http://voices.washingtonpost.com/federal-eye/2010/08/femas_craig_fugate_on_twitter.html)

### **Hurricane Katrina 5-year Anniversary**

The Institute for Southern Studies has released a new report on the five year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina.

"Learning from Katrina: Lessons from Five Years of Recovery and Renewal in the Gulf Coast" set out to address three critical questions: "What has our nation learned in the five years since Katrina struck? What role has community action played in shaping the Katrina recovery?"

And today, in the wake of new disasters and challenges, what is needed to ensure full renewal for the Gulf Coast?" The report finds that many problems exposed in the federal response have yet to be addressed. According to a report from the Abandoned Buildings Outreach Team of UNITY of Greater New Orleans, there are 55,000 abandoned commercial and residential buildings in New Orleans. "Search and Rescue Five Years Later: Saving People Still Trapped in Katrina's Ruins" is a detailed report of findings and recommendations of the team's "18 months of combing the city's abandoned buildings in search of elderly and disabled survivors of Hurricane Katrina." Building codes along the Gulf Coast today are inadequate according to a report from the Institute for Business & Home Safety. The report, "Hurricane Katrina: Are We Better Prepared Five Years Later?" details the institute's analysis of pre- and post-Katrina building codes in Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi.



<http://www.hsd1.org/hslog/?q=node/5734>

Report: <http://www.southernstudies.org/ISS%20Katrina%205%20Year%20Web.pdf>

## Chemical Bomb Awareness

Fairfax County residents, especially in the Dranesville magisterial district, have been experiencing a rash of chemical bombs placed in mailboxes. According to the Fairfax County Fire and Hazardous Materials Investigative Services Section, “Chemical bombs include several components which when mixed together and sealed in a plastic bottle create a reaction that releases gas. The gas causes the plastic bottle to swell until it explodes. The explosions are powerful enough to damage mailboxes and cause potentially serious harm to persons.” Useful information from the Fire and Hazardous Materials Investigative Services Section on how to prepare for or act upon an incident involving a chemical bomb is online at [http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dranesville/chemical\\_bomb\\_awareness.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dranesville/chemical_bomb_awareness.htm).

## New Trailers Will Help with Emergency Pet Sheltering

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) recently unveiled two trailers that will help move pet shelter supplies in the event of a hurricane or other emergency. Brownie troop 3291 and Brownie troop 692, both from Chesterfield County, Va., created artwork that decorates each trailer. VDACS used DHS grant funds to purchase the two trailers and supplies to shelter 1,000 household pets in state-managed shelters. Brownie Troops 3291 and 692 learned the importance of family preparedness and making emergency plans for pets to meet the requirements for an Emergency Preparedness Patch. As an art project, each girl drew pet pictures that were transferred into graphics and applied to the trailers. <http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/news/releases-a/061710petshelter.shtml>



## Food Safety

The Board of Supervisors has declared September as Food Safety Education Month in Fairfax County. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 76 million people experience food borne illnesses each year, resulting in 325,000 hospitalizations and 5,000 deaths annually. Throughout the month of September, the Fairfax County Health Department and the local restaurant and foodservice industry will reinforce the proper food safety practices and procedures by focusing educational efforts on the “high risk” factors that can make people sick. Labor Day is just around the corner, and you may have cookouts planned. Throughout the year, the health department encourages everyone to “be food safe” through four simple steps:

- (1) **Clean:** Keep hands and utensils clean.
- (2) **Separate:** Keep raw meat, poultry, and seafood away from other food.
- (3) **Cook:** You can't tell it's done by how it looks! Use a food thermometer.
- (4) **Chill:** A 40 degree fridge keeps bacteria from spreading.

Learn more by visiting [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/food](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/food).

## Governor McDonnell Holds 2010 Governor's Campus Preparedness Conference

Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell addressed the 2010 Governor's Campus Preparedness Conference on Aug. 3 at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. This year's conference focused on the need to better plan for the future to protect the safety and security of thousands of students from all over the world who come to Virginia's institutions of higher education. The annual conference, which began in the wake of the tragic shootings on the campus of Virginia Tech in 2007, creates an effective way for hundreds of representatives from campus administration, local and state emergency managers, local government, and law enforcement to share information on campus security strategies, participate in panel discussions on security issues, and examine the latest products and services to improve campus security. It is coordinated every August by the Office of Commonwealth Preparedness and the Secretary of Public Safety. In addition to the governor's remarks, this year's conference also included comments by Assistant to the Governor for Commonwealth Preparedness Terrie Suit, Secretary of Education Gerard Robinson, and Secretary of Public Safety Marla Decker. Ryan Nobles of NBC-12 Richmond was the guest moderator for the morning's general session. The morning session included presentations on legal and policy considerations of emergency and disaster laws; college threat tools campus preparedness leaders can use; ways to communicate with students and faculty in the event of a threat; and, what to do following a disaster. In the afternoon, conference participants attended break-out sessions, giving them an opportunity to have more in-depth discussions regarding

campus safety and security.

[http://www.news.vcu.edu/news/VCU\\_Hosts\\_Fourth\\_Annual\\_Governors\\_Campus\\_Preparedness\\_Conference](http://www.news.vcu.edu/news/VCU_Hosts_Fourth_Annual_Governors_Campus_Preparedness_Conference)

### **Countering Challenges to the Global Supply Chain**

CACI International Inc. and the U. S. Naval Institute (USNI) on Monday, Aug. 2, announced the release of a report, “Cyber Threats to National Security: Countering Challenges to the Global Supply Chain.” The report publishes recommendations from the most recent symposium in the new Asymmetric Threats series on cybersecurity. Copies of the report may be downloaded from CACI’s website at [www.caci.com](http://www.caci.com) or from the dedicated Asymmetric Threat website at [www.asymmetricthreat.net](http://www.asymmetricthreat.net). Held on March 2, at Ft. Myer, Va., the Cyber Threats symposium featured keynote speakers that included former Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge, former Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon R. England, and former Virginia Governor James S. Gilmore, III. Participants included thought leaders and key decision-makers from across government and industry. The report notes how cybersecurity has increasingly become a national security priority over the past decade. Cyber threats may be perpetrated with little cost and few resources. Cyber attacks are typically anonymous, launched from any of billions of sources worldwide. Impacts may be immediate and obvious, or elude recognition for years. U.S. supply chains have historically been protected from threat because they were generally internal to North America, the report adds. This is no longer true in the cyber age. The vast majority of U.S. supply chains rely on information technologies that can be compromised at any time. Global partners and worldwide connectivity increase the risk. The responsibility to protect U.S. cyber assets must be shared among the government, the private sector, and every private citizen.

[http://www.caci.com/about/news/news2010/8\\_2\\_10\\_NR.html](http://www.caci.com/about/news/news2010/8_2_10_NR.html)

### **National Weather Service Draft Strategic Plan Ready for Public Comment**

The National Weather Service (NWS) draft Strategic Plan is ready for public comment. This strategic plan works to “anticipate service needs in the 2020 time frame, project what science and technology will allow, and establishes meaningful outcome-oriented goals and objectives for NWS 2020.” Please go to the NWS website ([www.weather.gov/com/stratplan/](http://www.weather.gov/com/stratplan/)) to read the strategic plan and to make comments from now until Sept. 7, 2010.

### **What is Mitigation?**

One aspect of FEMA’s mission is to “mitigate all hazards,” but what is mitigation? In this video a mitigation specialist describes what mitigation is and what programs are available to the public. FEMA’s Community Education and Outreach Program provides information to prevent future loss for people, property and possessions.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=057ZkeoFyc4>



### **NOAA: Second Warmest July and Warmest Year-to-Date Global Temperature on Record**

The combined global land and ocean surface temperature made this July the second warmest on record, behind 1998, and the warmest averaged January-July on record. The global average land surface temperature for July and January-July was warmest on record. The global ocean surface temperature for July was the fifth warmest, and for January-July 2010 was the second warmest on record, behind 1998.

[http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20100813\\_globalstats.html](http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20100813_globalstats.html)

### **VIPER a Finalist in National Award Program**

The Virginia Interoperability Picture for Emergency Response was among 33 finalists across all categories for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Information Technology for the 2010 National Association of State Chief Information Officers Recognition Awards. Although VIPER did not receive the award, it will be highlighted during NASCIO’s Annual Conference as an outstanding state initiative, during a Best Practices Lunch on Monday, Sept. 27. NASCIO’s Recognition Awards are given annually to states that have implemented exceptional programs that have made an important contribution to the operation of state government. This year, NASCIO received 134 nominations from 30 states, making this one of the largest competitive fields to date.

<http://www.vaemergency.com>

## PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

### Current Threat Level

- The United States government's national threat level is Elevated, or Yellow.
- The U.S. threat level is High, or Orange, for all domestic and international flights. Only small amounts of liquids, aerosols and gels are allowed in carry-on baggage. See the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Web site (<http://www.tsa.gov>) for up-to-date information on items permitted and prohibited on airlines.
- Virginia Threat Level: 



Under an elevated threat level, businesses should:

- Continue all precautions from lower Threat Conditions.
- Announce Threat Condition ELEVATED to employees.
- Review vulnerability and threat assessments and revise as needed.
- Identify and monitor governmental information sharing sources for warnings and alerts.
- Update and test call down list for emergency response teams and key employees.
- Review and coordinate and update mutual aid agreements with other critical facilities and government agencies.
- Establish and monitor active and passive security measures.
- Review employee training on security precautions (bomb threat procedures, reporting suspicious packages, activities and people).
- Conduct communications checks to ensure radio contact can be established.

Add a can opener, flashlight batteries & food to your emergency kit to prepare for severe weather at school or work.

[www.ready.gov/business/plan/emersupply.html](http://www.ready.gov/business/plan/emersupply.html)

At this time there is no credible information warning of an imminent, specific threat to the homeland. All Americans should continue to be vigilant, take notice of their surroundings, and report suspicious items or activities to local authorities immediately. Everyone should establish an emergency preparedness kit and an emergency plan for themselves and their family, and stay informed about what to do during an emergency.

[http://www.dhs.gov/xinfo/share/programs/Copy\\_of\\_press\\_release\\_0046.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/xinfo/share/programs/Copy_of_press_release_0046.shtm)

<http://vaemergency.com/>

### New Study Says “Individualistic” Americans May Be Too Optimistic About Disaster Risk

A new study says “individualistic” Americans may be too optimistic about the risk of disasters, including terrorism, as opposed to more “interdependent” cultures such as in Asia. The report argues that the perception of disaster risk is influenced by culture more than experience. It may help explain why many Americans still do not prepare for disasters (and, by contrast, Japan and China hold special disaster preparedness days for its citizens). It also may underscore the challenge — as well as the need — of building community preparedness in the U.S. According to the study reported on the Emerging Health Threats Forum website (<http://www.eht-forum.org/news.html?fileId=news100813001401&from=home&id=0>):

People from different parts of the world rate differently their risk of dying or getting injured in a disaster, and this has more to do with cultural factors than actual exposure to an event, suggests research published online in “Risk Analysis.” It also indicates that people across cultures share a belief that they are less prone to harm than others around them... Unlike risk assessment, which is based on objective information, risk perception tends to rely on a person's psychological state, personal experience and socio-cultural factors. Cultural values influence which hazards are believed to be relevant to a group, the authors explain. “Members of a group construct shared meanings to explain the reasons behind hazardous events to promote a sense of stability and allegiance within the group.”

<http://l.pr/a41jft/>

## **HHS Launches New Public Health Emergency Portal**

The new [PHE.gov](http://www.phe.gov) acts as a cross-governmental portal for residents in the U.S. and worldwide to obtain information from all U.S. federal agencies and their state and local partners involved in a public health emergency, medical disaster or public health aspects of a natural or man-made disaster. The site was created by the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) in conjunction with cross-governmental partners to meet public information requirements of the Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness Act of 2006, Public Law No. 109-417 and National Health Security Strategy (NHSS) objectives. Using this portal, visitors can find the current status and actions taken by the federal government in preparing for and responding to public health emergencies and medical disasters. Links to report potential public health threats, and information about medical response, emergency support functions and medical services are also available along with public health actions taken by the federal government during domestic and international emergencies. In addition, visitors can learn about U.S. efforts to provide basic and advanced research and development of medical countermeasures and how these countermeasures will be used in response to public health emergencies. The portal also provides specific information for federal, state, and local emergency planners to aid in preparing for, responding to, and recovery from public health emergencies. Information on legal authorities and guidance, preparedness and planning tools, and specific preparedness programs are also provided for emergency planners. Information for responders includes information on physical safety and mental health, and guidance for dealing with specific public health emergencies.

<http://www.phe.gov/emergency/>

## **Disability and Emergency Preparedness in the Workplace**

Employers, supervisors and employees can decrease the impact of a disaster by taking steps to prepare before an event occurs. A workplace emergency plan can help employees and visitors with sensory, mobility and cognitive disabilities know what to do for evacuation or shelter-in-place events. Inclusive emergency planning helps ensure that no employees or visitors, with or without disabilities, are left behind in an emergency situation. That means planning, preparing and practicing the facility emergency plan with all employees. The National Organization on Disability created a checklist to help guide inclusive emergency plan development.

[http://nod.org/for\\_business\\_leaders/disability\\_and\\_emergency\\_preparedness\\_in\\_the\\_workplace/](http://nod.org/for_business_leaders/disability_and_emergency_preparedness_in_the_workplace/)

## **Pet Preparedness**

Pet-friendly shelters or hotels may not be available during an emergency, so make alternate housing arrangements in advance. For additional tips, fact sheets, and podcasts, see CDC's Hurricane Preparedness website at

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/>.

## **Back-to-School Preparedness**

The U.S. Department of Education estimated that a record 49.8 million students attended public elementary and secondary schools in fall 2009, and 5.8 million more students attended private schools.\* Schools at all levels are particularly vulnerable to many hazards, including natural disasters, school shootings, criminal activity, and accidents. Emergency managers, school administrators, and parents must work together to prevent, protect against, prepare for, respond to and recover from these incidents.

\* *According to the August 2010 FEMA newsletter*

Northern Virginia Community College "Report of the Presidential Commission on Safety and Security"

<http://www.nvcc.edu/about-nova/emergency/docs/commissiononSSreportfinal.pdf>

District of Columbia School Emergency Response Plan and Management Guide

[http://esa.dc.gov/esa/cwp/view,a,1265,q,462556,esaNav\\_GID,1504,.asp#1](http://esa.dc.gov/esa/cwp/view,a,1265,q,462556,esaNav_GID,1504,.asp#1)

Report from the Virginia Tech Shooting (2007)

<http://www.governor.virginia.gov/TempContent/techpanelreport.cfm>

Lessons Learned Information Sharing (LLIS)

<https://www.llis.dhs.gov/>

DHS School Safety

[http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/gc\\_1183486267373.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/gc_1183486267373.shtm)

FEMA Resources for Parents and Teachers

<http://www.fema.gov/kids/teacher.htm>

## **American Red Cross Unveils New, Improved Technology to Help the Public During Disasters**

In preparation for the height of what could be a very active hurricane season, the American Red Cross has unveiled new and updated technology to help families stay safe and reconnect during a disaster. Safe and Well is a secure and easy-to-use online tool that allows people inside a disaster-affected area to list themselves as “safe and well” and for loved ones to search for these messages. Launched in 2006, the redesigned site now allows people to customize messages for loved ones and update their Facebook and Twitter statuses right from the site. In addition, a new mobile version of the site will make it easy for people to register or search from a smart phone. Linking Safe and Well to Facebook and Twitter is an important step for the site and those who use it. In a recent Red Cross online survey, nearly half of all respondents said they would use social media sites to let their loved ones know they are safe in an emergency. Facebook was the most popular choice, named by 86 percent of those who would use social media to reassure their loved ones. Now, the Red Cross makes it easy to register on Safe and Well, and at the same time, participate in social media. There are several ways to register on or search the Safe and Well site. From a computer, visit [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) and click on the “List Yourself or Search Registrants” link under “How to Get Help.” From a smart phone, visit [www.redcross.org/safeandwell](http://www.redcross.org/safeandwell) and click on the “List Yourself as Safe and Well” or “Search for friends and family” link. From any phone, call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) and one of our operators can help you register.

## **NOAA National Weather Service Releases Mid-Year Forecast, Calling For Active Hurricane Season**

*FEMA Encourages Coastal State Residents to Ensure They're Prepared; Visit Ready.gov*

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Weather Service issued its latest forecast for the 2010 Atlantic Hurricane Season (on Aug. 5), reaffirming its May forecast of an active Atlantic hurricane season. In light of this latest forecast, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reminds Americans living in coastal states that the time is now to ensure their family is prepared for a hurricane or other emergency. The 2010 Atlantic hurricane season officially began June 1 and runs through November 30. The Eastern Pacific season runs from May 15 through November 30. Three named storms have formed in the Atlantic this year, including the first June hurricane to form in more than a decade. The National Weather Service forecast released today predicted, with 70 percent probability:

- 14 to 20 Named Storms (top winds of 39 mph or higher), including:
- 8 to 12 Hurricanes (top winds of 74 mph or higher), of which:
- 4 to 6 could be Major Hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5; winds of at least 111 mph)

FEMA encourages everyone, regardless of whether they live in a hurricane-prone area, to take steps to ensure their family, homes and businesses are prepared for a possible emergency. Important items to have ready in case of an emergency include a battery-powered radio (like a NOAA Weather Radio), flashlight, extra batteries, medicines, non-perishable food, hand-operated can opener, utility knife and first aid supplies. Important documents, such as medical records, contracts, property deeds, leases, banking records, insurance records and birth certificates, should be copied and kept in a safe place. For more information on individual and family preparedness, visit [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov). National Weather Service forecast: [http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20100805\\_hurricaneupdate.html](http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20100805_hurricaneupdate.html)

## **DHS Needs to Assess Foreign Language Shortfalls, Says GAO**

The Homeland Security Department “has taken limited actions to assess its foreign language needs and existing capabilities and to identify potential shortfalls,” reports the Government Accountability Office. DHS “foreign language training programs generally do not include languages other than Spanish, and DHS officials were generally unaware of the foreign language programs in DHS’s components.... a comprehensive assessment of the ... foreign language programs and activities” is in order, said the GAO.

View GAO summary: <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-10-714>

## **DHS Bottom-Up Review Report Published**

A bottom-up review of DHS was initiated in November 2009 to align the department’s programmatic activities and organizational structure in accordance with the Quadrennial Homeland Security Review. The report represents an intermediate step between the QHSR Report and the DHS FY 2012-2016 Future Years Homeland Security Program, which will propose specific programmatic adjustments based on the QHSR strategic framework.

[http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/bur\\_bottom\\_up\\_review.pdf](http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/bur_bottom_up_review.pdf)

## **Study Says Social Relationships – A Short-Term Help In A Disaster – Are Also Helpful For Long-Term Survival** (via In Case Of Emergency – <http://incaseofemergencyblog.com>)

Emergency management experts often say that developing social relationships in the community in advance can be the key to helping people deal with a crisis situation in the short-term. A new study offers another reason for setting up that type of support system: it indicates that having those relationships can also be key to long-term good health as well. According to a Brigham Young University report, “Social Relationships and Mortality Risk: A Meta-analytic Review,” published in the journal PlosMedicine, by professors Julianne Holt-Lunstad and Timothy Smith, social connections – friends, family, neighbors or colleagues – improve our odds of future survival by 50 percent.

BYU: <http://news.byu.edu/archive10-jul-relationships.aspx>  
<http://www.plosmedicine.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pmed.1000316>

### **Tornado in the Late Evening Sky**

Funnel cloud in the evening sky. Tornadoes can form in a moment’s notice, emphasizing the importance of being prepared. Photograph from NOAA.



### **Protecting Pets During Emergencies**

*from the “Gov Gab: Your U.S. Government Blog”*

A week after Jess's post on preparing for storms, a major thunderstorm came through my neighborhood. One neighbor who was at home said it reminded him of hurricanes he lived through in Florida. If the wind had blown in a slightly different direction, massive tree limbs would have hit my apartment, causing a lot of damage. More importantly, my cat who sits religiously in the window under that tree ... could have been injured. After that near miss, I wanted to know more about what I could do to protect our two cats during emergencies. What I found was that all you really have to do is to have a good plan. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), the first step is to think about what disasters could happen in your area and how that might affect you. From there, develop an emergency plan with your veterinarian and make a pet evacuation kit. If the emergency is going to require you to leave home for a while, find places to board or stay with your animal. The AVMA says you can do some things to notify neighbors and emergency preparedness responders about your pet’s presence if there is a storm, fire or some other emergency while you’re not at home. You can place stickers on your front and back doors to notify first responders where your pet generally dwells. I currently have a sticker on my window letting first responders know I have cats, but I think I may now put one on the front door as well. In the worst case scenario, the Centers for Disease Control lists organizations that rescue animals during emergencies. Have you created an emergency plan for your pet?

[http://blog.usa.gov/roller/govgab/entry/protecting\\_pets\\_during\\_emergencies](http://blog.usa.gov/roller/govgab/entry/protecting_pets_during_emergencies)

### **Army Preparedness Starts at the Top**

The U.S. Army is set to support National Preparedness Month in September as part of an ongoing initiative to ensure that soldiers and Army civilians are ready to react if disaster strikes. National Preparedness Month was started in 2004 by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to encourage Americans to prepare themselves for possible emergencies, and the Army has been doing the same with its workforce for years. This summer the Army began outfitting the office of the Secretary of the Army with Shelter In Place and Go Kit bags. The kits contain equipment that would allow personnel to shelter in their offices for up to 48 hours. The Army’s “Ready Army” website, at [www.ready.army.mil](http://www.ready.army.mil), can help soldiers and their families ready themselves for emergencies. The site suggests critical items needed to create an emergency kit, for instance. It also takes readers through an emergency preparation planning process, and encourages people to be informed of potential hazards.

<http://www.army.mil/-news/2010/08/19/43892-army-preparedness-starts-at-the-top/>

### **Cyber-Security Requires Public- and Private-Sector Information Sharing, Says GAO**

To protect critical infrastructure, private-sector stakeholders “expect their federal partners to provide usable, timely, and actionable cyber threat information and alerts; access to sensitive or classified information; a secure mechanism for sharing information; security clearances; and a single centralized government cybersecurity organization, reports

the Government Accountability Office. Fewer than one-third said they were getting needed information from the federal government. Public-sector stakeholders expect the private sector “to execute plans and recommendations” and provide “cyber threat information and alerts” plus “staff and resources.” But “some private sector stakeholders do not want to share their proprietary information with the federal government . . . Without improvements in meeting private and public sector expectations, the partnerships will remain less than optimal, and there is a risk that owners of critical infrastructure will not have the information necessary to thwart cyber attacks that could have catastrophic effects.

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-10-628>

### **Report Says U.S. Unprepared For Improvised Nuke Device Detonation**

A report released earlier this year by Columbia University’s National Center for Disaster Preparedness argues that “the U.S. remains unprepared to cope with the possibility of an attack on a major city by terrorists capable of acquiring and detonating an improvised nuclear device” — and urges a public education effort to inform Americans on what they should do in the event of a nuclear detonation to best mitigate its effects. The study, “Regional Health and Public Health Preparedness for Nuclear Terrorism: Optimizing Survival in a Low Probability/High Consequence Disaster,” is authored by Irwin Redlener, Andrew L. Garrett, Karen L. Levin and Andrew Mener. The report explains that “in the minutes and hours after the detonation of an IND, the public would need to make a few key decisions in order to maximize their chances of surviving and minimize their injuries and long-term health effects.”

Report: <http://www.ncdp.mailman.columbia.edu/files/Nuclear%20Event-Whitepaper.pdf>

<http://incaseofemergencyblog.com/2010/08/21/report-says-u-s-unprepared-for-improvised-nuke-device-detonation-urges-public-education-effort-to-inform-citizens-on-what-to-do-to-if-it-happens/>

### **FEMA Private Sector Tip**

Employees can use their smart phones to apply for federal disaster aid and learn about severe weather preparedness at <http://m.fema.gov/>.

## **MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST**

### **GPS Is Part of Everyday Life, But Not for NYC Ambulances**

Believe it or not, many ambulance drivers don’t have GPS systems to help them respond to emergencies. EMT crews are sometimes forced to use paper maps to reach victims, resulting in delays when responding to life-and-death emergencies, workers and union leaders say.

<http://www.emsresponder.com/article/article.jsp?id=14207&siteSection=1>

### **See Something Say Something Campaign Expands to Washington D.C.**

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano earlier this month announced a series of initiatives to support state and local law enforcement and community groups across the country in identifying and mitigating threats to their communities and expanded DHS’ “If You See Something, Say Something” campaign to the Washington, D.C., area in conjunction with National Night Out, an annual anticrime campaign involving citizens, police and neighborhood groups. The new measures announced are based on recommendations made by the Homeland Security Advisory Council’s (HSAC) “Countering Violent Extremism” Working Group—comprised of chiefs of police, sheriffs, community leaders and homeland security experts—on ways DHS can better support community-based efforts to combat violent extremism in the United States.

<http://www.nationalterroralert.com/updates/2010/08/03/see-something-say-something-campaign-expands-to-washington-d-c/>

### **Hurricane Season 2100**

Lloyd’s has published an article which looks ahead to future hurricane seasons and what impacts global warming

could have. Among the key points is that analysis of weather patterns and damage losses over the last 100 years suggests that hurricanes are getting worse – and that rising temperatures are to blame. But Dr Chris Landsea, a scientist with the National Hurricane Centre in Florida, believes that the case is far from proven. Landsea argues that hurricane activity may not be significantly different compared to that of a century ago. What is changing is our ability to identify and measure hurricanes – and the amount of material wealth that we put in their way. Landsea also expects fewer hurricanes over the next 90 years but with a small increase in intensity due to global warming. Storm surge will increase in line with slightly more intense storms and also the rise in sea levels; there will be a 10 percent increase in rainfall accompanying hurricanes. But there is no clear indication of changes in the genesis or track of hurricanes.

<http://l.pr/a41vql/>

### **6 Cities to Train Mail Carriers to Dispense Antiterror Drugs**

The Postal Service is ready to deliver lifesaving drugs to about a quarter of the residents of Minneapolis–St. Paul, the only metropolitan area in the nation where letter carriers have been trained to dispense medication after a large-scale terrorist attack involving biological weapons, reports “USA Today.” “... eight months after President Obama ordered government agencies to develop a plan to do so, efforts are underway in six cities to train workers to deliver the drugs needed to counter anthrax or other potentially deadly agents.”

[http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2010-08-02-](http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2010-08-02-postal02_ST_N.htm)

[postal02\\_ST\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2010-08-02-postal02_ST_N.htm)[http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2010-08-02-postal02\\_ST\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2010-08-02-postal02_ST_N.htm)

### **USIS Study: Cyber Attacks a Top Priority for Government, Contracting Industry**

USIS published a study identifying and analyzing key issues facing government and industry security personnel and identified a key issue in terms of security vendor structure and organization. The survey rated the severity of different threats to U.S. national security. Cyber attacks ranked the highest, followed by terrorist activity. Tied for third place were insider threats and information security breaches. The survey also asked participants about their most important security business imperatives. Cybersecurity topped this list at 84 percent, followed by physical security and infrastructure protection at 74 percent, and then risk management planning at 73 percent. According to USIS, “a key finding of the survey showed that organizations with one vendor in place (rather than multiple vendors) to manage, install, maintain, and monitor security did a better job a securing the organization’s infrastructure. The survey revealed that 62 percent of those with one vendor in place were able to use the data available to monitor and manage threats “very well.” The majority (74 percent) of those who had one vendor in place to manage the installation, maintenance and monitoring of security said that they monitored security either ‘very well’ or ‘perfectly.’” USIS surveyed more than 250 government and industry leaders in the safety, security and law enforcement market.

<http://blog.executivebiz.com/usis-study-cyberattacks-a-top-priority-for-government-contracting-industry/11576>

### **FEMA: Making a Comeback**

In 2005, the only thing that crumbled faster than the levees during Hurricane Katrina was the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) reputation. Widely regarded as a competently managed federal government powerhouse under President Bill Clinton, it was reduced to the object of national ridicule in Katrina’s aftermath -- the poster child of federal ineptitude amid the chaos. ... But FEMA is gradually improving.

<http://www.governing.com/topics/public-justice-safety/homeland-security-disasters/fema-making-comeback.html>

### **Nearly Half Say U.S. Will Be Nuked, Poll Says**

According to a new Rasmussen poll, 76 percent of Americans say it is at least somewhat likely that a terrorist group will detonate a nuclear weapon in the next 25 years, and that includes 45 percent who say it is very likely. A new Rasmussen Reports national telephone survey finds that 17 percent think terrorists are unlikely to detonate a nuclear weapon in that time frame, with just 2 percent who say it’s not at all likely. Most adults (58 percent) also believe it is at least somewhat likely that there will be a major war involving nuclear weapons over the course of the next century, including 26 percent who say it is very likely; 32 percent regard a war with nuclear weapons as unlikely, but only 5 percent say it’s not at all likely to happen.

<http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/survey-nuclear-attack-us-rasmussen-iran/2010/08/14/id/367483>

### **Liberal MP Calls for Worldwide 9-1-1 System**

Keith Martin, Liberal MP for Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca, is calling for a worldwide 9-1-1 system to respond to major disasters like the Haitian earthquake and the floods in Pakistan. In an article published in "The Hill Times" and posted on his blog, Martin outlined the predicament faced by the millions of Pakistanis displaced by flooding:

"The United Nations World Food Program has estimated that at minimum nearly two million people will need to be fed over the next month, and more flooding is expected in the days to come. Waterborne diseases such as cholera are now a risk and could spread to kill thousands, particularly in regions such as the North-western province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where some 600,000 people are struggling to survive beyond the reach of rescue workers. ...Every time disasters strike, the international community's response suffers from a lack of co-ordination between governments, NGOs and other international bodies. It seems that each time disaster strikes, the international community must relearn the same logistical lessons and recommence the same process of identifying, acquiring, and deploying urgently needed humanitarian goods and equipment. While this happens, people on the ground continue to suffer and die."

Martin's solution: "a 24-hour, 9-1-1 command-and-control system that connects the appropriate professional capabilities and assets with particular emergencies."

<http://thetyee.ca/Blogs/TheHook/Federal-Politics/2010/08/17/WorldwideSystem/>

### **Emergency Preparedness for Pets**

If an area is not safe for you, it is not safe for your pet. As hurricane season is upon us, remember those words when preparing for any emergency evacuation with your pet. "I never advise that you or your companion animal stay at home if an evacuation is ordered," explains Dr. Wesley Bissett, assistant professor at Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) and lead faculty member for the newly formed Veterinary Emergency Team (V.E.T.). "If you are disabled or can-not afford to leave, there is always help provided during these situations so you can get out of harm's way. If you stay, you put your life and the life of your pet at risk."

<http://blog.fidofriendly.com/hot-topic/emergency-preparedness-for-pets/>

### **FBI Gives Top Secret Clearance to More Local Law Officers**

More state and local law enforcement officers are getting top-secret clearances from the FBI to access sensitive federal information in terrorism cases than at anytime since the Sept. 11 attacks, reports "USA Today." Clearances granted to members of the FBI's network of regional terrorism task forces jumped to 878 in 2009, up from 125 in 2007, and those granted to other law enforcement officers and contractors soared to 945 from 364.

[http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2010-08-12-secret-clearances\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2010-08-12-secret-clearances_N.htm)

## **PANDEMIC**

### **WHO Declares End to 2009 H1N1 Influenza Pandemic**

On Aug. 10, the World Health Organization (WHO) International Health Regulations (IHR) Emergency Committee and the WHO Director-General, Dr. Margaret Chan, declared an end to the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic. This declaration was based on strong indications that influenza, worldwide, is transitioning toward seasonal patterns of transmission. In the majority of countries, out-of-season 2009 H1N1 outbreaks are no longer being observed, and the intensity of 2009 H1N1 influenza virus transmission is lower than that reported during 2009 and early 2010.

Members of the Emergency Committee further noted that the 2009 H1N1 viruses will likely continue to circulate for some years to come, taking on the behavior of a seasonal influenza virus. This does not mean that the H1N1 virus has disappeared. Rather, it means current influenza outbreaks including those primarily caused by the 2009 H1N1 virus, show an intensity similar to that seen during seasonal epidemics. Pandemics, like the viruses that cause them, are unpredictable. WHO noted that continued vigilance is extremely important, and it is likely that the virus will continue to cause serious disease in younger age groups and pregnant women, at least in the immediate post-pandemic period.

### **Implications for United States**

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This is a formal WHO declaration regarding the end of the pandemic at the global level. The U.S. Public Health Emergency determination for 2009 H1N1 Influenza expired on June 23. The only impact on the United States resulting from the WHO declaration will be a cessation in weekly reporting under the International Health Regulations (IHR) to the Pan American Health Organization and the World Health Organization. CDC has reported weekly to IHR since early in the pandemic. There are no changes for the United States in terms of CDC's recommendations for the upcoming influenza season and the United States is already proceeding with the understanding that the 2009 H1N1 virus is now part of seasonal influenza virus circulation. As is customary, beginning in October 2010, CDC will provide weekly reports of influenza surveillance information throughout the season with the publication of FluView available at

[www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly).

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/08/20100810b.html>

### **H1N1 in Post-pandemic Period**

Comments from Dr. Margaret Chan, World Health Organization (WHO) director-general, during an opening statement at a virtual press conference on Aug. 10.

**“The world is no longer in phase 6 of influenza pandemic alert.** We are now moving into the post-pandemic period. The new H1N1 virus has largely run its course. These are the views of members of the Emergency Committee, which was convened earlier today by teleconference. The Committee based its assessment on the global situation, as well as reports from several countries that are now experiencing influenza. I fully agree with the Committee's advice. As we enter the post-pandemic period, this does not mean that the H1N1 virus has gone away. Based on experience with past pandemics, we expect the H1N1 virus to take on the behavior of a seasonal influenza virus and continue to circulate for some years to come. In the post-pandemic period, localized outbreaks of different magnitude may show significant levels of H1N1 transmission. This is the situation we are observing right now in New Zealand, and may see elsewhere.

“As I said, pandemics are unpredictable and prone to deliver surprises. No two pandemics are ever alike. This pandemic has turned out to be much more fortunate than what we feared a little over a year ago. This time around, we have been aided by pure good luck. The virus did not mutate during the pandemic to a more lethal form. Widespread resistance to oseltamivir did not develop. The vaccine proved to be a good match with circulating viruses and showed an excellent safety profile. Thanks to extensive preparedness and support from the international community, even countries with very weak health systems were able to detect cases and report them promptly. Had things gone wrong in any of these areas, we would be in a very different situation today.”

[http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/statements/2010/h1n1\\_vpc\\_20100810/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/statements/2010/h1n1_vpc_20100810/en/index.html)

FAQs: What is post-pandemic?

[http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/frequently\\_asked\\_questions/post\\_pandemic/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/frequently_asked_questions/post_pandemic/en/index.html)

### **President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology Releases Plan to Improve Nation's Vaccine Response Against Pandemic Influenza and Other Outbreaks**

Targeted federal investments in five key areas could shorten by weeks or months the time needed to produce enough vaccine doses to protect the entire nation in the event of another outbreak of pandemic flu—an advance that could save thousands of lives—according to a new report by the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST). “Report to the President on Reengineering the Influenza Vaccine Production Enterprise to Meet the Challenges of Pandemic Influenza,” released on Aug. 19, provides a roadmap that, within one to three years, could significantly increase the nation's ability to produce vaccines in a timely fashion. The recommended improvements would speed production of not only vaccines for influenza but also an array of other medical countermeasures against infectious diseases that could erupt naturally or occur as a result of a biological attack. PCAST, which advises the President on matters of science and technology, undertook its review at the request of the Executive Office of the President in the aftermath of the 2009-2010 H1N1 pandemic. During the course of that two-stage outbreak, the time between the declaration of a need for a vaccine and the start of the second U.S. wave of the pandemic was 18 weeks. Yet initial doses were not available until 26 weeks after that declaration, by which time the second wave was already peaking. Ultimately, sufficient doses to cover half the population were not available until

the 38-week mark. And even if production had continued apace, it would have taken an additional ten weeks to produce enough doses to protect the entire Nation. All told, the process was three to five months slower than ideal.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ostp/pcast>

### **Businesses Ignore Flu Pandemic Planning**

Most organizations would fail to protect their staff against a flu pandemic because of a lack of forward planning, research suggests. A survey commissioned by pharmaceutical giant Roche found that seven in 10 respondents admitted their companies were not sufficiently organized to protect their workers. The group also quizzed 2,200 workers, and found that only 13 percent of respondents believed their employers had HR policies in place to tackle an outbreak. Despite the awareness of a risk to employees, 69 percent of managers felt that up to one-third of their workforce would face increased stress in a pandemic. More than a third of managers did not have any plans for communicating with employees and customers in the event of an outbreak. Only two in 10 knew that their company had set up such a strategy.

<http://www.continuityforum.org/content/news/2007/36/employees-risk-businesses-ignore-flu-pandemic-planning>

### **Is Pandemic Planning Now a Laughing Stock?**

In June, the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) criticized WHO and governmental responses to the H1N1 pandemic, saying that there has been an over-reaction to the H1N1 pandemic resulting in a “waste of large sums of public money, and unjustified scares and fears about the health risks faced by the European public.” But what impact has this ‘over-reaction’ had on business continuity managers trying to make sure that their organization is prepared for the next pandemic? To answer some of these questions Continuity Central conducted a survey to which 222 readers responded, many also providing useful information about the current state of pandemic planning within their organization. Among the results: 61 percent of respondents said no, pandemic planning is not a laughing stock, but almost a quarter (23 percent) agreed with the statement, with 16 percent being unsure.

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/feature0804.html>

### **Online Training**

Two training series, 2009 H1N1 Influenza and Avian Influenza, are currently available through the Minnesota Center of Excellence for Influenza Research and Surveillance (MCEIRS) Online Training Portal. The individual modules within each are listed below, with links to detailed summaries. Each module contains several e-learning lessons and a knowledge check to reinforce your learning, and continuing education credit and certificates are available. Modules on this site are offered free of charge; however, registration is required.

<http://www.mceirs.umn.edu/training/welcome>

### **One-Health Approach to Pandemic Flu**

The Task Force on a One-Health Approach to Influenza has issued its recommendations, which appear in the journal “Emerging Infectious Diseases,” published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

- Improving vaccines and enhancing capacity for vaccine production
- Expanding and improving surveillance of influenza viruses in humans, pets, livestock, poultry and wildlife
- Improving early detection of flu in humans and animals
- Developing new tools to interrupt transmission
- Applying new developments from the fields of molecular biology

View report summary: <http://www.cdc.gov/eid/content/16/8/e1.htm>

### **Recommended Influenza Vaccines for the U.S. 2010-11 season**

Guidance from the CDC – Recommended flu vaccines for different age groups - U.S., 2010-11 season.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/vaccine/vaccines.htm>

## TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES

### 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.redcrossna.org/Online/disaster\\_registration.php](http://www.redcrossna.org/Online/disaster_registration.php)

### Social Media 4 Responders

Sept. 13-14; Charlotte, NC

Practitioners from the fire service, law enforcement, public health, and crisis and disaster response will present how and why their agencies and others are going directly to their communities using the Internet. They will walk participants through the latest developments in high-tech Web 2.0 tools such as Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, and blogs to help participants' organizations communicate with their target audiences.

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

### Security Leadership: Reducing Costs Without Sacrificing Value

Sept. 14; Washington, D.C.

This session will bring together senior experts in the security industry to share new concepts, best practices, and emerging trends highlighting effective strategies for reducing the costs of security without sacrificing effectiveness. The keynote talk will be by Governor Tom Ridge, the first Secretary of Homeland Security. Panelists include Bob Stephan, former Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for Infrastructure Protection, and Tracy Henke, former Assistant Secretary for the Homeland Security Department's Office of Grants and Training.

<http://www.watermarkinstitute.com/SEMINAR-EVENTS/seminar-events.html>

### Water Security Congress

Sept. 19-22; National Harbor, Md.

AWWA's 2010 Distribution Systems Symposium (DSS) and Exposition and Water Security Congress is the event

for distribution, engineering, and plant operations professionals. For more than 20 years, DSS has brought together decision makers and key influencers involved in water distribution. Water Security Congress is the event for water security and emergency preparedness professionals. Each year, the AWWA Water Security Congress draws water industry professionals who want up-to-date information on innovative products and services for protecting water and wastewater infrastructures and how to be prepared for new and emerging water security challenges.

<http://www.awwa.org/Conferences/securityconf.cfm?ItemNumber=753&navItemNumber=3543>



### Homeland Security for Networked Industries

Sept. 20-21; Washington, D.C.

This conference draws together network security professionals with a common purpose of protecting the nation's critical infrastructure networks, focusing on telecommunications, utilities, and transportation. Keynote sessions will focus on major weaknesses and opportunities for improved security and spending in the area of network security. Breakout sessions will address all areas of network security, including information technology investment, government- and industry-specific solutions, policy, and the latest technology trends.

<http://www.hsni2010.com/>

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## **2010 Public Safety/Homeland Security Symposiums**

Sept. 21 through Nov. 18; Various locations

These timely, thought-provoking symposiums coalesce local law enforcement leaders and industry specialists to exchange expertise, best practices and explore first-hand the state-of-the-art technologies around today's most pressing crime-fighting and homeland security challenges.

- Sept. 21: Louisville, KY
- Sept. 23: Charlotte, NC
- Oct. 5: New York City, NY
- Oct. 7: Columbus, OH
- Nov. 16: Tampa, Fla.
- Nov. 18: Dallas, TX

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/events/PublicSafety-HomelandSecurity-Symposiums.html>

## **Homeland Security Symposium and Exhibition**

Sept. 28-29; Arlington, Va.

This year's theme is "America's Homeland Leaders Talk Risk." Among the symposium sessions: International Terrorism—The Threat from Abroad; Domestic Terrorism—The Threat at Home; The Wrath and Consequences of "Mother Nature"; Border Security; Cyber Threats and Enhancing Security of the IT Infrastructure; Critical Infrastructure Protection and Resilience; and a media panel on Covering Risks and Disasters.

<http://www.ndia.org/meetings/0490/Pages/default.aspx>

## **3rd Social Media for Defense and Government**

Oct. 18-20; Venue to be Confirmed, Washington, D.C. Metro Area

As social media quickly emerges as far more than a communication tool, the US Government must proactively leverage this new environment to achieve organizational goals. IDGA's 3rd Social Media for Defense and Government provides a forum for senior level Government and Military officials, industry partners, and the academic communities to align shared goals, showcase new technology, and define the way forward. This year's conference will move beyond the simple use of social media tools and platforms and provide you with detailed case studies and strategies for achieving organizational goals through a comprehensive social media approach.

<http://www.idgasocialmedia.com/Event.aspx?id=350848&ntarc>



## **Virginia Hazardous Materials Conference and Expo**

Oct. 18-22; Hampton, Va.

This year's theme is "Moving Forward With Renewed Commitment." Workshops will cover topics such as unified command, ethanol and hazmat operations, radiological and nuclear awareness, homemade explosive production signatures recognition, and hands-on training with the Safety Train.

<http://www.virginiahazmat.org/displayconvention.cfm>

## **6th Annual Border Management Summit**

Oct. 25-27; Arlington, Va.

The challenge to manage our nation's borders can only be answered by advancing surveillance,

biometrics, detection and information sharing technologies, as they are pushed forward by policies and mandates of government. With the suspension of SBINet, a recent uproar for immigration reform, and the constant violence along the US-Mexico and U.S.-Canada borders, this year's summit is a must-attend event for homeland security experts across all agencies and levels of government. In its 6th year, IDGA's flagship Border Management Summit brings together thought leaders and key policy-makers across local, state and federal law enforcement, the DHS, and international government organizations, as a forum for the discussion of current and future border security initiatives.

<http://www.bordermanagementsummit.com/Event.aspx?id=332720>



## 58th Annual IAEM Annual Conference and EXEX 2010

Oct. 30-Nov. 4; San Antonio, Tx.

The International Association of Emergency Managers will host its annual conference Oct. 30 through Nov. 4 in San Antonio, Tx. Also ongoing is EMEX 2010, the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Expo, showcasing leading technologies, products and services in emergency management. More information is online at [www.iaem.com](http://www.iaem.com) and [www.emex.org](http://www.emex.org).



## 2011 Virginia Emergency Management Symposium: “Managing the Emergency — All in a Day’s Work”

March 30-April 1, 2011; Richmond, Va.

<http://www.vemaweb.org>

## LINKS

### Fairfax County Blogs and Web Resources

- 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/>
- Virginia Citizen Corps - <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.

[http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/editorial\\_0542.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/editorial_0542.shtm).

### Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Web Page

The county’s emergency information page features easy navigation and a clean look so that residents can easily find emergency information.

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

### 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/>

**FAIRFAX COUNTY 703-817-7771**  
**EMERGENCY**  
**INFORMATION LINE**

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Emergency Information: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency)

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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, please contact Merni Fitzgerald, Director of the Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs, at 703-324-3187, TTY 711, or by e-mail at [merni.fitzgerald@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:merni.fitzgerald@fairfaxcounty.gov).