



# ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

January 2011

## ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

### 2011 Counterterrorism Calendar Released

The National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) has released the 2011 Counterterrorism (CT) Calendar. In addition to the PDF print version, the calendar's website includes an interactive map containing features such as wanted terrorists, captured terrorists and other events, and an interactive timeline, which allows you to see historical incidents by day for any month selected.

<http://www.hsdl.org/hslog/?q=node/5916>

PDF calendar: [http://www.nctc.gov/site/pdfs/ct\\_calendar\\_2011.pdf](http://www.nctc.gov/site/pdfs/ct_calendar_2011.pdf)



### PDRP Meeting on Feb. 9

Fairfax County, led by the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), began work on a countywide initiative to develop a Pre-Disaster Recovery Plan (PDRP) in December 2009. This project is to identify gaps, break down barriers and build community partnerships that will allow for a smoother recovery should Fairfax County ever face a catastrophic disaster. OEM will hold a public working group session on Wednesday, Feb. 9, from 3:30-5:30 p.m. at the McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center (MPSTOC), 4890 Alliance Drive, Fairfax. Participants from past workshops and focus groups as well as new stakeholders should attend this important session to help Fairfax County prepare to recover from a disaster. Pre-register at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/pdrp](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/pdrp) (Register early, space is limited.) For questions or comments, contact Amanda Phan, 571-350-1000, TTY 711, or [oempdrp@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:oempdrp@fairfaxcounty.gov). To learn more go to [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/pdrp](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/pdrp).

### New National Terrorism Advisory System

DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano announced this month that DHS will discontinue the color-coded alerts of the Homeland Security Advisory System in favor of a new system, the National Terrorism Advisory System, that will more effectively communicate information about terrorist threats by providing timely, detailed information to the public, government agencies, first responders, airports and other transportation hubs, and the private sector. The National Terrorism Advisory System will be implemented over the next 90 days in order for DHS and our federal, state, local, tribal, community and private sector partners to transition to the new system. The National Terrorism Advisory System alerts will be based on the nature of the threat: in some cases, alerts will be sent directly to law enforcement or affected areas of the private sector, while in others, alerts will be issued more broadly to the American people through both official and media channels—including a designated DHS webpage ([www.dhs.gov/alerts](http://www.dhs.gov/alerts)), as well as social media channels including Facebook ([www.facebook.com/homelandsecurity](http://www.facebook.com/homelandsecurity)) and Twitter [@NTASAlerts](https://twitter.com/NTASAlerts). Additionally, NTAS will have a “sunset provision,” meaning that individual threat alerts will be issued with a specified end date. Alerts may be extended if new information becomes available or if the threat evolves significantly.



[http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr\\_1296158119383.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr_1296158119383.shtm)

### Fairfax County Health Department Earns Public Health Emergency Preparedness Recognition

The Fairfax County Health Department (FCHD) has been recognized as “public health ready” by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). This designation acknowledges the agency's readiness to respond to public health emergencies, including emerging and infectious diseases, bioterrorism, natural disasters, and other public health threats. “The health department is constantly improving its readiness,” said Fairfax County Director of Health Gloria Addo-Ayensu, M.D., M.P.H. “Although NACCHO has recognized our recent strides, we

must remember that one of the most important factors in our community's ability to respond to an emergency is the preparedness of our residents."

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/hdnews/2011hdnews/20110127hd.htm>



### **January is Radon Action Month**

EPA has designated January as National Radon Action Month. You can't see, smell or taste radon, but it could be present at a dangerous level in your home. Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer deaths among nonsmokers in America and claims the lives of about 20,000 Americans

each year. In fact, the EPA and the U.S. Surgeon General urge all Americans to protect their health by testing their homes, schools, and other buildings for radon. Exposure to radon is a preventable health risk and testing radon levels in your home can help prevent unnecessary exposure. If a high radon level is detected in your home, you can take steps to fix the problem to protect yourself and your family.

<http://www.epa.gov/radon/nram/index.html>

### **DHS Announces Partnership with WCO to Strengthen Global Supply Chain**

Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano earlier this month announced a new partnership with the World Customs Organization (WCO) to enlist other nations, international bodies and the private sector in increasing the security of the global supply chain—outlining a series of new initiatives to make the system stronger, smarter and more resilient. During remarks to shipping and cargo stakeholders, security experts and government officials at the European Policy Centre, Secretary Napolitano discussed the three main elements of this international effort to strengthen the security of the global supply chain:

- Preventing terrorists from exploiting the global supply chain to plan and execute attacks;
- Protecting the most critical elements of the supply chain system, such as transportation hubs and related critical infrastructure, from attacks and disruptions; and
- Building the resilience of the global supply chain to ensure that if something does happen, the supply chain can recover quickly.

WCO Secretary General Kunio Mikuriya emphasized the important role his organization will play – in partnership with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) – to build international consensus on strengthening cargo screening standards across the globe and deploying state-of-the-art technologies to better track and detect precursor chemicals.

[http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr\\_1294331815795.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr_1294331815795.shtm)

### **Business Continuity Institute Publishes new Dictionary of Business Continuity Management Terms**

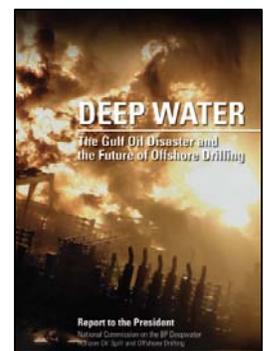
The Business Continuity Institute glossary has been one of the key free business continuity resources for many years. It has now been rewritten and republished as the Dictionary of Business Continuity Management Terms. Edited by the BCI's technical director, Lyndon Bird, the Dictionary of Business Continuity Management Terms sets out to define every business continuity related term in use around the world as well as cross referencing where each term originates from.

This document is free to download. <http://www.thebci.org/glossary.pdf>

### **Report to the President on the Future of Offshore Oil Drilling**

"Deep Water: The Gulf Oil Disaster and the Future of Offshore Drilling: Report to the President" was recently released by the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling. President Obama charged the Commission "to determine the causes of the disaster, and to improve the country's ability to respond to spills, and to recommend reforms to make offshore energy production safer." The Commission's report presents the American public and policymakers with the fullest account available of what happened in the Gulf and why, and proposes actions: changes in company behavior, reform of Government oversight and investments in research and technology will be required as the industry moves forward to meet the nation's energy needs.

<http://www.hsd1.org/hslog/?q=node/5938>



Report:

[http://www.oilspillcommission.gov/sites/default/files/documents/DEEPWATER\\_ReporttothePresident\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.oilspillcommission.gov/sites/default/files/documents/DEEPWATER_ReporttothePresident_FINAL.pdf)

### **Homeland Security & Defense Business Council Reports on Critical Infrastructure Protection**

The Homeland Security & Defense Business Council released its fifth monograph in its 9/10/11 Project (on Jan. 10), focusing on the nation's dependence on our critical infrastructure and the steps the public and private sectors should take to protect it" that according to a report in "Government Security News."



[http://homelandcouncil.org/pdfs/digital\\_library\\_pdfs/hfdbc91011projectcriticalinfrastructureprotection.pdf](http://homelandcouncil.org/pdfs/digital_library_pdfs/hfdbc91011projectcriticalinfrastructureprotection.pdf)

### **National Public Health Radio Network (NPHRN)**

The National Public Health Radio Network (NPHRN) is a collaborative initiative between CDC's Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response (OPHPR) and the Division of Emergency Operations (DEO). In summary, the NPHRN will provide CDC, state, territorial, and local health departments with non-infrastructure dependent redundant communications capability – a back up method of communication when all else fails. Utilizing specific frequencies within the High Frequency (HF) spectrum, the NPHRN provides CDC and the 50 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Pacific Island Jurisdictions (American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia), and the localities of Chicago, Los Angeles County, New York City and Washington, D.C. with a wireless redundant communications capacity. When participating in the NPHRN, CDC and public health partners will have the capability to transmit and receive vital information in the event that traditional infrastructure dependent communication media (telephone, Internet, cellular) are damaged, overloaded or destroyed thus preventing effective and reliable communication.



<http://emergency.cdc.gov/nphrn/>

### **Flash Flooding**

Flash flooding, one of the biggest causes of natural hazard-related deaths in the United States, is difficult to predict according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Flash flooding happens when intense thunderstorms dump large quantities of rain into steep or urban watersheds in a short period of time. The USGS recently released a new service, called WaterAlert. It allows users to receive text or e-mail updates about specific river flows, groundwater levels, water temperatures, rainfall and water quality at any of the sites where USGS collects real-time water information. WaterAlert helps inform emergency managers and responders about current water conditions, such as flooding, so that they can take appropriate actions. Additionally, the USGA operates approximately 7,500 streamgages as part of the National Streamflow Information Program, which provides emergency personnel and the public with long term, accurate and unbiased information on streamflow in real-time.

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/subjects/emr-isac/infograms/ig2011/3-11.shtm>

WaterAlert: <http://water.usgs.gov/wateralert/>

National Streamflow Information Program: <http://water.usgs.gov/nsip/>

### **“Stop. Think. Connect.” PSA Challenge Deadline Just One Month Away**

The deadline for the Stop.Think.Connect. campaign's PSA Challenge is fast approaching! Launched in November, the PSA Challenge is looking for creative videos that will help educate Americans about Internet safety and what we can all do to protect ourselves and our families online. All videos must be submitted by Feb. 14. The winning public service announcement videos will be posted on the Department of Homeland Security's Stop. Think. Connect. website and will be used to help promote the campaign.

<http://www.dhs.gov/files/events/stop-think-connect-psa-challenge.shtm>

### **National Incident Management System Training Plan**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is requesting public comments on the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Training Plan (formerly Five-Year NIMS Training Plan). This plan defines National Incident

Management System national training. It specifies stakeholder responsibilities and activities for developing, maintaining, and sustaining NIMS training. In addition to delineating responsibilities and actions, the NIMS Training Plan defines the process for developing training and personnel qualification requirements for emergency management/response personnel. The NIMS Training Plan (Draft) is located at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), Docket #.

Comments must be received by Feb. 22, 2011.  
<http://www.regulations.gov/contentStreamer?objectId=0900006480bce994&disposition=attachment&contentType=html>

## 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. 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: 



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

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.

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

<http://vaemergency.com/>

### IBHS Provides U.S. Business Owners with Severe Weather Business Continuity Advice

Recent record snowfalls and ice storms in many regions of the U.S. are a reminder to business owners to be sure they are prepared for severe winter weather that is likely to continue throughout January and February, according to the Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS). To help organizations prepare severe weather business continuity plans the IBHS recommends:

- Protection of employees and availability of your workforce.
- Protection of your information and data to support business resumption.
- Operational continuity.

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/news05544.html>

### Frostbite

Frostbite is an injury to the body that is caused by freezing. Frostbite causes a loss of feeling and color in affected

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

areas. It most often affects the nose, ears, cheeks, chin, fingers, or toes. Frostbite can permanently damage the body, and severe cases can lead to amputation. The risk of frostbite is increased in people with reduced blood circulation and among people who are not dressed properly for extremely cold temperatures. At the first signs of redness or pain in any skin area, get out of the cold or protect any exposed skin – frostbite may be beginning. Any of the following signs may indicate frostbite:

- A white or grayish-yellow skin area.
- Skin that feels unusually firm or waxy.
- Numbness.

A victim is often unaware of frostbite until someone else points it out because the frozen tissues are numb. If you detect symptoms of frostbite, seek medical care. Because frostbite and

hypothermia both result from exposure, first determine whether the victim also shows signs of hypothermia, as described previously. Hypothermia is a more serious medical condition and requires emergency medical assistance. If (1) there is frostbite but no sign of hypothermia and (2) immediate medical care is not available, proceed as follows:

- Get into a warm room as soon as possible.
- Unless absolutely necessary, do not walk on frostbitten feet or toes – this increases the damage.
- Immerse the affected area in warm – not hot – water (the temperature should be comfortable to the touch for unaffected parts of the body).
- Or, warm the affected area using body heat. For example, the heat of an armpit can be used to warm frostbitten fingers.
- Do not rub the frostbitten area with snow or massage it at all. This can cause more damage.
- Don't use a heating pad, heat lamp, or the heat of a stove, fireplace, or radiator for warming. Affected areas are numb and can be easily burned.

These procedures are not substitutes for proper medical care. Hypothermia is a medical emergency and frostbite should be evaluated by a health care provider.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/winter/staysafe/frostbite.asp>

### **Are You Medically Prepared for a Natural Disaster?**

Imagine having to evacuate your home quickly as 60 mph winds shatter your windows, water crawls under your front door and the electricity cuts leaving your house as dark as the inside of a coffee can. Would you be prepared? Now visualize being one of the 56 million Americans with a disability, such as wheelchair dependence, or one of the 133 million with a chronic disease, such as asthma. This scenario is a reality for many who have lived through natural disasters, like Hurricane Katrina or Tropical Storm Fay. In a new study of more than 37,000 people, lead author Jeffrey Bethel Ph.D., professor for the Department of Public Health at East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C., and colleagues discovered how many of us would be prepared.

<http://www.cfah.org/hbns/archives/getDocument.cfm?documentID=22345>

### **U.S. Small Business Administration Offers Monthly Small Business Disaster Preparedness Webinars**

Small business owners have an opportunity to get tips on business continuity planning in 2011 through a series of free webinars hosted by the U.S. Small Business Administration and Agility Recovery Solutions. The January webinar focused on the basics of risk assessment, the importance of identifying critical small business functions and employee preparedness. Dates and topics for upcoming free webinars are as follows:

- Feb. 15 – Disaster Recovery Year in Review
- March 15 – SBA Disaster Assistance
- April 19 – Leading with Resiliency During a Disaster
- May 17 – Crisis Communications Planning
- June 21 – Hurricane Season Preparation
- July 19 – Disaster Recovery Best Practices
- Aug. 16 – Social Media and Disaster Recovery
- September – Weekly webinars during National Preparedness Month include testing recovery plans, pandemic planning, and securing management support for recovery planning.

### **Winter Weather: Frostbite**

#### **Highlights**

- Frostbite is an injury to the body that is caused by freezing.
- Frostbite causes a loss of feeling and color in the nose, ears, cheeks, chin, fingers, or toes.
- Seek medical care if you think you have frostbite.

- Oct. 18 – Preparing your Business for the Winter Weather Season
- Nov. 15 – The Impact of Preparedness on the Bottom Line
- Dec. 20 – Management Obligations During Disaster Recovery

More preparedness tips for businesses, homeowners and renters are available on the SBA’s website at <http://www.sba.gov/content/disaster-preparedness>.

**Home Heating Safety Alert**

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and the United States Fire Administration (USFA) are urging consumers to play it safe as winter weather blankets the United States. According to USFA, home fires spike in winter months. Cooking and home heating are the leading causes of residential building fires during the winter. The risk of fires also increases with the use of supplemental heating, such as space heaters.

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/media/press/2011releases/012011.shtm>

**6 Issues Your Emergency Closing Plan Should Anticipate**

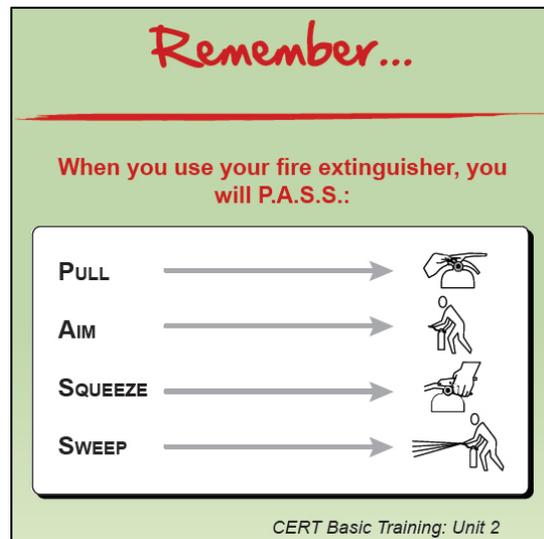
Employers should have a detailed plan for closing their facility during an emergency. Plans should address:

- The circumstances that will lead to a closing .
- Who makes the decision.
- How the decision is communicated.
- What to do about employee compensation.

Here are six major issues your emergency closing plan should anticipate:

- Mandatory evacuations.
- National emergencies.
- Local emergencies.
- Weather.
- Notification.
- Alternate workplace.

<http://hr.blr.com/HR-news/Health-Safety/Emergencies/6-Issues-Emergency-Closing-Plans-Should-Anticipate>



## MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

### **Pentagon, Industry to Swap Cybersecurity Experts**

The Department of Defense (DoD) is launching a pilot program to exchange cybersecurity experts and other IT personnel with private industry to improve information sharing and beef up the nation's cybersecurity defenses. The program would involve temporary assignment of DoD cybersecurity experts to companies and private sector experts to the Pentagon. "This Pilot is envisioned to promote the interchange of DoD and private sector IT professionals to enhance skills and competencies," according to an interim final rule published in the Federal Register. Several DoD agencies will participate in the program, including the Defense Information Systems Agency, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, the Office of Naval Research and the Pentagon's Chief Information Officer.

<http://www.infosecurity-us.com/view/14872/pentagon-industry-to-swap-cybersecurity-experts/>

### **Inspector General: FEMA Should Recoup \$643 Million in Improperly Dispersed Katrina, Rita Aid**

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG) recently initiated an inspection of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Fraud Prevention and Investigation Branch. The OIG has learned that FEMA has identified 160,000 applicants that received improper disaster assistance payments totaling approximately \$643 million through the Individuals and Households Program beginning with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The OIG found that FEMA has not attempted to recoup these improper payments since June 2007. While fraud resulted in a number of improper payments, inadequate internal controls, human error and mistakes were also to blame. After a disaster is declared, affected individuals are able to apply for assistance from the Individuals and Households Program. Individuals are potentially eligible for temporary housing (rent and lodging), home repair, home replacement, and other needs assistance for personal property, transportation, medical, funeral, moving and storage.

<http://www.hsdl.org/hslog/?q=node/5920>

### **Gartner Makes IT Predictions for 2011 and Beyond**

Gartner Inc. has published its top predictions for IT organizations and users for 2011 and beyond. Analysts said that the predictions highlight the significant changes in the roles played by technology and IT organizations in business, the global economy and the lives of individual users. More than 100 of the strongest Gartner predictions across all research areas were submitted for consideration this year. This year's selection process included evaluating several criteria that define a top prediction. The issues examined included relevance, impact and audience appeal. Last year's theme of rebalancing supply, consumer demand and regulation is still present across most of the predictions, but the view has shifted further toward external effects. This year's top predictions highlight an increasingly visible linkage between technology decisions and outcomes, both economic and societal. The top predictions, which have clear implications for the business continuity profession, include:

- By 2015, a G20 nation's critical infrastructure will be disrupted and damaged by online sabotage.
- By 2014, 90 percent of organizations will support corporate applications on personal devices.
- By 2013, 80 percent of businesses will support a workforce using tablets.

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/news05497.html>

Additional details are in the Gartner report "Gartner's Top Predictions for IT Organizations and Users, 2011 and Beyond: IT's Growing Transparency," which is available at <http://www.gartner.com/resId=1476415>

### **Capitol Police Radios Still Not Encrypted**

More than 10 years after 9/11, the U.S. Capitol Police still conducts its daily operations on an analog, non-encrypted radio network that can be effortlessly and legally monitored with a cheap police scanner. For years, officers, management, and labor representatives have asked Congress to upgrade the system, parts of which were built when Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neil was the Speaker of the House. It is so old that replacement radios are hard to come by and repairing them is difficult because many of the parts are no longer made.

[http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng\\_20110111\\_6186.php](http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng_20110111_6186.php)

## **The Unexpected Return of “Duck and Cover”**

Sixty years ago, in 1951, Ray Maurer and Anthony Rizzo produced a film for the federal government's Civil Defense agency in response to Soviet nuclear tests. Featuring an animated turtle named Bert and real-life schoolchildren from New York, the film, “Duck and Cover,” became an icon of the Cold War, seen by many as evidence of the absurdity of the government's response to the nuclear threat. Against the threat of a nuclear attack, how much good would diving under a desk really do? Originally aimed at teaching children how to respond to a surprise nuclear strike, by the 1980s “Duck and Cover” was a piece of 1950s kitsch, mocked in such anti-nuclear films as “The Atomic Café.” But now “duck and cover” is back, not as kitsch but once again as serious advice from the federal government.



<http://www.theatlantic.com/national/archive/2011/01/the-unexpected-return-of-duck-and-cover/68776/>

## **Less Healthy Usually Means Less Prepared for Disaster**

If you're disabled or if you have a chronic disease, chances are greater that you're unprepared for a disaster, reports the “Chicago Tribune,” citing a study in the “American Journal of Preventive Medicine.” People with poor health, disabilities or chronic disease were less likely than healthier people to have a full disaster kit, and more likely to say they had medications on hand. Generally, less healthy people were also less likely to have an evacuation plan – though those who use special equipment such as a wheelchair were more likely to have an evacuation plan.... It's harder for less-healthy people to respond to a crisis or evacuate. What's more, their disabilities could be aggravated by post-disaster conditions.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/health/la-heb-disaster-kits-20110112,0,1281926.story>

## **National Geo-Intelligence Agency**

The National Geo-Intelligence Agency opened its \$1.7 billion Campus East to several hundred employees on Jan. 18. Director Letitia Long said the new building in Springfield, Va. is designed to enable NGA's 8,500 analysts and other workers to deliver better intelligence faster. The building was designed to promote collaboration among NGA employees, she said. Through greater information sharing and computer systems built on a new information technology architecture, NGA hopes to produce improved geospatial intelligence, including predictive intelligence, Long said. Geospatial intelligence – or “GEOINT” – is sensitive information gleaned by fusing maps, charts, photographs and images collected by satellites, reconnaissance planes and assorted sensors, along with other data. It is intended “to help warfighters and national decision-makers visualize what they need to know.”

[http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng\\_20110118\\_7909.php?oref=topnews](http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng_20110118_7909.php?oref=topnews)

## **FEMA To Use Social Media For Emergency Response**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) plans to engage the public more in disaster response by sharing data and leveraging reports from mobile phones and social media. People are increasingly connected in disaster areas, and FEMA needs to factor that into its disaster planning, FEMA administrator Craig Fugate said in a keynote speech at ESRI's government user conference in Washington, D.C. As an example, Fugate pointed to the January 2010 earthquake in Haiti, where rescue workers and survivors used text messages, e-mail and social media to communicate amid chaotic and dangerous conditions. FEMA is engaging the private sector and the public to determine how best to take advantage of open data, social media and two-way interaction to improve disaster response. Fugate has met with Google, Microsoft, Apple, Twitter and other companies, and FEMA is using Challenge.gov to seek ideas more widely through crowdsourcing. The private sector and groups like Random Hacks of Kindness will be represented at FEMA's annual disaster recovery event this year. For example, in its disaster recovery scenario, FEMA could ask retailers which of their stores are closed, then overlay that information on a map to provide food aid to areas where needed. It could also set up mesh WiFi networks to enable people who lose cell or Internet service to communicate using WiFi-enabled mobile devices.

<http://www.informationweek.com/news/government/info-management/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=229000918&cid>

## US water infrastructure in trouble

The nation's drinking water system is so troubled the American Society of Civil Engineers gave it a grade of D minus in its 2009 Report Card of America's Infrastructure. They warn of aging water delivery infrastructure that results in property loss, inconvenience, and threats to public health. Each day, leaking pipes account for an estimated 7 billion gallons of water, according to the American Society of Civil Engineers. Much of this is blamed on age. A large part of the U.S. water delivery system dates back to the years shortly after World War II. To get an idea of how old the nation's water pipes are, 30 percent of pipes in systems that deliver water to more than 100,000 people are between 40 and 80 years old, according to the EPA. About 10 percent of pipes in those systems are older.

<http://www.cnn.com/2011/US/01/20/water.main.infrastructure/index.html>

## FLU

### Fairfax County Pandemic Flu Preparedness

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

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

### Start the New Year Off Right Urges Virginia Health Commissioner – Get a Flu Shot!

“Make it your New Year's resolution to get vaccinated against the flu,” says State Health Commissioner Karen Remley. “It's one of the healthiest resolutions you can make and one of the easiest to keep.” Seasonal flu activity is increasing across the nation and in Virginia. For the first time this flu season, the influenza activity level in the state has increased to widespread. This means that during the week ending December 25, a majority of Virginia's health-planning regions were above their thresholds for influenza-like illness and had laboratory evidence that the flu was circulating in the community. Virginia's flu season typically begins in December and runs through March, hitting its peak in February, so it's not too late to get the flu shot. To locate a pharmacy, physician or local health department clinic offering seasonal flu vaccine, log on to [www.vdh.virginia.gov](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov) or contact the Fairfax County Health Department. In addition to getting vaccinated, taking these everyday precautions can also help prevent spreading the flu:

- Covering your mouth when coughing or sneezing.
- Staying at home when ill.
- Washing your hands frequently.

Typical symptoms of the flu include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, headache, muscle aches and often extreme fatigue.

<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/>

### It's Not Too Late to Vaccinate – Get Your Flu Vaccine Today!

When you see “Get Your Flu Vaccine Here” signs and banners outside pharmacies and in doctor's offices, you might think, “it's winter already; isn't it too late for that?” The answer is no. “Flu season typically peaks in January or February and can last as late as April or May,” says Dr. Anne Schuchat, Assistant Surgeon General of the U.S. Public Health Service and Director of CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases. “We are encouraging people who have not yet been vaccinated to get vaccinated now.” For millions of people each year, the flu can bring a fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle aches, fatigue, and miserable days spent in bed instead of at work or school. However, you may not realize that more than 200,000 people are hospitalized from flu complications each year. The flu can also be deadly. Between 1976 and 2007, CDC estimates that annual flu-associated deaths in the United States have ranged from a low of about 3,000 people to a high of about 49,000 people. The flu vaccine is recommended for everyone 6 months and older. It's available in two forms: a shot and a nasal spray. While the flu shot can be given to just about everyone, the nasal spray is approved only for use in healthy people ages 2 to 49 years and who aren't pregnant. Anyone can get the flu, but some people are at greater risk for



serious flu-related complications, like pneumonia, that can lead to hospitalization and even death. Visit [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov) and use the Flu Vaccine Finder to find the nearest location where you and your family can get vaccinated. For more information about influenza or the flu vaccine, talk to your doctor or nurse, visit <http://www.flu.gov>, or call CDC at 1-800-CDC-INFO.

### **Canada: Flu Cases Up in Ontario**

Public health officials say flu season is officially underway in the province, hitting many homes over the holidays. Ontario has reported 1,075 positive tests for the seasonal flu so far, compared to less than 400 at this point during a normal flu season. By comparison, the province had reported 7,651 positive tests at this point last year during the H1N1 pandemic. Dr. David Williams, Ontario's associate chief medical officer of health, says the flu hit earlier this year with numbers not usually seen until a peak in late January or February.

<http://www.healthzone.ca/health/newsfeatures/swineflu/article/916395--flu-cases-way-up-but-vaccinations-down>

### **Korea: Second B2B H5N1 Outbreak Confirmed**

*Another outbreak of bird flu was confirmed at a duck farm in South Jeolla Province.*

The government said ducks at the farm in Yeongam tested positive for the virulent strain of the H5N1 avian influenza. This comes just one week after outbreaks of the highly contagious bird disease in Iksan, North Jeolla Province, and Cheonan, North Chungcheong Province on Dec. 31, raising concerns that the disease may be spreading across the country. The country has already been grappling for more than two months with the fast-spreading foot-and-mouth disease. Quarantine officials said initial on-site tests confirmed that the ducks in the latest case were infected with the H5N1 strain. All 14,500 birds on the farm and 84,400 birds on four other farms within a 500-meter radius from the outbreak have been ordered to be culled as a precautionary measure.

[http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2011/01/113\\_79336.html](http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2011/01/113_79336.html)

### **Report Captures Pandemic Preparedness Lessons from Major U.S. Universities**

A new report, released this week by the University of Minnesota's Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) details the experience of the "Big 10 + 2" United States universities during the H1N1 pandemic. The 60-page report is based on the results of interviews conducted between March and July 2010, an online conference for the Big 10 + 2 universities along with federal and state health partners, and follow-up interviews. The report ([www.cidrappractices.org/cidrap/files/54/big10+2webfinal.pdf](http://www.cidrappractices.org/cidrap/files/54/big10+2webfinal.pdf)) includes best pandemic H1N1 practices from colleges.

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/news05512.html>

### **Swine flu offers "Extraordinary Super Immunity"**

In beating a bout of H1N1 the body makes antibodies that can kill many other flu strains, a study in the "Journal of Experimental Medicine" shows. Doctors hope to harness this power to make a universal flu vaccine that would protect against any type of influenza. Ultimately this could replace the "best guess" flu vaccines currently used. Such a vaccine is the "holy grail" for flu researchers. Many scientists are already testing different prototypes to put an end to the yearly race to predict coming flu strains and quickly mass produce a new vaccine each flu season.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-12152500>

### **Canada Facing a "Flunami"**

A surge in seasonal influenza cases in parts of the country has clogged hospital emergency rooms, postponed elective surgeries and resulted in at least one public health unit expanding its flu-shot clinics. The number of patients showing influenza-like symptoms continues to increase across the country, but has been particularly high in parts of Ontario, Manitoba and Quebec. Health officials say patients with respiratory problems inundated emergency departments during the holiday period in particular, putting a heavy strain on resources. Unlike last year, when the H1N1 pandemic virus was the main influenza strain, public health officials are now battling H3N2, a seasonal flu that disproportionately affects the elderly and those with underlying health conditions. Toronto has had more than 700 laboratory-confirmed flu cases this season, compared to the 100 or so cases it sees every year. Winnipeg reported 135 flu cases between July, 2010, and Jan. 8; the city had nine lab-confirmed cases during the same period in 2007-08.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/health/hospitals-overwhelmed-by-surge-of-flu-cases/article1868015/>

### **Egypt: Swine Flu Rate 75 Percent Lower Than Last Year**

A total of 589 new cases of swine flu (also known as H1N1) were reported on Jan. 9-15. Twenty six resulted in death, reported the [Egyptian] Ministry of Health. The rate was 75 percent lower than the same period in 2010. The 26 swine flu-related mortalities represented a 48.9 percent decrease from the same period last year, said Ministry of Health spokesperson Abdel Rahman Shahin. The number of swine flu cases was slightly decreasing in comparison to last week's 733 cases and 28 deaths. Health officials predicted that a substantial decline will take place at the end of January as the temperature begins to rise. Until then, the health ministry expects that high numbers of swine flu cases will be reported. Seventy-five percent of the people who died from swine flu this week fell within the "high risk" H1N1 group. That "high risk" group includes those who are pregnant and/or suffer from chronic diseases such as diabetes or other chronic conditions affecting the heart, lungs, liver or kidneys.

<http://www.thedailynewsegypt.com/health/swine-flu-rate-75-pct-lower-than-same-period-last-year-says-ministry.html>

### **Denmark at Risk of H1N1 Outbreak From H5N1**

Denmark is at the risk of an H1N1 outbreak as more Danes are getting infected with the influenza, said the National Board of Health on Wednesday, Jan. 19. The data from Danish National Board of Health shows that since the end of 2010, alone in the Northern Jutland, there have been 26 people detected positive with A/H1N1 virus. On Jan. 18, the National Board of Health said two men, both in their 50s, had died of the flu.

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/health/2011-01/13/c\\_13688740.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/health/2011-01/13/c_13688740.htm)

### **Blood Plasma Could Prevent Swine Flu Deaths from H5N1**

A recent Chinese study has found that swine flu deaths may be preventable by giving severely ill victims blood plasma from patients, which contains antibodies against the virus, who have recovered from the disease. According to the small study, this transfusion "vaccine" lead to a halving of the death rate among hospital patients in intensive care due to swine flu complications, the Press Association reports. The study followed 93 swine flu patients who were seriously ill and needed intensive care in Hong Kong hospitals between September 2009 and June 2010. Twenty of the patients agreed to receive a 500 milliliter transfusion of plasma donated by patients who had fought off the H1N1 virus. The 73 who declined this treatment were the control group. Twenty percent of the treated group died, while 55 percent of the control patients lost their lives, according to the Press Association. None of the patients who were treated had any adverse reactions to report.

<http://vaccinenewsdaily.com/news/228522-blood-plasma-could-prevent-swine-flu-deaths>

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

### **Nuclear Export Control Symposium**

Feb. 3-4; Washington, D.C.

Industry experts will address the issues and challenges surrounding nuclear export regulation, compliance, and

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

practice. The symposium will help organizations recognize actions required for regulatory compliance and will provide detailed discussion of current controls and anticipated future actions.

<https://www.euci.com/conferences/0211-nuclear-export/index.php>

### **International Biosafety and Biocontainment Symposium**

Feb. 6-9; Baltimore, Md.

Speakers will discuss livestock, aquaculture, and wildlife health issues associated with agricultural research, diagnostics, and response; exhibits will showcase the latest agricultural biosafety products and services; and the symposium will offer networking with professionals from the biosafety and scientific research industries, organizations and agencies.

<http://arssymposium.absa.org/index.html>

### **Biodefense and Emerging Diseases Research Meeting**

Feb. 6-9; Washington, D.C.

At this conference of the American Society for Microbiology, scientists, physicians, public health researchers and policy makers from around the world will discover the latest research from microbial sciences related to biodefense and bioterrorism; discuss new information on preventative modalities, therapeutics, and clinical diagnoses related to biothreat agents; and learn about the most recent trends in the management and planning of biodefense programs.

<http://www.asm.org/index.php/meetings/biodefense-and-emerging-diseases-research-meeting.html>

### **Cybersecurity Expo**

Feb. 8-9; Washington, D.C.

The Federal Business Council is hosting the 3rd Annual Cyber Security Expo, which will focus on cyber-security threats and vulnerabilities, increased awareness, and the defensive capabilities available. The expo will be concurrent with the Justice Department Cyber Security Conference.

<http://www.fbcinc.com/event.aspx?eventid=Q6UJ9A00P1AW>

### **CBRNE Defense**

Feb. 14-16; Vienna, Va.

This forum will discuss preparedness, incident management, threat reduction, advanced technologies, interoperability, and medical countermeasures to prevent, detect, protect against, and respond to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosives attack.

<http://cbrnevent.com/Event.aspx?id=408522>

The logo for CBRNE Defense, featuring the text "CBRNE Defense" in a bold, sans-serif font. "CBRNE" is in yellow and "Defense" is in green, with a registered trademark symbol.

### **AFCEA Homeland Security Conference**

Feb. 22-24; Washington, D.C.

The theme of this Armed Forces Communications & Electronics Association conference is “Working Together Today for a More Secure Tomorrow.” It will cover identity management and interagency collaboration, Homeland Security Department and state and local secure information sharing, border security, person-centric screening, situational awareness, training and education, and privacy vs. security. Roundtables will feature chief information officers, procurement executives, and executives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the National Weather Service, and the National Communications System.

<http://www.afcea.org/events/homeland/11/home.asp>

### **Biometrics Conference**

Feb. 23-24; Arlington, Va.

The theme is “National Security Through Biometric Collaboration—A Roadmap to Tomorrow.” The conference will highlight successful partnerships that have evaluated or implemented policy or biometrics technologies and approaches for increasing the pace of scientific advancement.

<http://www.ndia.org/meetings/1860/Pages/default.aspx>

## **EMS Today**

March 1-5; Baltimore, Md.

Emergency Medical Services Today offers clinical topics, presented by leaders in the field; hundreds of the newest products and technologies in the exhibit hall; and networking events to connect thousands of emergency medical services professionals.



<http://www.emstoday.com/en/home/?campaignid=61594943&iusercampaignid=64386314>

## **2011 National Severe Weather Workshop**

March 3-5; Norman, Okla.

The 2011 National Severe Weather Workshop will be held in Norman, Okla. from March 3-5. This is a unique and growing workshop focused on hazardous weather information-sharing, and discussions on the effective transmission of messages about meteorological risk. Emergency managers, weather enthusiasts, teachers, students, meteorologists, broadcasters and vendors in threat alerting, sheltering and communications will gather, present and discuss inter-related topics about weather hazards. Visit NOAA's National Weather Service website at

<http://www.norman.noaa.gov/nsww/> for more information.

## **Homeland Defense and Security Education Summit**

March 10-11; Hyattsville, Md.

The summit will address whether the homeland security and defense education community is meeting the needs of practitioners and policymakers. Does the scholarly work – in terms of research, critical thinking, education programs, and strategic advising – adequately respond to multifaceted requirements of homeland security and defense professionals? The summit will discuss the most pertinent issues, address the return on investment in homeland security and defense education, and identify current and relevant applied research areas.

<http://www.chds.us/?special/info&pgm=2011Summit>

## **Government Security Expo and Conference**

March 29-31; Washington, D.C.

This conference offers training and skills to meet the challenges facing safety, security, and law enforcement professionals. Experts will discuss solutions to pressing issues in physical and cybersecurity, critical infrastructure protection, advanced persistent threats, attacks and emergencies, and law enforcement.



<http://govsecinfo.com/Events/GovSec-2011/Home.aspx>

## **Virginia Emergency Management Symposium**

March 30-April 1; Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa, Short Pump (Richmond), Va.

Sponsored by the Virginia Emergency Management Association and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, the 2011 Virginia Emergency Management Symposium is designed for anyone whose professional commitment causes them to seek a greater understanding of emergencies, both natural and man-made. The event, "Managing the Emergency-All in a Day's Work," will be held March 30-April 1 in Richmond. Scheduled Speakers: Keynote Address – FEMA Administrator, Craig Fugate; Awards Dinner – Tropical Program Manager, Hurricane Expert for The Weather Channel, Dr. Rich Knabb; Friday General Session – FEMA Region III Administrator Mary Ann Tierney.

<http://www.vemaweb.org/content/symposium2011/>

## **Impact 2011**

April 4-6; Westfields Marriott Hotel, Chantilly, Va.

The National Security Institute's 26th Annual IMPACT Security Conference, "Protecting Secrets: Confronting a New World of Risk," an essential for government and contractor security directors and managers responsible for protecting classified and sensitive information assets from a growing array of threats posed by espionage, terrorism, computer crime and information warfare.

<http://www.nsi.org/impact-2010.html>

### **National Training and Exercise Conference**

April 12-14; Emmitsburg, Md.

This conference will review current and proposed training and exercise programs within the Federal Emergency Management Agency that apply to its state and tribal partners, providing examples of best practices.

<http://training.fema.gov/>

### **The Women in Public Safety Communications Leadership Conference**

April 13-14; Orlando, Fla.

Delve into the daily demands and long-term career issues confronting women in leadership positions in the public safety communications industry. Take control of your career – discuss concerns, experiences and successful solutions and tactics with women just like you. Following last year’s highly praised inaugural event, the 2011 Conference program covers everything from office communication and social media to career development and maintaining a work-life balance while excelling in this demanding field.

<http://wipsc.apointl.org/>

### **Trade Symposium**

April 13-14; Washington, D.C.

The theme for this Customs and Border Protection Trade Symposium is “Working Together to Strengthen Economic Competitiveness.”

[http://cbp.gov/xp/cgov/trade/trade\\_outreach/symp\\_trade.xml](http://cbp.gov/xp/cgov/trade/trade_outreach/symp_trade.xml)



### **National Hurricane Conference**

April 18-22; Atlanta, Ga.

This conference aims to improve hurricane preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation in order to save lives and property in the United States and the tropical islands of the Caribbean and Pacific. It is a national forum for federal, state, and local officials to exchange ideas and recommend new policies to improve emergency management. It emphasizes lessons learned from hurricane strikes, state-of-the-art programs, new ideas being tested or considered, new or ongoing assistance programs, and the ABC’s of hurricane preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation.

<http://www.hurricanemeeting.com/index.asp>

### **10th Workshop on Economics of Information Security**

June 14-15; George Mason University, Arlington, Va.

The Center for Infrastructure Protection and Homeland Security (CIP/HS) at the George Mason School of Law will be hosting The Tenth Workshop on Economics of Information Security, or WEIS 2011. CIP/HS will be co-hosting this event with the Interdisciplinary Center for Economic Science (ICES) at George Mason University. This two-day workshop will take place at George Mason University’s Arlington Campus on Tuesday, June 14, and Wednesday, June 15, 2011.

<http://weis2011.econinfosec.org/index.html>

### **Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials - International 2011 Conference**

August 7-12; Philadelphia, Pa.

“Powerful Connections.” Don’t miss this opportunity to make powerful connections with executives, dispatchers, and technicians involved in all aspects of public safety communications – from law enforcement to PSAPs to government agencies. The APCO Annual Conference is a great place to learn new skills, explore new products and services, and connect with people who will enhance your career.

<http://www.apco2011.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.

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 [NICCRports@dhs.gov](mailto:NICCRports@dhs.gov). You can access the Daily OSIR at:

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

### Fairfax County Government Emergency Information 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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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).