



ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

December 2014

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

This Eye-Opening Infographic Shows How Prepared Every State Is For A Natural Disaster

The folks at Foodstorage.com have put together some crucial data about how safe we all are in one big and wonderful infographic. The first graphic shows a map of the United States and the disasters most likely to hit certain parts of the country. Foodstorage.com also poured through the data to look at how each state is prepared for disaster. This is measured by each state's disaster budget per capita according to NEMAweb.org. The results are very telling. Texas is in the worst shape, according to this data. They are ranked as the least safe and least prepared state. While Vermont is the most prepared. And Wyoming takes the award for safest state.

<http://www.businessinsider.com/natural-disaster-probability-by-state-2014-11>

Communicating Imminent Threats

Researchers at the University of Maryland-based National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism announced they are the first to evaluate how effective FEMA's 90-character mobile emergency alerts are in motivating the public to take action. According to the research team, shorter messages between 90- and 140-characters were not able to convey enough information, and appeared to be less effective at directing people to take protective action.

<http://www.hstoday.us/briefings/industry-news/single-article/study-how-wireless-emergency-alerts-can-best-communicate-imminent-threat/e9354b5013482c3289028c49668b478a.html>

Emergency News
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Winter Care for Older Adults

The winter months can bring exciting events such as holiday decorating, travel, and snow. But it can also bring slips, falls, and other health emergencies. For older adults, being prepared for these winter events is important and can save lives. With parts of the country experiencing an arctic blast of winter weather, now is the time to check in with older adult family members, friends and neighbors. Here are a few considerations when helping older adults prepare for winter weather:

- The immune system weakens with age. Once flu season ramps up and the cold air blows in, it's much more important for older adults to visit their doctor if they become sick.
- Have back-ups for medical equipment. Make sure they have extra hearing aid batteries, glasses, and other medical supplies, such as oxygen.
- Be sure they have enough medicine to last for a week. Keep medications, copies of prescriptions, and treatment information in an emergency supply kit.
- Falls are the leading cause of injury among older adults in the U.S. Non-slip shoes are a great way to help them navigate slippery conditions.
- Shoveling can put too much strain on the heart and be dangerous if individuals



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have problems with balance or osteoporosis. Older adults, especially those with heart disease or high blood pressure, should leave snow shoveling to others.

It's always a good idea to have a communications plan. If you do not live near your older adult family members, make arrangements for neighbors to check in with them. Also, ask the neighbors if it's ok for older family members to contact them in an emergency. With your help, older adults can enjoy the winter months safely. [Check out this FEMA guide](#) for more tips to help prepare older adults for emergencies.

Reprinted from FEMA's "Individual and Community Preparedness e-Brief" e-newsletter, Nov. 25 edition

Give the Gift of Preparedness this Holiday Season

With the holidays approaching, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) encourages everyone to consider giving gifts that will help protect their family members and friends during a future emergency. Supplies for an emergency preparedness kit can make unique – and potentially life-saving – holiday gifts, such as:

- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert.
- A flashlight with extra batteries.
- Solar-powered cellphone charger.
- Smoke detector and/or carbon monoxide detectors.
- First-aid kit.
- Fire extinguisher and fire escape ladder.
- Enrollment in a CPR or first-aid class.
- Books, coloring books, crayons and board games for the kids, in case the power goes out.
- Personal hygiene comfort kit, including shampoo, body wash, wash cloth, hairbrush, comb, toothbrush, toothpaste and deodorant.
- A waterproof pouch or backpack containing any of the above items, or with such things as a rain poncho, moist towelettes, work gloves, batteries, duct tape, whistle, food bars, etc.



Holiday shoppers might also consider giving a winter car kit, equipped with a shovel, ice scraper, emergency flares, fluorescent distress flags and jumper cables. For animal lovers, a pet disaster kit with emergency food, bottled water, toys and a leash is also a good gift. The gift of preparedness might just save the life of a friend or family member. For more information, preparedness tips or other gift ideas, visit www.Ready.gov.

www.fema.gov/news-release/2014/11/26/give-gift-preparedness-holiday-season



Top Preparedness Gifts of 2014

Our Office of Emergency Management is pleased to announce its top gifts of 2014:

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- Weather Radio – A National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio is like having your own emergency siren in your home. It provides forecasts, watches, warnings and other emergency information around the clock. Cost: \$20-\$40.
- Emergency Food – Get creative. Put together a refillable container with their favorite long-lasting high-calorie snacks and drinks. Label it as emergency food and include information about rotating its contents every six months. Suggest they store it at work, in their car or with their home emergency kit. Cost: varies.
- Emergency Plan – Sit down with your family and develop an emergency plan with the easy-to-use template from www.ReadyNoVa.org. Know a neighbor or relative who may need help? Spread good cheer and walk them through filling out the template too. Cost: free.
- Can Opener – A good-quality handheld can opener will save frustration later. We hear a can opener fits perfectly into a stocking – naughty or nice! Cost: \$10-\$14.
- Emergency Vehicle Kits – You don't want a loved one getting stuck without some roadside essentials. You could even make your own. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/prepare/make-a-kit.htm to learn more. Cost: around \$30-\$50. American Red Cross
- First Aid, AED and CPR Classes – First aid, automated external defibrillator (AED) and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) skills could save a life – maybe even yours. Visit www.redcross.org/take-a-class to learn more. This would be a great family activity! Cost: \$70-\$110.
- Emergency Blanket – These are great to keep in the glove box – especially during the winter season. Cost: \$5 per pack of four.

If your friends and family are already prepared with the items from the above list, consider donating to a disaster relief organization in their honor. And for more on emergency preparedness, call emergency management at 571-350-1000, TTY 711, or email oem@fairfaxcounty.gov.

<https://fairfaxcountyemergency.wordpress.com/2014/12/17/top-preparedness-gifts-of-2014/>



www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov

Summer Student Volunteer Program

The Baltimore/Washington Forecast Office of the National Weather Service is accepting applications through Jan. 23, 2015, for volunteer interns for the summer of 2015. This program provides selected college students with the experience of performing a mentored meteorological research project, presenting a briefing on their research and assisting in operations at an NWS forecast office.

<http://www.weather.gov/lwx/student>

Ebola Still Priority as Public Focus Shifts

Declaring the “fight is nowhere close to being over,” President Barack Obama heralded strides in the effort to confront Ebola in West Africa and in protecting the U.S. against the spread of the deadly virus. He said squelching the disease remains an urgent priority even if the American public's attention has shifted elsewhere.

<http://www.emsworld.com/news/11785776/obama-says-ebola-still-priority-as-public-focus-shifts>

2014 on Track for Hottest Year

With temperature data showing 2014 currently tied for the hottest year on record, the U.N. weather agency rejected claims that global warming has paused. The World Meteorological Organization said the global average temperature in January-October was 0.57 Celsius (1.03 Fahrenheit) above average, the same as in record hot year 2010.

https://www.wmo.int/pages/mediacentre/press_releases/pr_1009_en.html

Make Sure Your Holiday Celebrations are Safe and Fire Free!

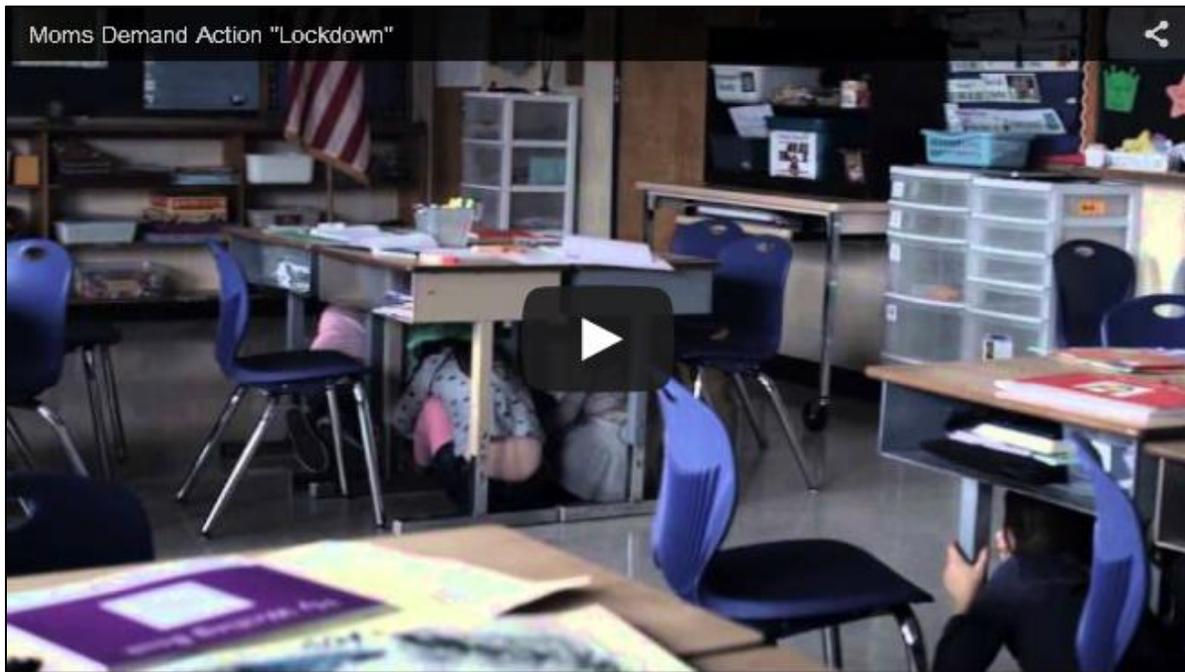
The holidays may be the “most wonderful time of the year,” but it’s also when accidental fires are most likely. Your decorations, candles and electrical usage all put you at risk to cause a fire. This FEMA video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IfuSO6cMPYM>) offers advice to decorate and celebrate safely this holiday season. When the holidays come to an end, you still need to take proper precautions- home heating techniques can also be hazardous all winter long.



Powerful “Lockdown” PSA Marks a Grim Statistic: Nearly 100 School Shootings Since Newtown

Classroom lockdown drills have become the norm since the tragedy at Newtown, two years ago this month. The powerfully sad PSA from Grey Toronto takes place during just such a lockdown and highlights a depressing statistic: There have been nearly 100 school shootings since Newtown. The end line nicely captures what has changed since Newtown – the level of fear in classrooms with young children.

<http://www.adweek.com/adfreak/powerful-lockdown-psa-marks-grim-statistic-nearly-100-school-shootings-newtown-161859>



Virginia Scores High on Health Emergency Preparedness

Virginia received a top score among states on a national comparison of readiness and preparedness to deal with emergencies that pose significant threats to public health. The state scored an 8.2 on the 2014 National Health Security Preparedness Index, a two-year-old system developed by the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials in partnership with the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and various other agencies and organizations. The highest possible score was 10 and the national average was 7.4. Virginia last year scored a 7.9.

<https://governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/newsarticle?articleId=7437>

35 U.S. Hospitals Designated as Ebola Treatment Centers

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, state health officials have identified and designated 35 hospitals as Ebola treatment centers. These centers are staffed, equipped, and have been assessed to have current

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capabilities, training, and resources to provide the complex treatment necessary to care for a person with Ebola, while minimizing risk to healthcare workers.

http://www.domesticpreparedness.com/Government/Government_Updates/35_U.S._Hospitals_Designated_as_Ebola_Treatment_Centers/

Winter Storm Safety Tips

This season, there have already been winter storms that left homes and businesses without electricity, leaving residents to find alternate ways to heat homes. Whenever alternate heating methods are used, the risk of having a home fire or exposure to dangerous carbon monoxide increases. The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) advises the following tips to stay safe:

Power and Gas Lines

- After a storm, avoid power lines that have been damaged or downed.
- Do not use gas lines that are leaking until they have been inspected.

Generators

- Only use generators outdoors. Generator fumes contain carbon dioxide that can quickly overwhelm a person.
- Check to make sure the right size and type of power cords are used.
- Never run cords used for a generator under a carpet or a rug.
- Ensure that a generator is not connected to another power source, such as a wall outlet.
- Keep all chemicals away from the generator for safety purposes.

Candles

- Use candles with care, as they can be easily knocked over and start a fire quickly.
- Consider using battery operated candles instead, as they are a safer alternative.

Visit the U.S. Fire Administration's website (<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/winter.html>) for more information on safety measures that will keep people safe during a winter storm.

PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

Crisis Management Survey 2014 Results

Steelhenge Consulting has published the results of its Crisis Management Survey 2014: "Preparing for Crisis, Safeguarding Your Future." The aim of the survey was to build a better picture of how organizations are preparing themselves to manage crises effectively to protect their reputation and performance. It asked the 375 participants from organizations around the world, what they are doing to prepare to manage crises, the challenges they face in creating a crisis management capability and to assess their overall level of crisis preparedness. Over half rated themselves as less than very well prepared, with 13 percent responding that they were either not well prepared or not prepared at all.

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/news07462.html>

FBI Cautions U.S. Firms of Hackers Trying to Overwrite Companies' Data Files

Early this month, several cybersecurity officers of U.S. businesses received a five-page "flash" warning from the FBI to be cautious of hackers that may use malware to override all data on hard drives of computers, including the master boot record, which prevents them from booting up. "The overwriting of the data files will make it extremely difficult and costly, if not impossible, to recover the data using standard forensic methods," the warning read.

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20141204-fbi-cautions-u-s-firms-of-hackers-trying-to-overwrite-companies-data-files>

The Overlooked Hazards of Holiday Eating

Most people are aware of the dangers of overeating and overimbibing during the winter holidays, but few worry about a lesser-known risk of year-end celebrations. Every year, 48 million Americans develop foodborne illness (also

known as food poisoning or stomach flu), most of which isn't reported to health authorities. Festive dinners and buffets offer more opportunities for contamination than most meals, but you can greatly reduce your risk by taking a few precautions.

http://www.health.harvard.edu/newsletters/Harvard_Womens_Health_Watch/2011/December/the-overlooked-hazards-of-holiday-eating

National Weather Service to Pilot Storm Surge Risk Tool for Public in 2015

The National Weather Service will seek to increase public awareness of storm surge risk in the 2015 hurricane season with the release of a new online tool to “look up” storm surge risk by address and geolocation. Learn more about the new tool at http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/news/20141211_pa_surgeWarningGraphic.pdf. The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) released a similar tool this past hurricane season, available at <http://www.vaemergency.gov/readyvirginia/stay-informed/hurricane/storm-surge>.



Stay Warm and Safe

As part of Winter Preparedness Week in Virginia (Nov. 30 - Dec. 6), the Virginia Department of Emergency Management released a winter preparedness video. Enjoy the holidays with less stress by preparing for winter storms. Get tips and resources on the free Ready Virginia app and at www.ReadyVirginia.gov. The YouTube video can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1AmF-cBtXpo>

Frozen Water Pipes

During extreme cold temperatures, one of the most serious threats to your home is frozen water pipes. According to the [Federal Alliance for Safe Homes](http://www.flash.org) (FLASH), approximately a quarter-million homes and offices have at least one room damaged by a frozen pipe each year. FLASH encourages you to protect your property this winter by following three easy steps:

- **FOAM:** Insulate pipes exposed to the elements or cold drafts. By keeping your water warmer, you reduce the amount of energy needed to heat water in the cold, winter months;
- **DOMES:** Place an insulating dome or other covering on outdoor faucets and spigots to reduce the likelihood of water pipes freezing, expanding and causing a costly leak; and
- **DRIP:** Allow a slow drip from your faucets to reduce the buildup of pressure in the pipes. Even if the pipes freeze, the release pressure in the water system will reduce the likelihood of a rupture.

For more prevention tips or to learn how to properly thaw frozen pipes in your home, check out this video from the Weather Channel: <http://www.weather.com/safety/winter/video/keeps-your-pipes-from-freezing>.
 Reprinted from FEMA's "Individual and Community Preparedness e-Brief," Dec. 4 edition

PUT A FREEZE ON WINTER HOLIDAY FIRES
 It's fun to decorate for the winter holidays, but holiday decorations can increase your risk for a home fire. As you deck the halls this season, be fire smart.

- Connect **no more than 3** strands of mini light sets.
- Connect **no more than 50** bulbs for screw-in light sets.
- 2** out of **5** home decoration fires are started by candles.
 - Keep candles at least **12** inches away from anything that burns.
- Although live Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are dangerous. On average, **1** of every **40** reported home Christmas tree fires resulted in death.
 - A heat source too close to the Christmas tree causes **1** in every **6** of the fires.
 - Make sure your tree is at least **3** feet away from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators, space heaters, candles or heat vents.
- Get rid of your tree after Christmas or when it is dry.

For more information on how to prevent winter fires, visit: www.usfa.fema.gov/winter/ and www.nfpa.org/winter/

Winter/Holiday Safety Tips
 Holiday Trees

- Place your tree away from fireplaces, heaters and other heat sources.
- Don't use candles on or near the tree.

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- If you have a live tree, keep it in a sturdy base filled with water. Check the water level every day.
- Safely dispose of your tree before it becomes dangerously dry. Never burn the tree or tree parts in your fireplace.

Holiday Lights

- Use “UL” approved lights.
- Examine all indoor and outdoor lights for frayed cords and replace if necessary.
- Do not overload electrical circuits such as wall outlets and extension cords. Use a circuit strip.

Holiday Gift Wrap

- Keep papers, bows and trims away from heat sources such as fireplaces, space heaters, radiators, etc.
- Never burn gift wrappings in your fireplace.

Fireplaces and Wood Stoves

- Have chimney or wood stove inspected and cleaned by a certified chimney specialist.
- Leave glass doors open while burning a fire to prevent creosote buildup.

Building an Emergency Kit for the Car

In addition to encouraging people to build an emergency kit for the home, FEMA encourages building an emergency kit for the car. The graphic below provides information on what items to include in a car emergency kit in the event that a vehicle becomes stranded.

<http://www.ready.gov/car>



National Terrorism Advisory System

The Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) is a robust terrorism advisory system that provides timely information to the public about credible terrorist threats and replaces the former color-coded alert system. Under NTAS, DHS will coordinate with other federal entities to issue detailed alerts to the public when the federal government receives information about a credible terrorist threat. NTAS alerts provide a concise summary of the potential threat including geographic region, mode of transportation or critical infrastructure potentially affected by the threat, actions being taken to ensure public safety, as well as recommended steps that individuals, communities, business and governments can take to help prevent, mitigate or respond to a threat. Depending on the nature of the threat, alerts may be sent to law enforcement, distributed to affected areas of the private sector, or issued more broadly to the public through both official and social media channels – including a designated DHS webpage (www.dhs.gov/alerts), Facebook and via Twitter @NTASAlerts. NTAS alerts and posters

will also be displayed in places such as transit hubs, airports and government buildings. NTAS threat alerts will be issued for a specific time period and will automatically expire. Alerts may be extended if new information becomes available or as a specific threat evolves.

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

Get emergency alerts by email, as well as by text or pager. Sign up at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts.

You Choose the Type of Alerts

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



Alerts for Many Different Devices

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

Alerts for Your Locations

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

If we can’t reach you, we can’t alert you. Sign up for free emergency alerts today at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts.

MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

2014 Atlantic Hurricane Season Started with a Sizzle, Ends with a Fizzle

Just as forecasters predicted, the 2014 Atlantic hurricane season was a bit of a yawn. Hampton Roads, in particular, was spared the high winds, flooding and property damage that hurricanes can inflict – despite an unusually early and ominous start to the season

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/science/dp-nws-evg-hurricane-season-ends-20141130-story.html>



Portable, Fast Ebola Test Kit in Trials in Guinea

Scientists say that early diagnosis is key to surviving Ebola once a person has been infected. Roughly 50 percent of those known to be infected with Ebola have died, but scientists hope to reduce the number as a new test designed to diagnose the Ebola virus in humans in under fifteen minutes will be tried out at a treatment center in Conakry, Guinea. The test is six times faster than tests currently used in West Africa. The mobile testing device is one of six projects jointly funded by Wellcome and the U.K.’s Department for International Development under the 6.5 million pounds Research for Health in Humanitarian Crises initiative.

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20141202-portable-fast-ebola-test-kit-in-trials-in-guinea>

How the Pentagon Names Military Operations

During World War II, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill urged military leaders to come up with valiant

names for battles so no mother of a fallen soldier need say her son was killed “in an operation called ‘Bunnyhug’ or ‘Ballyhoo.’ More than 70 years later, Pentagon officials faced a similar problem when they struggled to choose an operational name for the widening campaign of airstrikes against Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria. The branding effort took weeks, involved a classified Pentagon computer system called NICKA, consultations with military officers in Baghdad and Washington, approval by two dozen partner nations, and the endorsement of top Pentagon brass. Thus was born Operation Inherent Resolve, a moniker that sparked jokes on late night TV.

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/safety/How-Pentagon-Names-Military-Operations.html>

Atlantic Hurricane Season Closes Quietly

Just eight named storms formed during the season. During a typical season about 11 tropical storms and hurricanes develop. “A combination of atmospheric conditions acted to suppress the Atlantic hurricane season,” said Gerry Bell, NOAA’s lead seasonal hurricane forecaster. Bell and other hurricane scientists said a general sinking motion in the atmosphere, drier air and wind shear all combined to limit development of storms.

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/disaster/Atlantic-Hurricane-Season-Closes-Quietly.html>

Cybersecurity Threats 2015: More Espionage, More Apple Malware

Until now, Russia, China and the United States have dominated the cyberespionage scene, but their success will start to attract new players to the practice. “We can expect some of the developing economies – countries forecasted for high economic growth – to engage in these activities to protect their growth status,” Carl Leonard, a senior manager at Websense Security Labs, told TechNewsWorld. “Those players have yet to be revealed.” “Cells” that will remain independent of the nation-states they’re operating in will supplement those efforts, launching operations that advance the objectives of their native countries, according to Websense. That kind of activity already has been seen in Russia and China. Russian cyberattacks on the West, as a form of retaliation for political actions taken against the Kremlin, will continue, forecast SentinelOne. A lack of accountability within the Beijing regime will allow China’s cyberespionage efforts to continue unabated, the firm also said.

<http://www.technewsworld.com/story/81432.html>

DOD Taps Small Business to Help Transport Ebola Patients

A couple months after the Pentagon set out to find a system that would help transport Ebola patients aboard its aircraft, a contractor delivered. Production Products Manufacturing and Sales Co. Inc. of St. Louis, Missouri won, in November a \$2.38 million contract to deliver in a hurry a transportation/isolation module system for the Boeing C-17 or Lockheed C-130 transport aircraft. According to the Pentagon’s justification for awarding the contract in lieu of full and open competition, it will be used for the safe evacuation of Ebola-exposed or Ebola-infected personnel from affected areas.

http://www.bizjournals.com/washington/blog/fedbiz_daily/2014/12/dod-taps-small-business-to-help-transport-ebola.html

Ebola Czar to Step Down by March

Ebola czar Ron Klain will leave the White House and return to the private sector by March 1, Fortune magazine reported this month. Klain, formerly chief of staff to Vice President Joe Biden, was hired in October to coordinate the federal government’s response to the Ebola outbreak. He will leave by March 1, returning to his job as president of Case Holdings, the holding company for former AOL chief Steve Case’s business and philanthropic interests.

<http://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/226232-ebola-czar-to-step-down-by-march>

FLU

National Influenza Vaccination Week

Dec. 7-13 was National Influenza Vaccination Week, an observance organized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to highlight the importance of annual flu immunizations. Getting your flu shots remains vital; it provides protection against mutated, or “drifted,” viruses in past seasons and offers protection against other flu

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viruses that could become common later in the flu season. Flu activity commonly peaks in the U.S. in January or February. Everyone who is at least 6 months of age should get a flu shot, according to CDC, while healthy children ages 2-8 should get a nasal spray vaccine.

<http://www.publichealthnewswire.org/?p=11748>

Fight the Flu!

By Sylvia Mathews Burwell, HHS Secretary

As we near the end of autumn, many of us begin preparing for the holiday season, but there's something else we need to prepare for as well: flu season. From missed work and school, to doctor's visits or worse, the flu can take a big toll on your family. This season has already brought reports of serious illnesses, hospitalizations and even deaths. Thankfully, there are easy ways to fight the flu. First, take the time to get a flu vaccine. Although some of the flu viruses this season are different than what's in the vaccine, vaccination can still offer some protection and is the most important step to preventing infection from the most common flu viruses.

<http://www.hhs.gov/blog/2014/12/08/fight-flu.html>

Fifth Bird Flu Infection of H5N8 Type Reported in Netherlands

The fifth case in the recent bird flu outbreak in the Netherlands is also of the dangerous H5N8 type, the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs announced on Monday, Dec. 1. Earlier, H5 avian influenza was detected at a poultry farm in Zoeterwoude in the province of South Holland. Research by the Central Veterinary Institute (CVI) showed that the chickens were infected with the highly pathogenic H5N8 virus, which is deadly for chickens, but not dangerous for humans. All 28,000 animals at the laying hens company were already cleared by the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA).

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/health/2014-12/01/c_127267503.htm

Bird Flu Under Control in Kerala

Kerala government said the avian influenza which had hit the duck-rearing Central Kerala's Kuttanad region has been brought under control. So far, 1.80 lakh ducks have been culled and the operation would be completed with culling of another batch of 50,000 poultry. Health Minister V S Shivakumar said the virus, which was identified as H5N1, has not hit humans so far.

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/bird-flu-under-control-in-kerala-1-80-lakh-birds-culled/>

CDC Health Advisory Regarding the Potential for Circulation of Drifted Influenza A (H3N2) Viruses

Influenza activity is currently low in the United States as a whole, but is increasing in some parts of the country. This season, influenza A (H3N2) viruses have been reported most frequently and have been detected in almost all states. During past seasons when influenza A (H3N2) viruses have predominated, higher overall and age-specific hospitalization rates and more mortality have been observed, especially among older people, very young children, and persons with certain chronic medical conditions compared with seasons during which influenza A (H1N1) or influenza B viruses have predominated. Influenza viral characterization data indicates that 48 percent of the influenza A (H3N2) viruses collected and analyzed in the United States from Oct. 1 through Nov. 22 were antigenically "like" the 2014-2015 influenza A (H3N2) vaccine component, but that 52 percent were antigenically different (drifted) from the H3N2 vaccine virus. Because of the detection of these drifted influenza A (H3N2) viruses, this CDC Health Advisory is being issued to re-emphasize the importance of the use of neuraminidase inhibitor antiviral medications when indicated for treatment and prevention of influenza, as an adjunct to vaccination.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00374.asp>

Don't be Fooled by the Slow Start to Virginia's Flu Season

Federal health officials said this year's flu vaccine may not offer much protection against one of the circulating flu viruses, so they are advising doctors to be ready to prescribe more of the antiviral drugs Tamiflu and Relenza. So far flu activity is at the local level in Virginia, meaning outbreaks or an upswing in cases have been noted in a single region of the state's five health planning regions.

http://www.roanoke.com/news/virginia/don-t-be-fooled-by-the-slow-start-to-virginia/article_3bbdf826-ebc8-595c-a023-fe6df36318cf.html

CDC Issues Pandemic Flu Planning Exercise

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Dec. 8 released a tabletop exercise to help communities and health care stakeholders test their ability to manage a surge in patients during a flu pandemic. The “[Pan Flu Scramble](#)” aims to help communities address Hospital Preparedness Program and Public Health Emergency Preparedness and response capabilities, and identify potential gaps in resources and services associated with surge management. For more information, contact CDC at healthcareprepared@cdc.gov.

<http://mhanewsnow.typepad.com/prepared/2014/12/cdc-issues-pandemic-flu-planning-exercise.html>

Emerging Pandemic Threats 2 Program

The United States Agency for International Development is launching the Emerging Pandemic Threats 2 program, which will help countries detect viruses with pandemic potential, improve laboratory capacity to support surveillance, respond in an appropriate and timely manner, strengthen response capacities, and educate at-risk populations on how to prevent exposure to pathogens.

http://www.domesticpreparedness.com/Government/Government_Updates/Emerging_Pandemic_Threats_2_Program/

Predicting the Flu So You Can Avoid It

Imagine being able to predict when the flu might strike your town, a bit like how meteorologists predict when a storm is heading your way. Think about what companies or hospitals or even you could do to prepare. That's exactly what infectious disease experts at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health are doing. They've figured out a way to forecast the flu. Their model is a huge advance, as most current models mapping the flu look backward instead of forward. The team won a contest sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention called “Predict the Influenza Season Challenge.”

<http://www.cnn.com/2014/12/10/health/flu-prediction-model/>

Fairfax County Pandemic Flu Preparedness

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

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



TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES

USDA ARS 3rd International Biosafety & Biocontainment Symposium

Feb. 2-5, 2015; Baltimore, Md.

This symposium will provide sessions covering a variety of topics with a focus on One Health. The symposium will include pre-symposium courses and 2.5 days of scientific presentations. There also will be exhibits showcasing the latest agricultural biosafety and biocontainment products and services.

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

ASM Biodefense 2015

Feb. 9-11, 2015; Washington, D.C.

The American Society for Microbiology (ASM) Biodefense and Emerging Diseases Research Meeting serves as a

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platform to help researchers and decision makers discuss solutions to prevent and contain dangerous infectious diseases and bioterrorism threats. The 2015 meeting will feature hot topic “On the Ground with Ebola Virus: Africa to North America.”

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

International Disaster Conference & Expo (IDCE) 2015

Feb. 10-12, 2015; New Orleans, La.

IDCE unites international emergency management, homeland security, and disaster industry professionals from the public and private sectors for discussions on policy and practices shaping disaster preparedness, response and recovery, loss mitigation, business continuity, and more. The Expo features companies offering the latest equipment and technology from around the world.

<http://internationaldisasterconference.com/>

EMS Today 2015

Feb. 25-28, 2015; Baltimore, Md.

EMS Today, now in its 34th year, is a unique and stimulating experience for emergency medical services (EMS) personnel worldwide. This event offers four full days of workshops, sessions, competitions, networking and more.

http://www.emstoday.com/index.html#showcase_3

3rd Annual Joint Civil & DoD CBRN Symposium

March 16-17, 2015; Alexandria, Va.

The 3rd Annual Joint Civil & DoD CBRN Symposium is designed as an educational and training town hall forum, where thought leaders and key policy-makers across military and civilian organizations can come together for actionable discussions and debate, focusing on advancing CBRN response, defense and technology readiness for joint CBRN defense and the changing budget landscape.

<http://jointcbrn.dsigroup.org/>

2015 Virginia Emergency Management Symposium

March 18-20, 2015; Hampton Roads, Va.

Join emergency managers, emergency responders, law enforcement officers, public safety officials and hospital and college/university representatives to attend this year’s symposium titled “Partnerships: Share the Load.” The symposium and exhibition hall are sponsored by Virginia Emergency Management Association and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

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

2015 Preparedness, Emergency Response and Recovery Consortium and Exposition (PERRC)

March 23-26, 2015; Orlando, Fla.

It is the mission of this consortium to bring together healthcare, medical, public health and volunteer emergency management personnel involved in disaster recovery and response efforts representing the governmental, public and private sectors to discuss shared practices in preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery. This forum will provide a hands-on, adult learning environment promoting the sharing of ideas and discussion of best practices.

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

SPIE Defense + Security 2015

April 20-25, 2015; Baltimore, Md.

SPIE Defense + Security has, for more than 20 years, featured conferences and courses on infrared systems, lidar and radar, laser technology, image processing, data analysis, intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance systems (ISR), display technologies, unmanned systems and robots, CBRNE, cyber sensing and security, biometric technology, law enforcement, energy harvesting, and more.

<http://spie.org/defense-security.xml>

30th Annual National Security Conference

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April 27-29, 2015; Westfields Marriott in Chantilly, Va.

https://www.nsi.org/form_ImpactSurvey.html

International Hazardous Materials Response Teams Conference & Expo 2015

May 29-June 1, 2015; Baltimore, Md.

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

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

National Capital Region Homeland Security Events

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

"EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS" NEWSLETTER

Check It Out!

Published monthly by the Office of Emergency Management

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/outreach/newsletter.htm

LINKS

Fairfax County Web Resources

- Fairfax County Emergency Information Blog - www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog
- Fairfax County Emergency Information Web page - www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/
- Fairfax County CERT - <http://fairfaxcountycert.blogspot.com/>
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Web Page - www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/citizencorps/
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Blog - <http://citizencorps.blogspot.com/>

Additional Web Resources

- Capital Region Updates - www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov
- Virginia Citizen Corps - 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/>

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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. You can access the Daily OSIR at: http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/editorial_0542.shtm.

Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Line

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/infoline.htm

Emergency Management Magazine

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

FEMA Private Sector

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

ESF 15 Contact Information

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Emergency Information: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency

To Unsubscribe:

E-mail publicaffairs@fairfaxcounty.gov with “Remove from ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update” in the subject line and you will be immediately removed from the distribution list.

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

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

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



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