



ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

January 2009

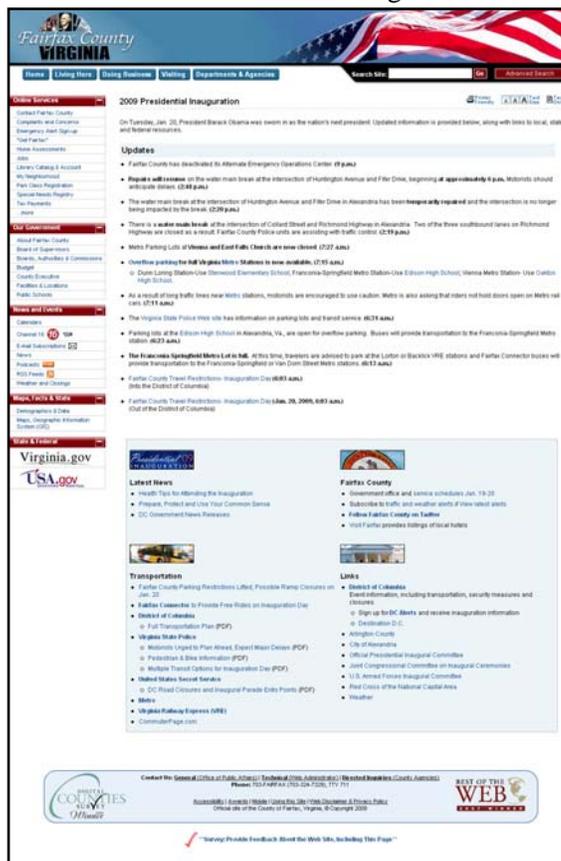
ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

Presidential Inauguration

The President on Tuesday, Jan. 13, declared an emergency for the District of Columbia and ordered federal aid to supplement the District’s response efforts in support of the 56th Presidential Inauguration. The declaration made available funding and support for the purposes of ensuring the District of Columbia and the federal government were optimally prepared and postured to respond to the 56th Presidential Inauguration, beginning on January 17 through January 21. The President’s action authorized the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), to provide appropriate assistance for certain emergency protective measures, authorized under Title V of the Stafford Act.

Direct federal assistance, at 100 percent federal funding was provided during the period of January 17-21, 2009, and reimbursement of emergency protective measures (Category B), under the Public Assistance program, at 100 percent federal funding for work performed on January 20, 2009. The Presidential Inauguration was designated as a National Security Special Event (NSSE) by the Department of Homeland Security. <http://www.fema.gov/news/event.fema?id=11028>

Meanwhile, Fairfax County Executive Anthony H. Griffin issued a local declaration of emergency as a precautionary measure, which was approved by the county’s Board of Supervisors at its Monday, Jan. 26 meeting. Much like the presidential declaration, the local declaration provides guidelines for seeking reimbursement and utilization of available resources, etc. The Fairfax County Alternate Emergency Operations Center (AEOC) was activated for three operational periods and provided operational support to Fairfax County agencies that responded to the event. (At right is a screen shot of the county’s Web site, which provided updates throughout the inauguration



FEMA 2009 Presidential Transition Binder

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has released its transition binder for the 2009 presidential administration transition. This document, the “FEMA 2009 Presidential Transition Binder,” consisting of six tabs as described below, is intended to serve as a reference for FEMA leadership and employees to help orient them to its organizational structure, programs, resources, stakeholders, and operations. “The Vision for the New FEMA is to continuously improve upon and maintain FEMA as the nation’s Preeminent Emergency Management and Preparedness Agency, and to exceed the objectives of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act (PKEMRA) of 2006. The New FEMA initiatives are designed to make the Agency more engaged, agile, responsive, integrated and the trusted leader and partner in preparedness and emergency management.”

<http://www.hsd.org/hslog/?q=node/4642>

Transition binder: <http://www.fas.org/irp/agency/dhs/fema/transition2009.pdf>

FEMA Launches Consolidated Web Site For Disaster Applicants

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has launched the first phase of DisasterAssistance.gov, a new, easy-to-use Web site that consolidates information about forms of disaster assistance in one place. Individuals in need of assistance following a presidentially declared disaster designated for individual assistance will now be able to go to www.DisasterAssistance.gov if they wish to register online for assistance with FEMA and other federal agencies. DisasterAssistance.gov will improve and simplify access to information about disaster assistance by creating a central, online location for all forms of federal disaster aid. Sixteen federal agencies have partnered with FEMA to develop the Web site, offering more than 50 forms of assistance. At launch, users can:

- Apply for FEMA assistance and U.S. Small Business Administration loans through a single online application.
- Check the status of their online application(s).
- Choose to have their Social Security benefits redirected to a new address.
- Have access to their federal student loan account information.

DisasterAssistance.gov also will provide applicants links to other forms of assistance and additional aid information. In future releases, DisasterAssistance.gov will include online applications for more forms of aid, speeding the application process for victims of presidentially declared disasters. DisasterAssistance.gov was developed to comply with Executive Order 13411, which requires the government to simplify the process of identifying and applying for disaster assistance. The ultimate vision for DisasterAssistance.gov is to be the collective point of application for all federal agencies that offer forms of assistance to those affected by disaster, as well as eventually provide a central repository for all forms of disaster assistance, irrespective of provider. DisasterAssistance.gov will be updated in phases to include additional forms of assistance that are administered at the federal, state, regional and local levels. <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=47195>

FEMA In Focus: Where FEMA Was, Is Now, and Where FEMA Is Going

FEMA Administrator David Paulison participated in an all access social media press conference through the agency's Twitter account, Femainfocus, Monday, January 12, from 3-3:30 pm EST. Paulison spoke directly to the public through the social media tool on how the agency has evolved over the years and the direction it is currently heading. Paulison made a few short statements before opening the floor for questions. The agency chose to offer the public availability to highlight the value of social media tools in emergency management and disaster response. Tools, such as Twitter, Flickr and YouTube, to name a few sites, have been used by emergency responders, the public and mass media to gather information and disseminate emergency messages. FEMA recognizes the value of web-based and SMS tools that help the public prepare for and respond to disasters. FEMA has been using Twitter since October 2008, as a means to offer information about the agency's mission, efforts and perspective.

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=47256>

Transcript of the Twitter Media Conference: http://www.fema.gov/pdf/media/2009/2009_01_12_twitter_event.pdf

Audio of the Twitter Media Conference: http://www.fema.gov/rams/web/2009_01_12_Twitter_Event_20k.mp3

FEMA Using Multi Media

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is staying on the cutting edge of multimedia technology, offering online "webisodes" of the Hurricane Ike response and recovery mission in Texas. FEMA, in step with several other federal agencies, is producing video shorts for its online multimedia site at www.fema.gov/media/multimedia/ to bring the efforts of the agency and recovery information directly to the public. By using social media tools such as YouTube.com, FEMA is capturing the various recovery efforts in the areas surrounding the upper Texas Gulf Coast and making it available on some of the most active Internet sites.

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=47153>

Ready Campaign Launches Social Media Initiative to Encourage Americans to Prepare for Emergencies

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Ready Campaign, in partnership with The Advertising Council, is introducing a series of new social media tools to further engage Americans in taking steps to prepare for emergencies. The initiative is an extension of Resolve to be Ready in 2009, a nationwide effort designed to encourage individuals, families, businesses and communities to take action and prepare for emergencies in 2009.

The social media tools will engage Americans in taking the three simple steps communicated in the Ready Campaign: (1) Get an emergency supply kit; (2) Make a family emergency plan; and (3) Be informed about the types of emergencies that can happen in your area and their appropriate responses. At the center of the initiative is a new Web page, "Be Prepared," which features an interactive widget that provides users with updates on emergency situations, local emergency contact information, an instructional video, emergency kit checklists and guidelines on how to better prepare for an emergency. Users can also access a clickable map to find contact information for state and local government agencies, where they can learn more about specific emergency information in their communities. Additionally, the widget helps users stay up-to-date on the latest Ready activities through Twitter news feeds (by following the user name "ReadydotGov"). The widget can be posted to social networking profiles, blogs, wikis and personal homepages. The program also includes a tool with which visitors can create their own comprehensive Family Emergency Plan and share important information with their family and friends. Furthermore, visitors are encouraged to share their story on preparedness by submitting a video to the Ready Campaign Video Blog. The new Web page can be accessed by clicking on an online banner on the homepage of www.ready.gov, the Ready Campaign Web site.

http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1232126867101.shtm

DHS Advances Voluntary Private Sector Preparedness Accreditation and Certification Program

The US Department of Homeland Security has posted a Federal Register notice seeking public comments about the Voluntary Private Sector Preparedness Accreditation and Certification Program, which it is now terming "PS-Prep." In the Federal Register notice (Docket ID FEMA-2008-0017) the DHS advises that FEMA will be conducting two public meetings to gather comments on PS-Prep. The first meeting was held on Tuesday, January 13. DHS is developing PS-Prep to raise the level of private sector preparedness through a number of means, including establishing a system for DHS to adopt private sector preparedness standards; encouraging creation of those standards; developing a method for a private sector entity to obtain a certification of conformity with a particular DHS-adopted private sector standard, and encouraging such certification; and making preparedness standards adopted by DHS more widely available.

www.fema.gov/privatesectorpreparedness

National Exercise Simulation Center Opens At FEMA

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently held the official opening of its newly constructed National Exercise Simulation Center (NESC) at FEMA Headquarters. The NESC provides a state-of-the-art facility to serve the all-hazards preparedness and response mission through pooling resources, maximizing efficiency and providing sustained exercise and training support to all stakeholders. The 2006 Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act (PKEMRA) Section 664 called for the establishment of a National Exercise Simulation Center that uses a mix of live, virtual and constructive simulations to:

- Prepare elected officials, emergency managers, emergency response providers and emergency support suppliers at all levels of government to operate cohesively.
- Provide a learning environment for Homeland Security personnel of all federal agencies.
- Assist in the development of operational procedures and exercises, particularly those based on catastrophic incidents.
- Allow incident commanders to exercise decision making in a simulated environment.

As envisioned in PKEMRA, the NESC will serve as a powerful tool that supports improved national preparedness. It also serves as a key function in the initiative to develop a Federal Coordination Center (FCC) at FEMA Headquarters, which supports federal, regional, state and local partners in joint planning, training and exercising, and operational coordination in the National Capital Region (NCR). Other FEMA elements of the FCC are the Disaster Operations Directorate, including the National Response Coordination Center, the National Incident Management Assistance Team East and FEMA Operational Planners the Office of National Capital Region Coordination and additional FEMA Directorates or non-FEMA agencies and organizations as appropriate. The NESC's initial operating capability supports basic training and exercise requirements with phone, network and visual display capabilities.

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=47279>

GAO Assesses FEMA's post-Katrina Reinvention

A new 127-page report by the US Government Accountability Office (GAO) has examined the Department of Homeland Security's implementation of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006. The report found that while FEMA and DHS had taken action to implement most of the reforms required by the law, work remains before the law is fully implemented. The Post-Katrina Act contained over 300 provisions that require DHS or FEMA action. The GAO report found that FEMA had implemented the organizational changes required by the Act such as elevating FEMA's Administrator to be principal advisor to the President and the Secretary of Homeland Security on emergency management and reuniting preparedness functions with response functions, including giving FEMA responsibility for allocating and managing grant money to help state and local officials and first responders prepare for terrorist attacks and natural disasters. The report additionally found that while work remains, FEMA had taken action in the following areas: strengthening regional offices; improving logistics to ensure timely delivery of goods and services; improving contracting and information technology systems; providing assistance to disaster-affected areas and populations; improving preparedness; and preventing waste, fraud, and abuse.

<http://hsgac.senate.gov/public/files/d0959R.pdf>

2008 Temperature for U.S. Near Average, was Coldest Since 1997

The 2008 annual temperature for the contiguous United States was near average, while the temperature for December was below the long-term average, based on records dating back to 1895, according to a preliminary analysis by scientists at NOAA's National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, N.C. The nation's January-December average temperature has increased at a rate of 0.12 degree F per decade since 1895, and at a faster rate of 0.41 degree F per decade during the last 50 years. The average December 2008 temperature of 32.5 degrees F was 0.9 degree below the 20th Century average. December temperatures were much below average across the Upper Midwest and cooler than average across much of the West, Northwest and Midwest. Warmer-than-average temperatures were experienced in the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic States.

http://www.noanews.noaa.gov/stories2009/20090108_decemberstats.html

PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

Current Threat Level –

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



Under an elevated threat level, businesses should:

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

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

themselves and their family, and stay informed about what to do during an emergency.

http://www.dhs.gov/xinfoshare/programs/Copy_of_press_release_0046.shtm

<http://vaemergency.com/>

The 10 Most Common Mistakes People Make When Writing Business Continuity Plans

Among the items on the list by Charlie Maclean-Bristol:

- Compliance with BS25999 – you should at least comply with the items the standard says should be in a plan.
- Telephone numbers – review the best way to hold your telephone numbers.
- Quality assurance – essential to making sure that you have an up to date version of the plan.
- It's the planning stupid – the plan is a useful document for reminding you of what is meant to happen in responding to an incident. A lot more important is the thought that has gone into developing the plan.

Charlie Maclean-Bristol is director of PlanB Consulting and head of training at Business Continuity Training Ltd.

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/feature0635.html>

Secretary Napolitano Issues Action Directives on FEMA State and Local Integration and National Planning

U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano announced on Wednesday, Jan. 28, two action directives, on Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) integration with state and local partners and national planning. These directives instruct specific offices to gather information, review existing strategies and programs, and provide oral and written reports back to her in February. Secretary Napolitano has already issued seven action directives: cybersecurity; northern border strategy; critical infrastructure protection; risk analysis; state and local intelligence sharing; transportation security; and state, local and tribal integration. She will continue to issue additional action directives in the coming days focused on the missions critical to the department: Protection, Preparedness, Response, Recovery and Immigration.

http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr_1233073331655.shtm

Meanwhile, on her first official day as Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) – on Jan. 21 – Sec. Napolitano issued five Action Directives, all centered on one of the primary missions of DHS: Protection. The action directives instructs specific offices and agencies to gather information, review existing strategies and programs, and to provide oral and written reports back to her by a time certain. The areas in which the action directives were issued were critical infrastructure protection; risk analysis; state and local intelligence sharing; transportation security; and state, local and tribal integration.

http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr_1232576802004.shtm

MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Cooperation Commended

In a Washington Post editorial, the newspaper was complimentary of the regional cooperation necessary to pull off the historic inauguration activities. According to the editorial, “Officials involved in the planning were properly wary about declaring success until all the events had concluded, with every spectator safely returned home. They also want to review what worked and what didn't. Mr. Obama was right, though, to hail the thousands of military personnel, volunteers and police officers, as well as D.C. Mayor Adrian M. Fenty (D) and others, who worked so hard to shape this unique event. Mention must be made of the good coordination among D.C., Virginia and Maryland officials and the wisdom of many of their transportation decisions.”

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/01/20/AR2009012003556.html>

DHS Postpones E-Verify Requirement

The federal government has postponed until Feb. 20 a requirement for government contractors to use the E-Verify system to check the eligibility of their employees to work in the U.S. A new rule requiring federal contractors to use E-Verify had been scheduled to go into effect Jan. 15. The Department of Homeland Security announced that it would push back the date because of a federal lawsuit filed Dec. 23 by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other business groups. The suit contends the government doesn't have the authority to make E-Verify mandatory for contractors. E-Verify provides an Internet-based means for employers to compare the names and Social Security

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.

numbers of newly hired employees against government databases. About 100,000 businesses participate in the program, which is now voluntary. Under a regulation issued Nov. 14, however, companies that receive federal contracts of \$100,000 or more must use E-Verify to confirm the employment eligibility of all new hires and reconfirm the eligibility of existing employees that are assigned to federal contracts. These requirements also apply to most subcontractors. Complying with the rule will cost federal contractors \$188 million in 2009, according to government estimates.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/washington/stories/2009/01/05/daily88.html>

Is a 9-1-1 Security Alert Standard Coming?

We will soon learn the fate of the proposed Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) standard that could allow the automatic routing of alarm company alerts to 9-1-1 centers. In an article on the Government Technology Web site, Andy Opsahl says that although alarm companies typically place a phone call to 9-1-1 centers when an alarm sounds, the proposed new standard would send them automatically. Bill Hobgood, public safety team project manager of the Richmond, Virginia Department of Information Technology told Opsahl an automated standard could eliminate 32 million calls nationally from the alarm companies to the 9-1-1 public safety answering points, erasing the two to three minutes of processing time call takers need for obtaining information from alarm company operators. APCO should announce whether the standard prevailed sometime this week. Some are concerned, however, that the new standard would prompt 9-1-1 centers to cut staff because there would be fewer incoming calls. Hobgood said he doubts that would happen. Fewer calls from alarm companies would free the call takers to answer the remaining calls promptly, he said.

<http://www.govtech.com/gt/580757?topic=117680>

Governments use Twitter for Emergency Alerts, Traffic Notices and More

There's no middle ground in the court of public opinion about Twitter, a free "microblogging" site that a growing number of government agencies and officials are using to keep citizens informed about everything from press releases to car accidents and structural fires. People either love Twitter, or they just don't get it. In short, Twitter lets users send and receive brief updates, which are capped at 140 characters of text. Users must sign up for a profile page on Twitter.com and then they can send text-based updates to subscribers, called "followers," or receive Twitter messages from people they choose to follow. Twitter is multiplatform: The messages, called "tweets," can be sent and received on Twitter.com, traditional e-mail accounts, mobile devices like smartphones, Really Simple Syndication (RSS) and Facebook.

<http://www.govtech.com/gt/articles/579338>

* Fairfax County Government has begun using Twitter as well. Find Fairfax County at:

<http://twitter.com/fairfaxcounty>.

DHS Pilot Program to Focus on State Emergency Planning

How important are state emergency response plans? It would appear the Department of Homeland Security thinks they are very important, as it launches a new pilot program with U.S. Northern Command designed to make states devote more time to planning. In an article in the February, 2009 issue of "National Defense," Stew Magnuson and Matthew Rusling say the program will allocate personnel to drawing up emergency response plans. Dubbed the Task Force for Emergency Readiness and funded by the DHS, the program will start off in five states. In those states, teams of two or three full-time personnel will create blueprints for dealing with emergencies such as hurricanes, earthquakes or chemical spills. The five participating states are Washington state, Hawaii, West Virginia, Massachusetts and South Carolina.

<http://tinyurl.com/9r2g2x>

Report Cites Communication Failures During Katrina

The Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana has released a report that examines some of the recovery misconceptions state and local officials continue to face more than three years after hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit the Gulf States. "GulfGov Reports: Three Years after Katrina and Rita, Challenges Remain" presents several misconceptions, such as:

- Misconception: With so much federal money involved, massive fraud and misuse of funds were inevitable in Louisiana and Mississippi.
- Reality: There have been instances of fraud and abuse, but not to the degree feared by many, and federal, state and local authorities have been aggressive in their efforts both to prevent fraud and to prosecute it.
- Misconception: Disasters of this scale devastate state revenues.
- Reality: There is an initial loss of revenue before recovery work begins, but then revenues increase sharply.

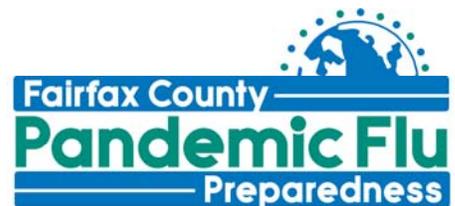
The report cites a lack of communication among local, state and federal levels of government as the source for the delay in response efforts, as well as the reason why so many rumors have emerged. The Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana is a private, nonprofit research organization that focuses public attention on public issues in Louisiana through independent research. The full report is available at <http://www.la-par.org>.
Reprinted from the Jan. 28 Update e-mail newsletter, published by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

PANDEMIC FLU

Fairfax County Pandemic Flu Preparedness

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

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/pandemicflu/>



China Issues Bird Flu Alert After Woman Dies

China issued a bird flu alert early this month after a woman died of the virus, the first such death in the country in almost a year, and closed poultry markets for disinfecting in a province surrounding Beijing. The World Health Organization said the woman's death, China's 21st to date, appeared to be an isolated case. The 19-year-old died of the H5N1 virus after gutting nine ducks, which experts say highlights the role and risks of waterfowl in the transmission of the virus to humans.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20090107/hl_nm/us_birdflu_china

New Bird Flu Cases Revive Fears of Human Pandemic

Just when you thought you could scratch bird flu off your list of things to worry about in 2009, the deadly H5N1 virus has resurfaced in poultry in Hong Kong for the first time in six years, reinforcing warnings that the threat of a human pandemic isn't over. The Los Angeles Times reports that India, Bangladesh, Vietnam and mainland China also experienced new outbreaks in December. During the same period, four new human cases – in Egypt, Cambodia and Indonesia – were reported to the World Health Organization. A 16-year-old girl in Egypt and a 2-year-old girl in Indonesia have died.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-birdflu4-2009jan04,0,3010223.story>

Researchers Still Don't Know What to Make of Avian Influenza Strain H5N1

Five years after the avian influenza strain H5N1 started killing poultry and people in Southeast Asia, researchers still don't know what to make of the dangerous and unpredictable virus, that according to a Canadian Press article. After cutting an ever-widening swath through poultry flocks and infecting – and killing – mounting numbers of people in Asia, the Middle East and Africa, the virus seemed to almost take a breather in 2008. The year that just ended saw fewer recorded human cases than any since 2003, when this cycle of H5N1 activity began. It begs the question: Is H5N1 on the wane?

http://chealth.canoe.ca/channel_health_news_details.asp?news_id=27053&news_channel_id=135&channel_id=135

Avian Flu Becoming More Resistant To Antiviral Drugs, Says University Of Colorado Study

A new University of Colorado at Boulder study shows the resistance of the avian flu virus to a major class of antiviral drugs is increasing through positive evolutionary selection, with researchers documenting the trend in more than 30 percent of the samples tested. The avian flu, an Influenza A subtype dubbed H5N1, is evolving a resistance to a group of antiviral drugs known as adamantanes, one of two classes of antiviral drugs used to prevent and treat flu

symptoms, said CU-Boulder doctoral student Andrew Hill, lead study author. The rise of resistance to adamantanes – which include the nonprescription drugs amantadine and rimantadane – appears to be linked to Chinese farmers adding the drugs to chicken feed as a flu preventative, according to a 2008 paper by researchers from China Agricultural University, said Hill. In contrast, resistance of the avian flu virus to the second, newer class of antiviral drugs that includes oseltamivir – a prescription drug marketed under the brand name Tamiflu – is present, but is not yet prevalent or under positive genetic selection, said Hill of CU-Boulder’s ecology and evolutionary biology department. The CU findings should help health administrators around the world plan for the possibility of an avian flu pandemic. The CU-Boulder study is the first to show H5N1 drug resistance to adamantanes arose through novel genetic mutations rather than an exchange of RNA segments within cells, a process known as re-assortment.

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/134781.php>

Excessive Use Of Antiviral Drugs Could Aid Deadly Flu According To Study

Influenza’s ability to resist the effects of cheap and popular antiviral agents in Asia and Russia should serve as a cautionary tale about U.S. plans to use the antiviral Tamiflu in the event of widespread avian flu infection in humans, scientists say. Researchers analyzed almost 700 genome sequences of avian influenza strains to document where and when the virus developed resistance to a class of antiviral drugs called adamantanes and how far resistant strains spread. The analysis suggests that widespread antiviral drug use can accelerate the evolution of drug resistance in viruses, and that resistant strains can emerge and spread rapidly. The results should serve as a warning to those who consider Tamiflu the next great antiviral medication, the researchers say. Stockpiling Tamiflu has become a standard part of many government, business and health organization plans to prepare for a long-feared pandemic flu outbreak, especially in the event that avian flu mutates enough to infect and be easily transmitted among humans.

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/134777.php>

HHS Awards \$487 Million for First U.S. Manufacturing Facility for Cell-Based Influenza Vaccine

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently announced a \$487 million multiple year contract with Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics, Inc., to build the first U.S. facility to manufacture cell-based vaccine for seasonal and pandemic flu. Because cell-based influenza vaccine can be made faster and in greater quantities than traditional vaccine, the new facility is expected to increase the U.S. capacity to make pandemic influenza vaccine by at least 25 percent.

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2009pres/01/20090115b.html>

Report Shows U.S. Only Half Ready for Flu Pandemic

U.S. states have made progress in stockpiling drugs and preparing to vaccinate people in case of a flu pandemic but are far behind in plans for the ensuing months of disruption, the government said on Thursday, Jan. 15. The report from the U.S. Health and Human Services department showed most states responsible for maintaining food supply in an emergency were ready, but transportation plans had a long way to go. Experts said the economic crisis would only make things worse. Most health experts agree that a pandemic of something, probably influenza, is inevitable and the U.S. government has been pushing states to develop preparedness plans. No one can say when or what disease will strike, but the No. 1 suspect now is H5N1 avian influenza, or bird flu, which has infected 394 people and killed 248 of them since 2003. Committee on Homeland Security Chairman Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) and former Subcommittee Chairman for Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity, and Science and Technology, James R. Langevin (D-RI), released a Majority staff report entitled “Getting Beyond Getting Ready for Pandemic Influenza.” The report examines the nation’s state of preparedness and response capabilities in the event of a pandemic influenza outbreak. It identifies sixteen weaknesses in the outgoing Bush Administration’s approach to get prepared for pandemic influenza. In addition, the report provides 15 critical recommendations for what Congress, the incoming Administration, and the public and private sectors can do to achieve national readiness to combat this threat.

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N15285771.htm>

The report: <http://homeland.house.gov/SiteDocuments/20090114124322-85263.pdf>

<http://homeland.house.gov/>

TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES

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.redcrossna.org/Online/disaster_registration.php

February Workshop to Examine Evacuation of People with Disabilities

This free, two-day workshop Feb. 3-4 in Washington, D.C. will examine current and potential new standards for evacuation of disabled people during emergencies. "Emergency Preparedness for Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs" will address two specific areas:

- What building standards for shelters are in place for the disabled, and what standards should be developed?
- What procedures and equipment do the disabled require, and what standards should be developed?

The American National Standards Institute's Homeland Security Standards Panel organizes the workshop in coordination with the National Organization on Disability's Emergency Preparedness Initiative and the National Fire Protection Association's Disability Access Review and Advisory Committee. The workshop will be held at the Kellogg Conference Hotel on the Gallaudet University campus in Washington, D.C. Advance registration is required. To register, e-mail participant names and contact information to HSSP@ansi.org. For more information, contact Jessica Carl, ANSI Homeland Security Standards Panel program administrator, at jcarl@ansi.org or 212-642-4903.

Creating Vigilant, Prepared and Resilient Communities for Homeland Security

March 23-24; Disputanta, Va.

March 26-27; Lynchburg, Va.

This free, two-day course will address the strategies and skills necessary to build prepared communities through classroom discussion, problem-based learning, hands-on activities and practical demonstrations. The training, sponsored by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, is open to government, private sector and nonprofit personnel. Online registration is available online at <http://www.dcjs.virginia.gov/trainingEvents/>.

National Radiological Preparedness Conference

April 20-23; Marriott Waterside, Norfolk, Va.

The 19th annual National Radiological Preparedness Conference will provide radiological emergency planners and responders an opportunity to share best practices, solutions and innovations. In addition to 26 conference sessions, the National REP will offer three pre-conference workshops and a night out at the Nauticus Museum. Online registration is available at <http://www.nationalrep.org>.

LINKS

Fairfax County Blogs and Web Resources

- Fairfax County CERT - <http://fairfaxcountycert.blogspot.com/>
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Web Page - <http://www.fairfaxcountycitizencorps.org/>
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Blog - <http://citizencorps.blogspot.com/>
- Virginia Citizen Corps - <http://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 continue to submit content comments or make suggestions by contacting the DHS Daily Report Team by telephone at 202-312-5389 or by e-mail at NICCCReports@dhs.gov. You can access the Daily OSIR at:

http://www.dhs.gov/xinfoshare/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>

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Emergency Information: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency

To Unsubscribe:

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

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

Please 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.

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

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