



ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

January 2014

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

Take Extra Precautions as Temperatures Drop

During cold weather, you should take the following precautions:

- Stay indoors as much as possible and limit your exposure to the cold.
- Dress in layers and keep dry.
- Check on family, friends, and neighbors who are at risk and may need additional assistance.
- Know the symptoms of cold-related health issues such as frostbite and hypothermia and seek medical attention if health conditions are severe.
- Bring your pets indoors or ensure they have a warm shelter area with unfrozen water.
- Make sure your vehicle has an emergency kit that includes an ice scraper, blanket and flashlight – and keep the fuel tank above half full.

You can find more information and tips on being ready for winter weather and extreme cold temperatures at www.ready.gov/winter as well as www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/hazards/winter-storm-snow-cold.htm.

Fairfax County Warming Centers Welcome You to Beat the Cold

If you don't have electricity or heat, however, you can take in a movie, stroll through a shopping center or visit one of the Fairfax County Warming Centers:

- Libraries
- Community Centers
- Fairfax County Government Center

You are encouraged to check the operating hours to ensure the facility is open before arriving. Residents who know individuals needing special attention are encouraged to take a few minutes to check in on them to ensure their well-being. If residents need immediate, life-saving help, call 9-1-1. For other safety help, call the public safety non-emergency phone number at 703-691-2131, TTY 711. Residents who need immediate help with utility bills or other urgent human services assistance can call the county's Coordinated Services Planning staff at 703-222-0880, TTY 711. County staff can connect residents with a network of services provided by public, private and community-based organizations, as well as appropriate county government resources.



2013 Natural Catastrophes Dominated by Extreme Weather in Europe, Supertyphoon Haiyan

Exceptionally high losses from weather-related catastrophes in Europe and Supertyphoon Haiyan dominated the overall picture of natural catastrophes in 2013. Floods and hailstorms caused double-digit billion-dollar losses in central Europe, and in the Philippines one of the strongest cyclones in history, Supertyphoon Haiyan, resulted in a human catastrophe with over 6,000 fatalities.

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20140109-2013-natural-catastrophes-dominated-by-extreme-weather-in-europe-supertyphoon-haiyan>

Resilience 2013 Special Report

Over the past few decades, the United States has developed an increasingly complex relationship with both nature and technology. This relationship has created challenges for protecting the nation's communities, addressing terrorist threats, understanding certain risks, and applying resources to protect or mitigate against those risks. This complex environment will force every level of government to make hard choices about what to preserve, what to protect, and potentially what to let go. Resiliency, for all its varied definitions, is at its core about understanding the value of what we have and what we wish to preserve and improve. Recent disasters such as Superstorm Sandy have shown how a dense urban/suburban environment, with significant and vulnerable public and private infrastructure, can be heavily

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damaged by a hurricane and how the effects can ripple not only across the affected region but across the nation. There has already been a climate of change in the thinking of many policymakers at the state and local level. These policymakers ask questions every day about what to rebuild and how to make it stronger – and whether or not to rebuild at all. The survey outlined in this report is the second of a series that Booz Allen Hamilton has partnered on with DomPrep Journal. The survey drills down into policy challenges for federal programs and understanding impacts at the state and local levels, where the majority of the resilience effort is realized.

Download the full report at <http://www.domesticpreparedness.com/userfiles/reports/Resilience13.pdf>

Fairfax County Government Radio

The results of a community survey conducted last year identified mobile phones as the first choice and radio as the second choice to access emergency information. Based on this, the County's Office of Public Affairs (OPA) has created Fairfax County Government Radio, a new Internet radio station. This new information portal was created at minimum cost and OPA will program and run it internally eliminating the need to wait until commercial stations are able to share Fairfax County specific messages. In addition to broadcasting timely information, protective guidance and life-saving recommendations during emergencies, Fairfax County Government Radio broadcasts podcasts about health and safety issues and other news to use and learn about county events and issues. To listen, go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/radio. You also can visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/stay-informed.htm for additional ways to protect yourself and stay informed during emergencies as well as the emergency information blog at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog for emergency news during events.



www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov

FEMA Seeks Applicants for Youth Preparedness Council

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is seeking applicants for its Youth Preparedness Council. The Youth Preparedness Council is a unique opportunity for youth leaders to serve on a highly distinguished national council and participate in the Youth Preparedness Council Summit. Additionally, the youth leaders have the opportunity to complete a self-selected youth preparedness project and to share their opinions, experiences, ideas, solutions and questions regarding youth disaster preparedness with the leadership of FEMA and national youth preparedness organizations. Once selected, members serve on the Council for one year, with the option to extend for an additional year, if formally requested by FEMA. Council activities and projects center around five key areas of engagement: Programs, Partnerships, Events, Public Speaking/Outreach and Publishing. Members represent the youth perspective on emergency preparedness and share information with their communities. They also meet with FEMA on a regular basis to provide ongoing input on strategies, initiatives and projects throughout the duration of their term. Any individual between the ages of 12 and 17 who is engaged in individual and community preparedness or who has experienced a disaster that has motivated him or her to make a positive difference in his or her community, may apply to serve on the Youth Preparedness Council. Individuals who applied last year are highly encouraged to apply again. Adults working with youth and/or community preparedness are encouraged to share the application with youth who might be interested in applying. Youth interested in applying to the Council must submit a completed application form and two letters of recommendation. Specific information about completing and submitting the application and attachments can be found in the application instructions. All applications and supporting materials must be received no later than Feb. 24, 11:59 p.m. EST in order to be eligible. New Youth Preparedness Council members will be announced in May. For more information about the Youth Preparedness Council and to access the application materials, visit <http://www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness-council>.

Winter Care for Seniors

Winter is an especially important time to keep an eye on seniors to make sure they are living as safely as possible. In addition to cold weather, ice and snow, the winter season can bring health problems and injury. That's why it's important for relatives and friends to check in with their older adult family members, friends and neighbors. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- Falls are a concern for seniors. Putting road salt, cat litter or sand on sidewalks, steps and driveways will make these areas as slip-free as possible. Seniors should also wear boots with non-skid soles to make a fall less likely to occur. Older adults, especially those with heart disease or high blood pressure should leave snow shoveling to others.
- Cold temperatures make senior citizens susceptible to hypothermia, a dangerous drop in body temperature. Older adults tend to produce less body heat than younger people and it's hard for them to tell when the temperature is too low. Learn the warning signs of this weather related illness and how to prevent it.
- Keep indoor temperatures no lower than 55 degrees. If going outdoors is necessary, dress in layers to stay warm. Wearing two or three thin layers of loose-fitting clothing is warmer than a single layer of thick clothing.

It's a good idea to check on elderly loved ones regularly or, if you live out of town, make arrangements for neighbors to check in and provide their number to call in an emergency. With your help, older adults can enjoy the winter months safely.

<http://www.ready.gov/winter-weather>

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

Reprinted from FEMA's Individual and Community Preparedness e-Brief, Jan. 22 edition

From the Governor's Address to the Joint Assembly

Governor Terence R. McAuliffe, the 72nd governor of Virginia, spoke to the Joint Assembly on Jan. 13. Among the points, the new governor spoke about disaster planning and his concerns:

"I am also deeply committed to improving Virginia's ability to respond in the event of a hurricane or other disaster, including the increasing risks that stem from climate change. I have reviewed the recent JLARC report on disaster preparedness planning in the Commonwealth, and recognize that, while we have a great plan in place, there are some deficiencies and a lack of coordination. That is why I am asking Brian Moran, my nominee for Secretary of Public Safety, and Admiral John Harvey, to work with the General Assembly to implement the recommendations of the report and centralize all homeland security and disaster preparedness functions within the Office of the Secretary of Public Safety."

<https://governor.virginia.gov/newsarticle?articleId=2572>



Flat Stanley Helps Kids Be Safe Online

The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Stop.Think.Connect. public awareness campaign is joining the Flat Stanley Project to help kids learn the importance of cybersecurity. By downloading and using the Flat Stanley App (<https://www.flatstanley.com/>), kids will be able to create their own "Flat Stanley" and "Flat Stella" character and send it on a tour of the Internet to learn about staying safe online and helping spread the word about cybersecurity. The Flat Stanley App can be useful for kids, parents and teachers to start a discussion about online safety. Children will find simple tips on the app that encourage them to:

- Be careful about what information they share.

- Avoid sharing passwords with anyone except their parents.
- Never talk to strangers online or agree to meet someone in person.

With kids spending more time than ever before on the Internet and social media, the partnership with the Flat Stanley Project allows the Department to further its efforts to raise cybersecurity awareness among young Americans. To learn about what DHS is doing to keep kids safe online and for other cybersecurity tips, visit

<http://www.dhs.gov/stopthinkconnect>.

<https://www.flatstanley.com/>

Reprinted from FEMA's Individual and Community Preparedness e-Brief, Jan. 10 edition

Cold Weather Raises Risk of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

During extreme cold weather, health and public safety officials are warning of the potential for dangerous carbon monoxide exposure from heating equipment. Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas produced when fuels, including gasoline, propane, natural gas and wood, burn incompletely, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Carbon monoxide reduces the blood's ability to carry oxygen and symptoms of poisoning may include headache, dizziness, nausea, fatigue and confusion. The use of carbon monoxide detectors near all sleeping areas is the primary way to prevent death from carbon monoxide poisoning. According to the CDC, more than 20,000 people visit the emergency room for carbon monoxide poisoning each year in the United States. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) estimates that of those, 170 people die specifically from poisoning caused by non-automotive consumer products such as malfunctioning fuel-burning appliances, including portable generators used during power outages.

<http://www.nfpa.org/~media/Files/Safety%20information/Safety%20tip%20sheets/cosafety.pdf>

<http://www.cdc.gov/co/faqs.htm>

<http://www.cpsc.gov/en/Safety-Education/Safety-Education-Centers/Carbon-Monoxide-Information-Center/Carbon-Monoxide-Questions-and-Answers->

PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

Ice Safety Is Important

Ice and cold water safety is important and concerns many of us who participate in outdoor activities near water. Too many residents are injured from falling through ice and exposure to cold water.

Skaters and children playing near bodies of water fall through the ice; boaters and canoeists overturn their crafts; unleashed pets run onto the ice and people chase after them. Educating residents on the dangers of being around ice and cold water is vital to staying safe.

Ice Dangers

- Never go onto the ice alone. A friend may be able to rescue you or go for help if you fall through.
- Always keep your pets on a leash. If a pet falls through the ice, do not attempt to rescue your pet. Go for help.
- New ice is usually stronger than old ice. As ice ages, the bond between the crystals decays, making it weaker, even if melting has not occurred.
- Ice formed over flowing water (rivers or lakes containing a large number of springs) is weaker.
- Ice seldom freezes or thaws at a uniform rate. It can be one foot thick in one spot, and be only one inch thick ten feet away.
- Beware of ice covered with snow. Snow can insulate ice and keep it strong, but can also insulate it to keep it from freezing. Snow can also hide cracks, weak, or open ice.

What to Do When Someone Falls Through Ice

- Call 9-1-1.
- Reach-Throw-Go. If someone falls through the ice and you are unable to reach the person from shore, throw them something they can grab (rope, jumper cables, tree branch, etc.). If that does not work, go for help before you also become a victim. Get medical assistance immediately.

- If you fall in, do not panic. Turn toward the direction you came from. Place your hands and arms on the unbroken surface, working forward by kicking your feet. Once out, remain lying on the ice (do not stand) and roll away from the hole. Crawl back using your previous tracks or route, keeping your weight distributed until you return to solid ice or land.

Cold Water Dangers

- Cold water is dangerous below 70 degrees.
- Cold water robs the body of heat 25-30 times faster than air.
- Safety experts estimate that half of all drowning victims die from the fatal effects of hypothermia, not from water in the lungs.

Learn more from the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr.

CDC Names Top 5 Health Threats of 2014

The disease detectives at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have named the top five global health threats they expect to tackle in 2014:

1. The emergence and spread of new microbes.
2. The globalization of travel and food supplies.
3. The rise of antibiotic-resistant infections.
4. Inadvertent or intentional release of pathogens.
5. Bioterrorism.

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/health/CDC-Top-5-Health-Threats-2014.html>

Prescription for Readiness

In an emergency or natural disaster first responders may be overwhelmed trying to respond to an event. In some instances you may be unable to reach a hospital or clinic. That's why it's important to keep medical records, supplies and prescriptions easily accessible and to learn simple first aid techniques. Creating a "stay healthy" kit will help you keep up with urgent medical needs. The kit should include:

- A week's supply of medicines in a plastic bag labeled with each family member's name;
- Place special tags on specialized equipment with operating instructions so someone unfamiliar with the item can provide help;
- First-aid supplies such as bandages, aspirin and antiseptic cream; and
- A list of prescription medications, medical conditions and copies of medical insurance.

Use the household health information sheet in FEMA's "Rx for Readiness" guide to fill in medical information for each family member. Make copies of the sheet to keep in your home, car and workplace. If a natural disaster disrupts basic services like water, contagious diseases can spread. Simple preventive measures including using alcohol-based hand sanitizer can help you avoid getting or spreading germs.

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

http://emilms.fema.gov/IS909/assets/13_RxForReadiness.pdf

Reprinted from FEMA's Individual and Community Preparedness e-Brief, Jan. 22 edition

12 Reasons Why Organizations "Forget" What to Do in a Disaster

Many organizations can build comprehensive business continuity program and plans; detailing every action and activity needed to ensure the continued operation of an organization when a disaster strikes. However, even the most comprehensive program and plan can still suffer greatly when they are needed the most because many organizations' disaster response team and team members forget what it is they are supposed to do. There are many reasons for that. Sudden changes in environment can throw people for a loop, as the situation throws chaos into their normal day and it's easy for people to forget what to do when they are required to do it. Sometimes the reason for plan activities or action items being forgotten occurs even before the disaster situation makes itself known. This article looks at some of the reasons why people – and organizations – forget their activities before and during a disaster.

<http://stoneroad.wordpress.com/2013/09/16/12-reasons-why-organizations-will-forget-what-to-do-in-a-disaster/>

Six Costly Winter Business Risks

Everybody loves the first snowfall of the year, but winter also brings some challenges for many people. Some of

those annoyances, from accidents to illness, can cost your small business money. Here are six winter-related risks and tips for mitigating them

<http://blog.intuit.com/employees/6-costly-winter-business-risks/>

Save the date: March 11 is Statewide Tornado Drill

Registration is now open for the March 11 Statewide Tornado Drill. Businesses and organizations, schools and colleges, and families and individuals can practice taking cover from tornadoes by participating in this annual safety exercise, set for 9:45 a.m. The annual drill is a joint effort of the National Weather Service and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. To start the drill, at approximately 9:45 a.m., a test tornado warning will be sent by the NWS to NOAA Weather Radios. These radios will sound a tone alert and show a message (or flash to indicate a message) to simulate what people will hear or see during an actual tornado warning. The test message then will be broadcast by many local radio and TV stations. Registration for the Statewide Tornado Drill is not required, but residents are encouraged to sign up to show their support. Learn more about tornado safety, how to hold a drill, and how to register for the drill at www.ReadyVirginia.gov. Here's a look back at tornadoes in Virginia during 2013:

- 5 tornadoes were recorded (4 EF0 and 1 EF1).
- There were no reported injuries.
- Property damage was nearly \$72,000.
- One tornado occurred in April and four struck in June.

During 2012:

- 11 tornadoes were recorded (8 EF0 and 3 EF1).
- There were no deaths, but six people were injured.
- Property damage totaled \$3 million.
- The highest number of tornados occurred in June (6).

During 2011:

- 51 tornadoes hit, the second highest number on record (87 struck in 2004).
- In April, 10 people died and more than 100 were injured.
- Most tornadoes occurred during April, but tornadoes also were recorded in March, May, August, September, October and November.
- In April, 212 homes and 17 businesses were destroyed; more than 1,050 homes and businesses were damaged.
- Nearly every part of Virginia experienced tornadoes, including mountain areas.
- One-third of the tornadoes struck at night when people were asleep.

National Terrorism Advisory System

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

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

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

Community Emergency Alert Network (CEAN)

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



Preparedness Tips Via Text Message? FEMA Has It Covered

You may know that FEMA uses text messages to help people find open shelters and open disaster recovery centers during an incident. However, did you know you can also sign up to receive regular safety tips for specific disaster topics ranging from hurricanes, home fires and more? For example, you can text WINTER to 43362 to receive winter storm and extreme cold safety tips directly to your cellphone (standard message and data rates apply). FEMA sends you bi-monthly safety tips on a variety of disaster related topics:

- Hurricanes: text HURRICANE to 43362 (4FEMA)
- Home fires: text FIRE to 43362 (4FEMA)
- Wildfires: text WILDFIRE to 43362 (4FEMA)
- Tornadoes: text TORNADO to 43362 (4FEMA)
- Earthquakes: text EARTHQUAKE to 43362 (4FEMA)
- Winter storms and extreme cold: text WINTER to 43362 (4FEMA)
- Power outages: text BLACKOUT to 43362 (4FEMA)
- Floods: text FLOOD to 43362 (4FEMA)
- General monthly safety tips: text PREPARE to 43362 (4FEMA)

A couple of details to note about the program:

- If subscribing to more than one list, please send a separate text for each topic.
- There is no limit to the number of lists you can subscribe to.
- Sending STOP will automatically unsubscribe you from all lists.

All FEMA text messages are sent from a dedicated number, which is 43362 (4FEMA). Also, the FEMA text message program is not a substitute for 9-1-1. During an emergency, call 9-1-1. Learn more about the FEMA Text Message Program at <http://www.fema.gov/text-messages>.

MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

At DHS, Cybersecurity is a Managed Service

Experts say that DHS's Einstein 3 intrusion prevention system, launched last summer, raised the bar for security technology capable of operating at carrier-grade network levels, rather than just within the enterprise. Einstein is a managed security service delivered through ISPs who serve executive-branch civilian agencies. Through a public-private collaboration, DHS provides custom signatures to federal agencies' ISPs to block malicious traffic, both incoming and outgoing.

<http://www.informationweek.com/government/cybersecurity/homeland-security-makes-cybersecurity-a-managed-service/d/d-id/1113548>

Major Disasters Were Near Average in 2013

It was nearly an average year for presidentially declared major disasters in 2013, shows data from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The year 2011 was a record year for major disasters, but subsequent years have produced far fewer – 47 and 62, respectively, in 2012 and 2013. The 20 year average is 57.5 annually; a number not changed much by removal of 2011 from the mean.

<http://www.fiercehomelandsecurity.com/story/major-disasters-were-near-average-2013/2014-01-25>

Congress Again Rejects National Preparedness Grant Program

Congressional appropriators again slapped down a Federal Emergency Management Agency attempt to consolidate 16 of its grant programs into a single program known as the National Preparedness Grant Program--but state and local grants appropriations overall are robust. Under the fiscal 2014 omnibus act (H.R. 3547) that funds the entire federal government this fiscal year, overall FEMA state and local grant programs receive \$2.53 billion – an amount larger than the \$2.12 billion request, and more than the \$2.23 billion appropriated in fiscal 2012. President Obama signed the act into law Jan. 17.



<http://www.fiercehomelandsecurity.com/story/congress-again-rejects-national-preparedness-grant-program/2014-01-21>

Homeland Security Details Super Bowl Safety Plan

More air marshals and behavioral detection officers, radiological detection teams and random baggage checks at transit hubs are among the security measures the federal Homeland Security Department will deploy in the next few days to help local police in New Jersey and New York secure the Super Bowl. The game will be played at Met Life Stadium in New Jersey's Meadowlands area just outside New York City. The stadium's location near a major airport and busy commuter train lines presents security challenges. Unlike audiences for other championship games, spectators of Super Bowl XLVIII will rely heavily on mass transit. Homeland Security officials say that federal agencies including the Federal Bureau of Investigation will deploy hundreds of employees to help New Jersey and New York police secure what's been officially designated "an event of national significance."

<http://security.blogs.cnn.com/2014/01/27/homeland-security-details-super-bowl-safety-plan/>

Homeland Security Chair: 'The Terrorists Are Winning' If Americans Avoid the Olympics

Rep. Michael McCaul, chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, told CBS News that "the security threat to the Olympics ... [is] the greatest I think I've ever seen." McCaul, R-Texas, is freshly back from his trip to the site of the 2014 Winter Olympics, which begin on Feb. 7 in Sochi, Russia. He stated that the recent terrorist threats are both "concerning" and "spooky," and added that there are numerous terrorist concerns. "As a Homeland Security chairman, that is very disturbing to me in terms of the security at the Olympics," McCaul told "Face the Nation."

<http://washington.cbslocal.com/2014/01/27/homeland-security-chair-the-terrorists-are-winning-if-americans-avoid-olympics/>

5 Trends for Emergency Management and Public Safety for 2014 and Beyond

Predicting the future is a tricky undertaking, but by looking at the recent past we can predict with relative certainty that these issues will come to the fore or continue to gain traction for the emergency management and public safety worlds for 2014 and beyond. Cutting the costs of recovery, assessing risk and communicating the way people prefer to communicate will continue to be key elements of managing natural and man-made disasters.

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/disaster/5-Trends-Emergency-Management-2014.html>

Virginia Emergency Management Officials Plan Statewide Tornado Drill March 11

Virginia emergency management officials are planning a statewide tornado drill in March. The drill will take place on March 11 at 9:45 a.m. It is a joint effort between the state Department of Emergency Management and the National Weather Service. Emergency management officials say it is important for people to know what to do if a tornado warning is issued for their area. Acting state coordinator Brett Burdick says 67 tornadoes have hit Virginia in the past three years, including five last year with no reported injuries. Instructions and registration for the statewide drill are available at <http://www.vaemergency.gov>.

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/38cca3fa83c74073855000b922a3ea45/VA--Tornado-Drill>

Preparedness Plagued by Struggle to Measure It

Difficulty measuring the effects of disaster preparedness has prevented a proper accounting of its benefits, says a paper published by the Institute of Medicine. “In principle, we could evaluate the effectiveness of an investment in preparedness with appropriate measures of outcomes such as response times, property saved, etc.,” the paper said. But because emergencies are relatively rare and so different from each other, researchers rely on case studies or other qualitative methods, instead of empirical studies. The authors of the paper, dated Jan. 7, are two emergency medicine professors – Jesse Pines of George Washington University and Seth Seabury of the University of Southern California – and William Pilkington, the public health director for Cabarrus County, N.C.

<http://www.fiercehomelandsecurity.com/story/preparedness-plagued-struggle-measure-it/2014-01-13>

U.S. Propane Shortage Affects Millions in Freeze

Millions of Americans are feeling the pinch of a propane shortage this week as brutal cold exposes the supply vulnerabilities of a fuel that heats homes, schools and businesses across wide swathes of the United States. Prices of the fuel, a liquefied petroleum gas, have rocketed to all-time highs in Midwestern states, distributors are rationing supplies, and some schools have shut due to a lack of the fuel during this year's second bout of Arctic weather.

<http://news.msn.com/us/us-propane-shortage-affects-millions-in-freeze>

FLU

Virginia Among 40 States with Widespread Flu Activity

Virginia is one of 40 states reporting widespread geographic flu activity, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In the week ending Jan. 11, it was among the 14 states reporting high flu activity, while Maryland reported minimal activity and the District of Columbia did not have sufficient data to calculate an activity level. The CDC reports that the dominant flu strain this year is H1N1, which impacts healthy younger adults more severely than other strains. This year's flu vaccine does protect against H1N1, but according to the CDC, the young, healthy population is among those groups least likely to get vaccinated.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/summary.htm>

Fatal H5N1 Case in Canada is North America's First

Canadian officials announced on Jan. 8 that an Alberta resident who traveled to Beijing in December has died of H5N1 avian influenza, marking the first human H5N1 case reported in North America. The victim, who was not identified, was admitted to an Alberta hospital on Jan 1 and died Jan 3, the government of Alberta said in a statement. At a press conference, Canadian officials said the victim flew on Dec 27 from Beijing to Vancouver and then to Edmonton. They described the risk of transmission of the virus to fellow airline passengers or other contacts of the person as very low.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2014/01/fatal-h5n1-case-canada-north-americas-first>

Human Infection with Avian Influenza A (H5N1) Virus

On Jan. 8, the Public Health Agency of Canada reported the first confirmed case of human infection with avian influenza A (H5N1) virus identified in North America. The patient exhibited symptoms while returning from travel to Beijing, China, on Dec. 27, 2013. For more information on this patient's travel itinerary, please refer to a Public Health Agency of Canada technical briefing at http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/media/nr-rp/2014/2014_0108a-eng.php.

The patient was hospitalized on Jan. 1, and subsequently died on Jan. 3. Investigations by Canadian public health officials are ongoing. Since avian influenza A (H5N1) viruses have only been rarely, and never sustainably, transmitted from person to person, there is a very low risk of subsequent related cases. To date, no cases of human infection with avian influenza A (H5N1) viruses have been reported in the United States.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/han00360.asp>

Study Shows Songbirds Might Aid in H7N9 Spread

H7N9 avian flu replicates well in finches, sparrows, and parakeets experimentally inoculated with the pathogen, and

the birds shed the virus in high numbers and show few signs of disease, scientists reported today in Emerging Infectious Diseases. Researchers from St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn., and from China and Hong Kong inoculated groups of zebra finches, society finches, parakeets, and house sparrows with the H7N9 virus either intranasally, intraocularly or orally and housed them with birds that were not inoculated (contact birds). All inoculated birds shed virus, but only via the beak and not via the cloaca (anus). Shedding levels were highest in the two finch species, which shed virus for 6 days. Parakeets also shed virus for 6 days, while the sparrows shed virus for 4 days. All species of birds were susceptible to H7N9 infection, but only one sparrow showed signs of clinical disease: lethargy, loose and discolored feces, and ruffled feathers. Contact finches and sparrows showed evidence of H7N9 infection, but only one infected contact finch shed high levels of the virus. The contact parakeets did not become infected.

http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/20/3/13-1271_article.htm

Historian Says 1918 Pandemic May Have Begun in China

The “Spanish flu” pandemic of 1918 may actually have originated in China, a Canadian historian who took a multidisciplinary look at the evidence – including new data from UK and Canadian archives – suggests in the current issue of War in History. Mark Osborne Humphries of Memorial University of Newfoundland says that the transport of 96,000 Chinese laborers to work behind British and French lines in World War I may have ignited the deadly strain of H1N1 influenza to spread around the world. Previous reports have noted a lower incidence of 1918 pandemic flu in China, which would seem to support Humphries's contention, in that some immunity may have been conferred in the Chinese population from earlier exposure to the virus, National Geographic reported.

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/01/140123-spanish-flu-1918-china-origins-pandemic-science-health/>

Study Suggests Preschool Kids, Non-elderly Adults Most Susceptible to H1N1

A serologic survey from British Columbia suggests that preschool children and working-age adults are the groups most susceptible to the pandemic 2009 H1N1 influenza virus, by far the most common strain in North America so far this flu season. The survey, conducted in the Vancouver, B.C., area last spring, showed that fewer than 20 percent of children under 5 years old had H1N1 antibody titers suggesting protection, according to findings presented on ProMED-mail by Danuta Skowronski, MD, of the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control. Protective antibody levels (titers of 40 or higher) were found in 45 percent to 50 percent of adults of ages 20 to 39 years and in 35 percent to 40 percent of those ages 40 to 69, Skowronski wrote. Seroprotection was most prevalent – 60 percent or higher – in school-age children and in adults 70 and older.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2014/01/flu-scan-jan-02-2014>

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

EMS Today 2014

Feb. 5-8; Washington, D.C.

EMS Today is a unique-and stimulating-experience for EMS personnel worldwide and it is supported and fed by the

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credibility, quality and excellence of JEMS.

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

National Tornado Summit

Feb. 10-11; Oklahoma City, Okla.

The National Tornado Summit improves disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery in order to save lives and property in the United States. In addition, the summit serves as a national forum for insurance professionals and regulators as well as international, national and state experts to exchange ideas and recommend new policies to improve emergency management.

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

2014 AFCEA Winter Intelligence Symposium

Feb. 13; Laurel, Md.

In late 2012, the National Intelligence Council (NIC) published its Global Trends 2030 paper. The AFCEA Winter Intelligence Symposium will use the NIC paper as a starting point to explore the steps the Intelligence Community (IC) needs to take within the next decade to remain relevant.

<http://www.afcea.org/events/winterintel/14/welcome.asp>

The Virginia Fire Chiefs Association 2014 Mid-Atlantic Expo & Symposium

Feb. 20-23; Virginia Beach, Va.

Save the date for the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association 2014 Mid-Atlantic Expo and Symposium. The expo will feature a large exhibitor display, as well as educational sessions.

NHDF Global Forum

March 5-6; Washington, D.C.

The National Homeland Defense Foundation (NHDF) Global Forum is a thought leadership dialogue specifically designed to bring together Department of Homeland Security, Department of Defense, Department of State, Industry, and international partners to discuss, discover, and make a meaningful impact on the national security of our allies - current or future.

<http://www.nhdf.org/global-forum>

2014 AFCEA Homeland Security Conference

March 10-12; Washington, D.C.

The AFCEA Homeland Security Conference is the premier event in the National Capital area to learn about our nation's most significant homeland security issues. The conference offers an opportunity for attendees to engage with key government and industry leaders on these critical issues. This year's theme is "4th Generation DHS: Remaining Ever-Vigilant."

<http://www.afcea.org/events/homeland/14/>

connect:ID Conference & Exhibition

March 17-19, Washington, D.C.

connect:ID will unite identity solutions adopters and stakeholders worldwide, exploring the development and fusion of multiple identity technologies - including biometrics, secure credentials and digital identity systems. Register for the free exhibition. Join the 2.5 day conference.

www.connectidexpo.com

2014 Virginia Emergency Management Symposium (VEMA)

March 19-21; Hampton Roads, Va.

The theme for the 2014 VEMA symposium is "Emergency Management Today: Limited Resources, Complex Threats." Join 400-plus participants including emergency managers, responders, law enforcement officers, public safety and hospital officials, and college/university representative.

<http://www.vemaweb.org/content/symposium2014/>

2014 Food Safety Summit

April 8-10; Baltimore, Md.

The Food Safety Summit is a solutions-based conference and expo designed to meet the educational and information needs of the entire food industry. The summit attracts industry professionals to learn from expert speakers and trainers, exchange ideas, find solutions to your current job challenges, and engage in the valuable opportunities the summit has to offer.

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

IMPACT 2014

April 28-30; Westfields Marriott, Chantilly, Va.

NSI's annual IMPACT conference is 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-2014.html>

The U.S. Cyber Crime Conference 2014

April 29-May 2; Leesburg, Va.

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

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

Fire-Rescue Med (FRM) 2014

April 30-May 3; Arlington, Va.

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

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

SPIE Defense + Security 2014

May 5-May 9; Baltimore, Md.

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

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

CPM 2014 Conference & Expo

May 12-14; Washington, D.C.

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

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

GovSec 2014-Government Security Conference and Expo

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

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

and Law Enforcement Strategies & Tactics.

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

FOSE 2014

May 13-15; Washington, D.C.

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

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

2014 National Homeland Security Conference

May 19-22; Philadelphia, Penn.

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

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

International Hazardous Materials Response Teams Conference & Expo 2014

May 29-June 1; Baltimore, Md.

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

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

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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. 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/>



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In accordance with NIMS – the National Incident Management System – the Fairfax County Emergency Operations Plan states that Emergency Support Function 15 (External Affairs) is led by the Office of Public Affairs. This ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update is part of the county's outreach efforts for our business and nonprofit partners as a way to provide information about the county's ESF 15, Homeland Security and emergency management. Please feel free to forward this ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update to other contacts you have inside or outside your organization. Should someone you know like to be added to our distribution list, have them send an e-mail to jim.person@fairfaxcounty.gov and ask to be subscribed to the ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update.

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