



ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

March 2012

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

Disaster Junkies form Backbone of U.S. Safety Net

Rebuilding after storms is becoming a growth industry as the United States is slammed by more natural disasters. Leaders of response efforts say the nation's recovery network functions as well as it does because of a backbone of volunteers nicknamed disaster junkies. No one knows exactly how many disaster junkies are active in the United States. But the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster says a core group of about 300 travels the country at least six months out of each year performing such work. Based in Arlington, the nonprofit group estimates that several thousand more are like Elliott and make several trips each year helping out after disasters. Often associated with churches or other religious groups and traveling at their own expense, these volunteers sleep in churches or mobile homes and frequently eat food provided by other volunteers. Volunteers and others provided labor worth about \$147 million and donated \$200 million more toward relief aid in 2008, the last year for which figures are available, but some recovery projects still can't get off the ground because of the sheer number of disasters that struck the country in recent months, said James McGowan, associate executive director with National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster.

<http://www.ems1.com/mass-casualty-incidents-mci/articles/1247022-Disaster-junkies-form-backbone-of-US-safety-net/>

Secretary Napolitano Announces Academic Advisory Council

U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano early this month announced the formation of the Homeland Security Academic Advisory Council (HSAAC), comprised of prominent university presidents and academic leaders charged with advising the Secretary and senior leadership at the Department on several key issues. The new council underscores the Department's commitment to working with the academic community. Napolitano has asked the group, which will be chaired by Dr. Wallace Loh of the University of Maryland, to provide advice and recommendations on issues related to student and recent graduate recruitment; international students; academic research; campus and community resiliency, security and preparedness; and faculty exchanges. The group's inaugural meeting was held March 20 in Washington, D.C.

<http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/20120301-napolitano-announces-academic-advisory-council.shtm>

Presidential Policy Directive 8

FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and its partners are seeking input on four working drafts of the National Planning Frameworks and the initial draft of the Recovery Federal Interagency Operational Plan, which are part of Presidential Policy Directive 8/PPD-8: National Preparedness. PPD-8 is a policy directive that asks federal agencies to work with the whole community – including all levels of government, individuals and communities, businesses, nonprofits and faith-based organizations – to work together to improve national preparedness. As an element of the implementation of PPD-8, the National Frameworks, focusing on Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response and Recovery, clearly define key preparedness roles and responsibilities for the entire community. Through ongoing engagement efforts which include the use of the PPD-8 online collaboration tool, webinars and workshops, federal officials have been able to complete working draft documents. The final National Disaster Recovery Framework was released in September 2011, and reflects input gathered through extensive outreach with more than 600 stakeholders representing federal, state, local and tribal governments, as well as public and private organizations. Since the release, forums have been held across the country to support development of the initial draft of the Recovery Federal Interagency Operational Plan. Over the course of the next 30 days, stakeholders will have the opportunity to provide additional input to the drafts of these Frameworks and the initial draft of the Recovery Federal Interagency Operational Plan. The period will end on April 2, 2012. Visit www.fema.gov/ppd8 to view the working drafts of these documents and submit your input using the accompanying matrix.

Homeland Security Scanning Facebook and Twitter for Keywords

An internal document released by the Electronic Privacy Information Center, or EPIC, says a DHS subcontractor is searching social sites, like Facebook and Twitter, for an ever changing list of keywords. View this video from Mashable for more details.

<http://bcove.me/gnwwsmb2>



Tornado Hits Lee County

An EF1 tornado with 86-110 mph winds struck the Ewing area of Lee County in Southwest Virginia. The tornado destroyed one home and damaged six others. There were no injuries. It was the only known tornado to affect Virginia during the March 2 outbreak that saw reports of 128 tornadoes in 11 states. See storm reports from the National Weather Service Storm Prediction Center for the March 2 outbreak at http://www.spc.noaa.gov/climo/reports/120302_rpts.html.

Reprinted from the March 7 issue of EM Update from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management

American Red Cross Launches First-Of-Its-Kind Social Media Operations Center for Humanitarian Relief

The American Red Cross and Dell have launched a new Digital Operations Center, the first social media-based operation devoted to humanitarian relief, demonstrating the increasing importance of social media in emergency situations. The Red Cross also announced the launch of a Digital Volunteer program to help respond to questions and information from the public during disasters. The Digital Operations Center expands the Red Cross' ability to engage with the public during emergencies. The center, located in the Red Cross National Disaster Operations Center in Washington, D.C., is modeled after Dell's Social Media Listening Command Center, using Dell technology solutions and consulting services. Specifically, the Digital Operations Center will help the Red Cross:

- Source additional information from affected areas during emergencies, so it can better serve those who need help;
- Spot trends and better anticipate the public's needs; and
- Connect people with the resources they need during a disaster, such as food, water, shelter or even emotional support.

A Red Cross survey revealed that the Internet now is the third most commonly used way for people to get emergency-related information; nearly a fourth of the general public and a third of the online population would use social media to let loved ones know they are safe. The survey found that people use social media during disasters to get updates, seek and give help, and connect with loved ones. In conjunction with the Digital Operations Center, the Red Cross also announced the creation of a Digital Volunteer Program. Digital volunteers from across the country will be trained to respond online to questions from the public, distribute critical information, and provide comfort and reassurance during emergencies. The digital volunteers will play a critical role in working to verify and curate an incredible volume of data during disasters, notifying Digital Operations Center staff of online trends and situational information that can inform disaster-response efforts. Equally important, they will engage with people affected by disasters, providing them with critical safety information, resources and comforting messages.

<http://rdcrss.org/A7Ee2r>

FEMA Calls for Nominations to the National Youth Preparedness Council

FEMA is looking for youth leaders who are dedicated to public service, who are making a difference in their community, and who want to expand their impact as a national advocate for youth preparedness. Are you a 12 to 17 year old who wants to make a difference in your community that could help save lives? If you have contributed to youth disaster preparedness in your community or lived through a disaster and want to share your experiences, you could be on FEMA's Youth Preparedness Council! Similarly, if you know of a young person with any of these qualities, you could also nominate him or her to serve. Youth Preparedness Council nominees will represent a variety of kids: current or former students, a youth member of a local Citizen Corps Council, a youth club, or a member of a faith-based organization who is vocal and active in preparing peers, family, and neighborhood for potential emergencies. Nominations must be received by midnight, April 6. Youth Preparedness Council Participants will be announced in May and will be FEMA's honored guests at a community preparedness roundtable event in

Washington, D.C., on June 28 and 29. Complete instructions are available online at: <http://citizencorps.gov/getstarted/youth/youthindex.shtm>. Questions can be emailed to YPC@icfi.com.

TSA Pre✓ Begins at Ronald Reagan Washington National

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has launched TSA Pre✓ operations at Ronald Reagan Washington National (DCA) airport. In addition, active duty service members in the U.S. Armed Forces are now eligible to receive the same expedited screening benefits when flying out of DCA as part of TSA Pre✓. TSA has worked closely with the Department of Defense to implement these screening procedures for service members. The TSA Pre✓ initiative enhances aviation security by enabling TSA to focus on a risk-based, intelligence driven approach, while expediting screening for travelers who volunteer information about themselves prior to flying. Since the pilot launch in October 2011, more than 540,000 passengers have been screened through TSA Pre✓. <http://www.tsa.gov/press/releases/2012/0320.shtm>



New FEMA-AmeriCorps Partnership Strengthens Response, Recovery Efforts Following Disasters

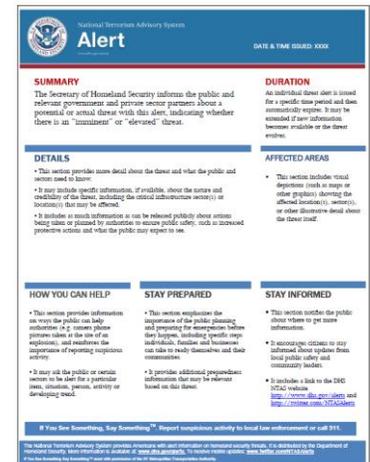
The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) this month announced an innovative new partnership designed to continue to strengthen the nation's ability to respond to and recover from disasters while expanding career opportunities for young people. FEMA Corps is an historic collaboration which will create a new unit of AmeriCorps' National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) whose members will be devoted solely to FEMA disaster response, and recovery efforts. The five-year agreement provides for a full service corps of 1,600 members annually who will be an additional workforce in support of FEMA's current disaster reserve workforce. This new effort will promote an ethic of national service and civic engagement by mobilizing corps members and community volunteers to provide critical disaster services. Once trained by FEMA and CNCS, members will provide support in areas ranging from working directly with disaster survivors to supporting disaster recovering centers to sharing valuable disaster preparedness and mitigation information with the public. The first members will begin serving in August 2012 and the program will reach full capacity within 18 months. To learn more about FEMA Corps or to apply (individuals aged 18-24), please see the AmeriCorps website <http://www.americorps.gov/about/programs/nccc.asp> or FEMA's website at www.fema.gov.

PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

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.



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- **—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.

2012 SunWise with Shade Poster Contest

The SunWise with Shade 2012 Poster Contest invites children in grades K-8 to submit a hand-drawn poster (on 8.5 x 11 inch paper) that shows how to avoid getting too much sun. The top five entries from kids in grades K-3 will receive a digital camera; and the winner from grades 4-8 will receive a family trip to Disney World and a shade structure for their school. Entries must be received by April 1, 2012. Winners will be announced on May 16. <http://challenge.gov/epa/311-sunwise-with-shade-2012-poster-contest>

U.S. Offers Food Safety Alerts on Twitter, State by State

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has launched Twitter accounts for specific states that can share news of recalls on poultry, meat, and other food products for those specific regions, Mashable reported March 5. —These new Twitter feeds provide yet another mechanism for us to provide consumers with critical updates and relevant information they need to protect their families from foodborne illness,” the USDA Under Secretary for Food Safety said. —The immediacy of information-sharing through social media is unparalleled, and we believe these timely, targeted updates will better protect public health.” Every state will now have its own Twitter alert handle using the state’s two-letter abbreviation followed by —_FSSAlert.” Virginia’s alerts are: http://twitter.com/va_FSISAlert. Previously FSIS alerts were issued through press releases and one main Twitter account, @USDAFoodSafety. The state-specific feeds will help consumers more easily identify which recalls are relevant to them. <http://mashable.com/2012/03/05/food-safety-alerts-twitter/>

National Level Exercise (NLE) 2012

Participation in NLE 2012 will provide private sector organizations a variety of benefits, ultimately contributing to an enhanced understanding of information sharing, response and incident management activities related to a national cyber event. More specifically, it is anticipated that through participation in NLE 2012, private sector organizations, in collaboration with Federal, state, local, tribal and territorial government partners as well as other exercise stakeholders, will:

- Achieve a better collective understanding of the cyber challenges within and across sectors.
- Examine and better understand cyber threat alert, warning, and information sharing across sectors and between government and the private sector
- Contribute to defining government and private sector roles and responsibilities in cyber incident response and recovery under the National Cyber Incident Response Plan (NCIRP).
- Test and examine government-private sector coordinating structures, processes, and capabilities regarding cyber incident response and recovery.

National Level exercises and the predecessor Top Official exercises continue to involve broad participation based on exercise objectives, scenario implications, and other considerations. This year is no different. NLE 2012 participants include various states within Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Regions I, II, III and V. The primary subject area and specific audiences for this scenario include Information Technology, Communications, Water, and Mass Transit/Rail. With limited exception, these are the main focus of the Players and Simulation Cell subject matter experts. Interested parties outside of that scope will still find value in the Virtual Participation and Downloadable tabletop. Private sector participation in NLE 2012 consists of several options for participation during the NLE Capstone Exercise. The specific opportunities are identified in the Private Sector Participation Guide. For more information, go to: <http://www.fema.gov/plan/nle/>. All questions concerning this document and NLE 2012 participation opportunities should be directed to Private.SectorNLE@dhs.gov.

Mental Health First-Aid

Mental Health First-Aid is a two-day course that teaches a 5-step action plan offering initial help to people with the signs and symptoms of a mental illness or in crisis, and connecting them with the appropriate professional, peer, social, or self-help care. You will learn warning signs and risk factors for:

- Depression.
- Anxiety disorders.
- Trauma.
- Psychotic disorders.
- Substance use disorders.
- Eating disorders.

Anyone can take the 12-hour Mental Health First Aid certification course – first responders, students, teachers, leaders of faith communities, human resources professionals and caring residents. The course is open to all members of the community and there is a \$25 fee for materials. Someone you know could be experiencing a mental illness or crisis. You can help them. You are more likely to encounter someone – friend, family member, coworker, neighbor or member of the community – in an emotional or mental crisis than you are to encounter someone having a heart attack. Sometimes, the best first aid is you. Take the course, make a difference in someone's life, strengthen our community. The Community Service Board will be offering Mental Health First Aid courses throughout the year. Check the online registration page (<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hocode/ereg/Registration.aspx?groupID=47>) for available classes, or contact Erika Gilliam at 703-383-8430 for more information. Each class involves a total of 12 hours of instructional time, which usually takes place over the course of two days.

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/announcements/mental-health-first-aid.htm>

USFA Releases Civilian Fire Fatalities in Residential Buildings (2008-2010) Report

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) issued a special report this month examining the characteristics of civilian fire fatalities in residential buildings. The report, "Civilian Fire Fatalities in Residential Buildings (2008-2010)" was developed by USFA's National Fire Data Center and is based on 2008 to 2010 data from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). According to the report:

- 92 percent of all civilian fatalities in residential building fires involve thermal burns and smoke inhalation.
- The leading specific location where civilian fire fatalities occur in residential buildings is the bedroom (55 percent).
- 50 percent of civilian fire fatalities in residential buildings occur between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. This period also accounts for 47 percent of fatal fires.
- 36 percent of fire victims in residential buildings were trying to escape at the time of their deaths; an additional 35 percent were sleeping.
- "Other unintentionally set, careless" actions and "smoking" (each accounting for 16 percent) are the leading causes of fatal residential building fires.
- Approximately 44 percent of civilian fatalities in residential building fires are between the ages of 40 and 69. Thirteen percent of the fire fatalities in residential buildings were less than 10 years old.

For further information regarding other topical reports or any programs and training available from the U.S. Fire Administration, visit: www.usfa.fema.gov.

Are You Ready to Ride Out an Earthquake?

As we learned Aug. 23, 2011, in Virginia, devastating earthquakes can happen without warning. Do you know what to do? Families and businesses should prepare ahead of time:

- Securely fasten shelves to walls.
- Keep large or heavy objects on lower shelves.
- Secure your water heater by strapping it to wall studs and bolting it to the floor.
- Keep toxic and flammable items securely stored in cabinets with doors and latches.
- Learn how to turn off electricity, gas and water.
- Be ready to be self-sufficient for at least three days. Have basic supplies on hand.

During an earthquake:

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- Stay indoors! The greatest danger is directly outside buildings due to falling debris.
- Get under heavy furniture such as a desk, table or bench. Crouch down and cover your head and neck with your hands and arms. This is the best protection. Remember: Drop, Cover and Hold! Get a poster here: www.vaemergency.gov/sites/default/files/DropCoverHoldposter.pdf
- Stay away from large windows, mirrors and other glass.
- If you are in a high-rise building, stay away from outside walls. Get under a table. Do not use elevators.
- If you are already outside, get into an open area away from buildings, power lines, trees, overpasses and bridges.
- Expect aftershocks. Smaller quakes – and sometimes larger ones – often follow hours or days after the first shake, causing more damage to weakened buildings and structures.

After an earthquake:

- Check for gas leaks. If you smell gas or hear a hissing or blowing noise, open a window and leave the building immediately. Turn off the gas at the outside main valve, if possible, and call the gas company.
- Turn on your battery-powered radio for instructions from your local officials and news reports from your local media.
- Check your building's foundation, roof and chimneys for cracks and damage.

For more, go to www.ReadyVirginia.gov and click on Stay Informed.

MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Crisis PR: TSA Has a Growing Public Relations Problem

The Transportation Security Administration has developed a public relations problem. The latest issue plaguing the agency occurred when a mother in Hawaii was not allowed to take empty bottles through the security checkpoint, as reported by —Good Morning America.” The story does not end there because the mother was permitted to take the bottles through security when they were full, which means she ended up filling the bottles with breast milk in a public bathroom. Add the breast milk infraction to the AP report about the woman’s hair being searched last year, and the TSA has a public image issue. Those incidents do not even take into account a complaint from an elderly woman about being strip-searched. Perhaps the agency should hire a public relations firm because it does not seem to get much good press.

<http://news.yahoo.com/tsa-public-relations-problem-171900558.html>

NASA Suffered 5,408 Cybersecurity Incidents Over Two Years

NASA’s inspector general recently testified to Congress recently that thieves who stole a laptop containing the codes used to control the International Space Station in March 2011 was just one of 5,408 cybersecurity incidents — many foreign-based — that the space agency has suffered during the past two years. Between April 2009 and April 2011, NASA reported the loss or theft of 48 mobile computing devices, some of which resulted in the unauthorized release of sensitive data, including export-controlled, personally identifiable information (PII) and third-party intellectual property.

http://urgentcomm.com/networks_and_systems/news/nasa-cybersecurity-report-20120306/

Expert Panel: 10-mile Evacuation Zone may not be Adequate for Some Nuclear Power Plants

The United States should customize emergency plans for each of the nation’s 65 nuclear power plants, a change that in some cases could expand the standard 10-mile evacuation zone in place for more than 3 decades, an expert panel recommended in a report that was to be released March 9. That’s one of the lessons to emerge in a 40-page report set to be released 3 days before the 1-year anniversary of Japan’s nuclear disaster from a committee that examined the incident for the American Nuclear Society. The panel included a former chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, a fellow at a Department of Energy laboratory, and seven other nuclear scientists. The report concluded U.S. nuclear power oversight is adequate to protect public health and safety but that emergency zones —should not be based on arbitrary mileage designations.¶ Under rules in force since 1978, communities near nuclear plants must

prepare federally reviewed evacuation plans for those living within 10 miles of the facility.

<http://www.duluthnewstribune.com/event/apArticle/id/D9TC7HM80/>

GAO: New emergency responder network lacks critical features. A recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) report concluded limitations in the government's plans to create a nationwide broadband network for first responders will require the continued use of the existing system for at least another decade, Homeland Security Newswire reported March 12. The new broadband network will allow first responders from different jurisdictions to communicate, however, according to the GAO report, the new network lacks critical capabilities that the existing land mobile radio (LMR) systems have. As a result, existing LMR systems, which are expensive and limited in range, will continue to be used even after the new mobile broadband network is implemented. For instance the new network, with its designated Long Term Evolution standard, does not support basic voice capabilities such as push to talk, group talk, and talk around – features that first responders need. Without these features on the new mobile broadband network, the GAO report argued the existing LMR system must continue to be used.

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20120311-gao-new-emergency-responder-network-lacks-critical-features>

Did Washington Monument Sink or Tilt from Quake

The Washington Monument cracked and crumbled when a 5.8-magnitude earthquake shook the nation's capital last year. But did it sink or tilt? A team of government surveyors is trying to find out.

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_WASHINGTON_MONUMENT_SURVEY_VAOL-

Tornado Tech: What if Dorothy Had A Smartphone?

For many, the only way they learn a tornado is approaching are sirens. In the spring and summer, tornado sirens go off a lot more when twisters roar across Alabama, which has been hit by 900 since 2000, accounting for a quarter of all U.S. tornado deaths. Sirens are decades-old air-raid technology from World War II that were designed, principally, to warn people who are outdoors of threats. Today, homes are built and insulated so well that outdoor warnings rarely make it inside. And since the killer tornadoes last year in Alabama, weather experts have ramped up educational efforts.

<http://www.npr.org/2012/03/13/148525605/tornado-tech-what-if-dorothy-had-a-smartphone?sc=17&f=1001>

The Long Road Ahead for the Nationwide Public Safety Network

Tom Ridge has been a longtime advocate for the creation of a nationwide network for public safety agencies to operate on. The lack of public safety's ability to communicate across agencies was brought to the United States' attention more than 10 years ago during the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. As the first secretary for the DHS, Ridge witnessed the fallout from that day and took on the role as a supporter of the network's creation. Government Technology recently interviewed Ridge to get more information about the spectrum reallocation and what's ahead.

<http://www.govtech.com/public-safety/Long-Road-Ahead-Nationwide-Public-Safety-Network.html>

Tornado Expert Ranks Top Tornado States

Images from last year's tornadoes in Alabama and Joplin, MO, are unforgettable. The utter devastation left by these powerful forces of nature is etched in many of our minds forever. With a major tornado outbreak already in March of 2012, this year is also off to an active start. The Weather Channel's Tornado Expert Dr. Greg Forbes has created a list of the Top 10 Tornado States based on statistics from the National Weather Service from the years 1991-2010. Maryland ranks third.

http://www.weather.com/outlook/weather-news/news/articles/top-tornado-states_2012-03-06?page=1

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/weather/weather-blog/bal-wx-maryland-ranks-third-on-list-of-top-tornado-states-20120315.0,2161160.story>

Arlington, Va., Fire Chief: Cities' Emergency Response Could Suffer Due to Funding Change

Over 120 cities use a Metropolitan Medical Response System to create plans for homeland security threats in their community. Their ability to respond, however, may be inhibited with the loss of direct federal funding. That's the story from Arlington County Fire Chief James H. Schwartz on his lessons learned as the Pentagon's Incident

Commander on 9/11.

<http://www.governing.com/news/local/gov-arlington-va-fire-chief-cities-emergency-response-could-suffer-funding-change.html>

Study Confirms Oil from Deepwater Horizon Disaster Entered Food Chain in the Gulf of Mexico

Since the explosion on the BP Deepwater Horizon drilling rig in the Gulf of Mexico April 20, 2010, scientists have been working to understand the impact the disaster has had on the environment, the University of Maryland reported March 20. For months after the explosion, crude oil gushed into the water. A new study confirms oil from the Macondo well made it into the ocean's food chain through the tiniest of organisms, zooplankton. They serve as food for baby fish and shrimp and act as conduits for the movement of oil contamination and pollutants into the food chain. The study confirms that not only did oil affect the ecosystem in the Gulf during the blowout, but it also was still entering the food web after the well was capped. The study was led by East Carolina University with researchers from the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, Oregon State University, Georgia Institute of Technology, and U.S. Geological Survey.

<http://www.umces.edu/hpl/release/2012/mar/12/study-confirms-oil-deepwater-horizon-disaster-entered-food-chain-gulf-mexico>

Critics Question Effectiveness of Proposed National Preparedness Grants at FEMA

The consolidated grants program proposed to take effect at the Department of Homeland Security in fiscal year 2013 met with criticism from lawmakers, mayors and congressional investigators on Tuesday, March 20.

<http://www.hstoday.us/industry-news/general/single-article/critics-question-effectiveness-of-proposed-national-preparedness-grants-at-fema/37e8a43bb920d462c70fae40039f9235.html>

Most Webmasters Don't Know How Their Sites Got Hacked, Report Says

Most owners of compromised websites do not know how their sites got hacked into and only 6 percent detect the malicious activity on their own, according to a report released March 22. The new —Compromised Websites: An Owner's Perspective" report is based on a survey of more than 600 website administrators and owners that was carried out over several months by security vendor Commtouch, and StopBadware, a nonprofit organization that helps Webmasters identify, remediate and prevent website compromises. The leading cause of compromises appears to be outdated content management software. This was cited as a reason for Web sites being hacked by 20 percent of respondents. Twelve percent of Web masters said a computer used to update their website was infected with malware, 6 percent said their credentials were stolen credentials, and 2 percent admitted logging in while using wireless networks or public PCs. However, 63 percent of respondents did not know how their websites were compromised.

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9225442/Most_web_masters_don_t_know_how_their_sites_got_hacked_report_says

Study: 5 Million Face Increased Flooding Risk

Rising sea levels combined with storm surges will put more than 5 million people on U.S. coastlines at risk of flooding during the next 30 years, according to new research. The combination could raise sea levels during storms to 4 feet above the high-tide line, threatening property that contains 2.6 million homes on 3 million acres of land, according to the report released by Climate Central, a nonprofit research and journalism organization based in New Jersey. —Escalating floods from sea level rise will affect millions of people, and threaten countless billions of dollars of damage to buildings and infrastructure," Climate Central's Ben Strauss, the lead author of the report, said in a statement. The report, titled —Surging Seas," is based on two new peer-reviewed studies, both published in the journal Environmental Research Letters. Climate Central calls it —the first major national analysis of sea level rise in 20 years." It says the odds of once-in-100-years flooding hitting regions of the coastal U.S. have more than doubled.

<http://news.blogs.cnn.com/2012/03/14/study-5-million-face-increased-flooding-risk/>

Virginia Tech Approves New Firearms Ban

A new regulation at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg bans concealed firearms and other weapons from university buildings and major events such as football games. The school's board of governors approved the measure March 26.

The new rule replaces an existing policy, and it concerns firearms carried both by concealed permit holders and non-permit-holders. The state attorney general said in July 2011, universities did not have the authority to ban people from bringing guns into school facilities, as long as they have concealed carry permits. Those permitted under Virginia state law to own a firearm must be allowed to carry it openly, or concealed with a permit on the open grounds of public institutions, he said. But in January, the Virginia Supreme Court ruled public universities could ban open carrying of firearms in buildings and at events. Virginia Tech officials said March 26 that legal opinion had changed, and the regulation was approved without comment.

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/46869819/ns/local_news-washington_dc/#.T3H6tdl26U8

FLU

Fairfax County Flu Preparedness

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

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

Hong Kong: Peak Flu Season Strains Public Hospitals

A spike in the number of influenza cases as Hong Kong enters the peak season coupled with cooler weather in the next few days is expected to see a surge in public hospital admissions and accident and emergency attendance, the Hospital Authority warned early this month. Common flu sufferers and people with minor ailments are urged to first consult their family doctor or outpatient clinics to avoid long queues at A&E departments. The authority appeals to people to co-operate and understand there will be protracted waiting time for non-urgent patients, and a need to re-schedule non-emergency services. Most public hospital medical wards are full already, with more than 100 percent occupancy. Average daily A&E attendance was 12 percent higher than the normal daily average of 5,800. On March 5, attendance exceeded 7,700 cases, as a rising number of flu patients sought treatment.

http://www.news.gov.hk/en/categories/health/html/2012/03/20120308_164212.shtml

Taiwan Probe of Official's Alleged Cover-up of Avian Flu Outbreak

CNA Premier Sean Chen said Friday, March 9, that he has instructed the Council of Agriculture (COA) to conduct a probe into an official's involvement in an alleged cover-up of bird flu outbreaks in southern and central Taiwan. At the center of the issue is a tape recording produced a day earlier by opposition Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) legislators that they said shows that Hsu Tien-lai, a former director-general of the Bureau of Animal and Plant Health Inspection and Quarantine (BAPHIQ), said during an experts' meeting Feb. 1 that —here is no hurry” and that it would be —better to wait until the boss steps down,” in reference as to whether the authorities should be alerted to the outbreak. Based on the tape, the DPP questioned if the COA deliberately covered up the outbreak that led to the spread of the H5N2 virus in poultry farms in southern Taiwan. DPP Legislator Hsiao Bi-khim, meanwhile, asked for the identity of —the boss” to whom Hsu referred, and demanded an apology from the Executive Yuan for covering up the outbreaks.

http://focustaiwan.tw/ShowNews/WebNews_Detail.aspx?Type=aSOC&ID=201203090043

Dutch Bird Flu Outbreak Caused by H5N2 Virus

The cause of the latest outbreak of low-pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) has been identified as the H5N2 subtype. The veterinary authority of the Netherlands sent an Immediate Notification dated 19 March to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). It is reported as a sub-clinical infection of LPAI and the presence of the H5N2 sub-type of the virus has been confirmed. Two hundred turkeys in a flock in Limburg province in the south-east of the country were found to be affected. The whole flock of 44,500 birds has been destroyed.

<http://www.thepoultrysite.com/poultrynews/25221/dutch-bird-flu-outbreak-caused-by-h5n2-virus>

H5N1 Controversy: NSABB Takes Another Look

In June of 2009, a committee met at the University of Wisconsin-Madison to do a routine safety review of proposed

research projects. One of those projects involved genetically modifying flu viruses. And during the review, the committee brought up the idea of “dual-use” research. Dual use means legitimate scientific work that's intended to advance science or medicine, but that also might be misused with the intent to do harm. Now, nearly three years after that meeting, this flu research — along with similar work done in the Netherlands — has the science community in an uproar. Scientists, security experts, flu virologists and others are arguing over whether the details of experiments with lab-altered forms of bird flu can be made public, or whether that would amount to publishing the recipe for a superflu that could be used as a bioweapon. Recently a panel of experts that advises the government about dual use issues, called the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity (NSABB), held a closed-door meeting to once again look at unpublished manuscripts describing the completed experiments. Their deliberations will include a classified briefing from the intelligence community.

<http://crofsblogs.typepad.com/h5n1/2012/03/h5n1-controversy-nsabb-takes-another-look.html>

Bangladesh: H5N1 Takes Toll on Poultry Industry

Renewed attacks of avian influenza on the poultry industry cut chicken production and hiked prices of meat and eggs. The weekly production of day-old chicks fell by half to 46 lakh [4.6 million] in the last three months from 91 lakh [9.1 million] a year ago due to avian influenza or bird flu attacks at farms or hatcheries, according to an estimate of poultry breeders. In the wake of a fall in farming, egg prices rose 32 percent to Tk 34-Tk 36 [U.S. \$0.41-0.44] for every four pieces yesterday from Tk 26-Tk 27 [U.S. \$0.31-0.33] in the beginning of the year. Prices of broiler chicken increased 22 percent to Tk 150-Tk 160 [U.S. \$1.83-1.95] per kilogramme during the same period, according to data from the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh. “The situation is alarming,” said Moshiur Rahman, president of Breeders Association of Bangladesh. More parent stock farms got affected this year compared with the previous year, Rahman said. It is the fifth year the bird flu attacks have been ravaging the poultry industry, a key job provider in rural and semi-urban areas. Over the past years since 2007, half of nearly 150,000 poultry farms have been facing losses due to bird flu attacks, forcing tens of thousands of people out of jobs, according to MM Khan, secretary general of Bangladesh Poultry Industries Association.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=227614>

TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES



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

Government Security Conference and Expo

April 2-4; Washington Convention Center, Washington, D.C.

Keynote speaker: Senator George J. Mitchell, former U.S. Special Envoy for Middle East Peace from January 2009 to May 2011 and Senator Majority Leader from 1989 to 1995.

<http://govsecinfo.com/events/govsec-2012/information/conference/conference-keynotes.aspx>

Infrastructure Risk/Vulnerability Assessment Taking CARVER to the Next Level

April 9-11 and June 25-27, Arlington, Va.

This course, using criticality, accessibility, recuperability, vulnerability, effect and recognizability (CARVER) – an all-hazards assessment tool – emphasizes kinetic threats from small arms (active shooter) and improvised explosive devices; students will learn to identify threats and vulnerabilities of all sorts and apply risk management processes for incident planning. The course is designed for facility security, law enforcement and emergency management professionals charged with planning for and implementing protective measures for personnel, facilities, and

infrastructure. Students will conduct an actual on-scene preliminary security vulnerability assessment and develop and deliver a briefing of their findings.

<http://www.governmenttraininginc.com/CARVER-Vulnerability-Assessment-120609.asp>

Emergency Preparedness Conference

April 11-12; Arlington, Va.

The conference will focus on how accreditation standards have provided healthcare organizations with a framework to prepare for and resurrect from disaster. The four phases of emergency management (and the theme of this year's conference)—mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery—woven together provide a blanket of resilience, giving the individual, the organization, and the community the ability to cope with the stress and adversity of any disaster. The conference agenda will provide to those responsible for emergency management a portfolio of strategies, real-life lessons learned, and tools to implement upon return to their organizations.

<http://www.jcrinc.com/Conferences-and-Seminars/2012-Annual-Emergency-Preparedness-Conference/4560/>

National Security Conference

April 23-25; Westfields Marriott in Chantilly, Va.

The National Security Institute will host its 27th annual national security conference April 23-25.

<http://nsi.org/impact-2012.html>

Resiliency Integration of Complementary Disciplines and Approaches

May 1; Washington, D.C.

The North East Disaster Recovery Information Exchange (NEDRIX) and the Business Continuity Institute (BCI) is hosting a one-day conference on May 1, in Washington, D.C. This event will bring together senior managers and practitioners from the government and private sector to share best practices, develop relationships and foster public/private sector information exchange. Building on a fantastic inaugural event, this year will again focus on resiliency efforts in both the public and private sectors and quality information sharing. Over the past decade both the government and private sector have independently and collectively focused on developing and implementing various programs to ensure their organization is resilient to any threat or hazard. These complimentary programs include Continuity, Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP), Emergency Management and Cyber Security. This event brings together experts from both the government and private sector to discuss how these programs are working to integrate and streamline while sharing their best practices, insights and case studies. In addition, there will be a collaborative table-top exercise that will foster communication and information sharing amongst all attendees.

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

Counter Terror Expo

May 16-17; Washington Convention Center, Washington, D.C.

Counter Terror Expo U.S. is uniquely designed for the nation's law enforcement and counter terror professionals – from both public and private sectors – to collaborate on leading-edge initiatives and technology that will secure our nation from terrorist attacks. Visit

<http://www.counterterrorexpous.com/> for more information.



Terrorism & Global Security Conference

May 30-31; Washington, D.C.

The theme of this conference, sponsored by the Ambivium Institute on Security & Cooperation, along with the Center for Terrorism Law of St. Mary's University, is "What Constitutes a Legal War in the 21st Century? An Analysis of the Role of the United Nations, NATO, and Coalitions in War Making in the Era of the War on Terror." The conference will explore the full range of issues associated with the use of armed force to solve international conflicts, along with the history of war, targeted killings, the law of armed conflict, human security, development, humanitarian intervention and globalization.

https://www.stmarytx.edu/ctl/pdf/Annual_Conference.pdf



VASART Conference

July 13; Blue Ridge Community College, Weyers Cave, Va.

The Virginia State Animal Response Team will be sponsoring a training day on July 13, at Blue Ridge Community College, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. There is limited seating available. Questions: 804-346-2611; www.virginiasart.org.

2012 Chemical Sector Security Summit

July 31-Aug. 2, 2012; Baltimore, Md.

The National Protection & Programs Directorate's Office of Infrastructure Protection and the Chemical Sector Coordinating Council are co-sponsoring the 2012 Chemical Sector Security Summit in Baltimore, Md. The sixth annual Summit will provide a forum for representatives from the chemical community to exchange information and network with other security professionals, share best practices, learn more about chemical security regulations, and gain insight into the roles of state, local and federal agencies and departments involved in chemical security.

http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/gc_1176736485793.shtm

APCO International 78th Annual Conference and Expo

Aug. 19-22; Minneapolis Convention Center, Minneapolis, MN

It's the public safety communications industry's biggest event of the year.

<http://www.apco2012.org/>

IAEM Annual Conference

Oct. 26-Nov. 1; Orlando, Fla.

The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) will host the annual IAEM Conference, Oct. 26-Nov. 1, in Orlando, Fla. The theme of this year's conference is —Resilience.”

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

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 Blogs and Web Resources

- Fairfax County Emergency Information Blog – <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog>
- 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/>
- Virginia Citizen Corps - <http://www.vaemergency.com/citcorps/index.cfm>

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.

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 NICCCReports@dhs.gov. You can access the Daily OSIR at: 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/

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/>

FAIRFAX COUNTY 703-817-7771
EMERGENCY
INFORMATION LINE

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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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